

00:00;19;22 - 00:00;39;09

Stephen Gutowski

All right. Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to another episode of the Weekly Reload Podcast. I'm your host, Stephen Gutowski. I'm also the founder of thereload.com, where you can head over and check out our free weekly newsletter today on as well as CNN contributor. So you can see me on there occasionally from time to time talking about gun policy.

00:00;39;12 - 00:00;59;16

Stephen Gutowski

But, we take a sober, serious approach to the news here at The Reload, and we try to bring in people from a lot of different perspectives. And I will say, I was looking back at some of our recent podcasts, especially on issues surrounding the election, which is, this this episode is going to go up for the public on Monday.

00:00;59;16 - 00:01;20;16

Stephen Gutowski

So the election will be the next day. So our last one before the election. And, you know, we have had a variety of, of perspectives for sure, with, folks like David French and Tim Miller and, and Ed Morrissey, but they tend to be kind of, from different parts of the right if that, I think is a pretty fair, description of it.

00:01;20;16 - 00:01;38;29

Stephen Gutowski

So I wanted to get somebody who, is from a different perspective than that. Not not necessarily not necessarily somebody who is a political pundit or anything like that, but come from an outlet that, takes a different view of things than The Reload or Hot Air or, The Bulwark or New York Times or any of those places.

00:01;38;29 - 00:02;02;04

Stephen Gutowski

And so that is why we I've invited on, Jennifer Mascia from The Trace to be with us, for this episode where we're going to explore what the realistic possibilities for gun policy are under either a Harris administration or a another Trump administration. So welcome to the show, Jennifer. Thank you so much for for joining us.

00:02;02;06 - 00:02;04;21

Jennifer Mascia

Thanks for having me. It's a pleasure to be here.

00:02;04;24 - 00:02;21;20

Stephen Gutowski

Absolutely. And, first off, let's just start off a little bit about The Trace itself for people who don't know about it or for people who maybe even are critical of it. You know, some people in my audience, I think are pretty critical of of The Trace. And so I want to just give you some time to talk.

00:02;21;23 - 00:02;24;17

Stephen Gutowski

About your view. You've been there since the very founding, right?

00:02;24;19 - 00:02;25;02

Jennifer Mascia

Yes, I.

00:02;25;02 - 00:02;52;14

Stephen Gutowski

Have, and The Trace is a nonprofit newsroom and news organization. That covers, gun violence and gun policy in the United States. Right. And it has received funding from every town, at least at certain points in its past, which is

disclosed in the website. I think the president of Everytown is also the president of The Trace, as well.

00;02;52;14 - 00;03;01;17

Stephen Gutowski

So, you know, how how do you what is your view of how do you think people should look at what The Trace does, what it is, and the work that it puts out?

00;03;01;20 - 00;03;24;18

Jennifer Mascia

Thanks. So, yeah. So, after Sandy hook, I was working at the New York Times, and, I was an assistant for a columnist there who the. You know, there was no gun violence archive. There was no way of nobody was monitoring daily shootings. So we ended up doing a project for 16 months where we just monitored shootings.

00;03;24;18 - 00;03;48;09

Jennifer Mascia

And the news. No commentary, no opinion. We just put a sentence about each of them. And at the end of that project, about ten years ago. Exactly. Some people from Everytown for Gun Safety, took me to lunch and said, listen, there should be a new site just for gun violence, like the Marshal project is criminal justice or Kaiser is health news.

00;03;48;11 - 00;04;16;11

Jennifer Mascia

Why isn't there one? And we have money and we want to create that. Now, of course, I was I was very apprehensive. I'm a journalist. I went to journalism school. I don't protest. I don't advocate for things in public. And I'm not a PR person. So I was nervous. I said, look, I'm a journalist and I don't want to want to cross over to advocacy or PR that's kind of the end of your credibility as a journalist.

00;04;16;13 - 00;04;37;16

Jennifer Mascia

But what happened was I took a chance, and I wanted to keep covering this topic. And so what they did was they set aside funding for us, and we hired a staff of journalists, who had never been advocates. They didn't even cover guns before this. And we, formed a site. There were like seven of us in a room.

00;04;37;16 - 00;04;58;14

Jennifer Mascia

And Charleston happened. So immediately we were, you know, baptism by fire. We were covering this mass shooting. And what we do is we try to cover this from all sides. Now, there are several staffers, who own guns, some who own quite a few. Which is good. I think that you should know what guns are and how to shoot them.

00;04;58;14 - 00;05;22;06

Jennifer Mascia

I've been shooting, to cover this topic. We have had op eds from hunters. We have sources, in the NRA. Not as many as you, perhaps, but we do. And they feel like they can trust us. We have a reporter who speaks with them quite frequently. We really try to understand how Americans feel about guns.

00;05;22;09 - 00;05;49;05

Jennifer Mascia

We've taken a lot of heat, and I understand that, it's good to be skeptical. It really is. Everytown is now a third of our funding. The president of Everytown is still listed on as our president. I can tell you, I have not seen him personally in ten years. I've never met Michael Bloomberg. And the person who who speaks to him on our staff doesn't have anything to do with editorial.

00;05;49;08 - 00;06;06;20

Jennifer Mascia

So we are really separated. We're like a little bubble and we keep hiring journalists from the Los Angeles Times, from

the Philadelphia Inquirer. These are people who are not advocates. And again, some of them are gun owners. And we really try to understand we talk to people. Why do you why do you carry guns? Tell us about that.

