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Tuesday's elections and Gun Violence Prevention

As political experts study the results of yesterday's election of Donald Trump, there will be many interest groups endeavoring to claim it was for their cause. The National Rifle Association, which pumped over \$53 million into the election has justifiable reason to crow, but it is clear votes relating to firearms issue were all over the map.

In Colorado, candidates who supported gun violence prevention measures were victorious in two senate races.

- Rachel Zenzinger (SD19 – Arvada/Westminster) unseated ultra-right Rocky Mountain Gun Owners-loyalist Laura Woods. Eileen McCarron of Colorado Ceasefire's PAC said "We are especially pleased with the outcome in this contest, as we had mailed information to voters on Sen. Wood's sponsorship of bills to repeal background checks, put guns in kindergartens, and make it easier for people to obtain machine guns."
- Daniel Kagan (SD26 – South metro suburbs) handily held off County Commissioner Nancy Doty to retain this open seat for the Democrats. Kagan had deftly chaired the House judiciary committee during the 2013 gun law hearings.

Unfortunately, Tom Sullivan, whose son Alex was murdered in the Aurora Theater, lost in his effort to oust Sen. Jack Tate (SD27 – Centennial). Tate had voted to repeal the gun laws enacted in 2013, but because of the demographics of the district, it was an uphill fight.

Although the senate still remains at the same 18-17 Republican-Democratic split, the Democrats strengthened their House position with the elections of Tony Exum (HD17 - Colorado Springs), Barbara McLachlan (HD59 – Durango), and Dafna Michaelson Jenet (HD30 – Adams County). Jenet defeated JoAnn Windholz, who made insensitive comments following the Planned Parenthood Shooting. McLachlan reclaimed the seat her husband had lost in the 2014 elections to a candidate with significant support from the RMGO.

Colorado Ceasefire board members and volunteers knocked on around four thousand doors in senate districts, helped with phone banks and mailings, and financially supported selected candidates. Colorado's Moms Demand Action also had volunteers out working on races.

Ironically, the once-feared Rocky Mountain Gun Owners won only 2 of 5 races in the general election, even after spending nearly \$90,000, a hefty chunk of which went to former Sen. Ted Harvey for "consulting."

Outside of Colorado, gun violence prevention citizens' initiatives were approved by voters in three of four states:

- Washington – Extreme Risk Protection Order
Will allow family members and law enforcement to be able to temporarily disarm, through court channels, persons who are at an extreme risk of violence. The measure passed with 71% approval.
- Nevada – Universal Background Checks like enacted by Colorado's legislature in 2013
- California – High Capacity Magazine ban and background checks for ammunition purchases

In 2015, 687 people died from gunshot wounds in Colorado. Rita Schweitz, board member of Colorado Ceasefire said "Our country has been battered by horrific acts of gun violence in Charleston, Orlando, Colorado Springs and even on the streets and in the homes of our state. We call on our newly elected leaders to consider legislative means of reducing this tragic toll."

Colorado Ceasefire, an all-volunteer statewide organization, has been fighting for freedom from gun violence since 2000. Ceasefire initiated and was instrumental in the enactment of the 2013 Colorado firearms laws, which included universal background checks, a high capacity magazine ban, and domestic violence firearms relinquishment.

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