00;06;06;20 - 00;06;20;25

Jennifer Mascia

And a lot of people really feel like they are carry guns for protection. That includes people in high crime areas, young black youth. They feel like they need to carry guns for protection. So we really want to understand that and communicate that.

00;06;20;27 - 00;06;43;23

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, yeah. And, you know, just, to put cards on table here, right? Like, like you're doing, The Reload, right is, wholly owned by me. We don't have investors or, or, or donors or things like. That's different. Set up legally. Right? It's a for profit, news publication, but, that I own and that we make our income from, our members.

00;06;43;25 - 00;07;05;16

Stephen Gutowski

Right. But so we operate a little bit differently in that, in that way. But obviously, like, I and I, we just I just talked about some of this on my on the news update, but, you know, I have my own personal views and my personal background. I'm gun owner. I like to build guns. I like to shoot, I'm a gun safety instructor, NRA certified, you know, basic pistol.

00;07;05;16 - 00;07;33;10

Stephen Gutowski

Not that that's, super rare thing to, by any means, but, you know, and and so, like, I have my own perspective that I'm more well sourced, I would say in the gun rights movement, which is another reason why I think your perspective on the show can be valuable for, for our listeners. I think it's good for us to, to lay these things out and people understand, you know, where things are coming from and how how this this stuff is, is made right.

00;07;33;10 - 00;08;01;19

Stephen Gutowski

And the different points of view or perspectives that we are originating from, and also that you, I think, are more well sourced in the, gun control or gun safety, I think is the preferred term over there, movement. So, I think it'll be valuable in a discussion here, about what we think is, is the likely outcome of either of these candidates winning.

00;08;01;21 - 00;08;26;21

Stephen Gutowski

That's where I find we'll, we'll probably have you'll probably have a little bit different view on it and have a little, different, reporting on this, this front. And so I think it'll be a good, good discussion. So let's start off right with, well, you just had a piece right on The Trace that went through, some of the likely outcomes.

00;08;26;21 - 00;09;01;03

Stephen Gutowski

If Donald Trump wins and becomes president again. I think we'll start off the most likely outcomes. Right. First for so if Trump wins, the most likely make up of government will probably be for Republican control of Congress with Trump in the presidency. But it'll be a slim majority most likely, if that happens, maybe 51-52 if the Republicans get lucky, sort of balance in, in the Senate and then, probably a couple seat majority in the, in the House as well.

00;09;01;03 - 00;09;26;08

Stephen Gutowski

Not a huge majority, but one that's maybe a little more workable than their current one. I don't know, we'll see. But Republicans control everything in that scenario. The the guy would still imagine it'll be fairly hard for them to get legislation through, of significant value, like that'll put in significant changes on on the pro-gun side of things.

00;09;26;08 - 00;09;28;15

Stephen Gutowski

Do you think that's fair to say?

00;09;28;17 - 00;09;54;24

Jennifer Mascia

Yeah. I mean, so there are a lot, several Republican priorities. There have been bills introduced in the House, for the past several years. National concealed carry reciprocity is one of them. It's taking silencers out of the National Firearms Act as another. How much? Right. How much traction they can get is the question, is would Republicans, if they ran the Senate, be willing to set aside the filibuster to pass these priorities?

00;09;54;27 - 00;10;01;14

Stephen Gutowski

Right? That's kind of the big question, right? Right. I don't think there's any path where they're going to get 60 votes now on either of those things.

00;10;01;14 - 00;10;32;12

Jennifer Mascia

Right? Right. Either party, either party is not it's going to be a squeaker in the Senate once again. So, that's really the question. What can they get through Congress? I don't think that that changes significantly, even with Trump in the white House. And of course, it's worth mentioning when Trump was in the white House the last time we had a bump, bump, stock ban and he actually, encouraged red flag laws, he seemed like he was receptive to the idea of red flag laws, whether that's incentivizing states.

00;10;32;14 - 00;10;41;08

Jennifer Mascia

I don't think you're going to hear much from him about requiring that language is not really something Republicans support. Right. But yeah.

00;10;41;10 - 00;11;14;05

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. I mean, you actually pointed out in a previous piece that you did in September looking at the same question of what what's the likely policy outcome of either administration. You noted, something that I actually forgotten, but, the post Parkland roundtable that Trump held with lawmakers, where he expressed support for some sort of red flag law legislation, infamously saying, know, take the guns first, have due process second, which is sort of a pretty significant misunderstanding of what due process is.

00;11;14;05 - 00;11;39;13

Stephen Gutowski

But regardless, you know, that Bill never came to fruition. But there were during this discussion, there was, suggestion from Steve Scalise that they should include national reciprocity, which Trump has said he supports and would sign, into a sort of compromise bill alongside, perhaps a red flag law, national red flag law project of some sort.

00;11;39;16 - 00;12;13;08

Stephen Gutowski

And Trump said, no, in that, that discussion, much to the, very open happiness of Dianne Feinstein, at the time. Now, again, to be clear, this didn't actually come to fruition. There was no national reciprocity or, sorry, there was no national reciprocity, but there was also no white flag law. I think that was largely because shortly after that roundtable, the first impeachment happened and that kind of derailed any possibility of a bipartisan, movement on gun policy.

00;12;13;10 - 00;12;49;07

Stephen Gutowski

But, you know, it does kind of make you wonder. And I'm interested in your thoughts on this. I've mentioned this before, but, you know, in a scenario where Trump is in the white House and Republicans control Congress, it is perhaps more likely that they'll pass pro gun legislation than if Harris was in. Right. But it's also, I think it's there may be more

practical, path to passing new gun restrictions as well, mainly in the wake of a major mass shooting, because that's when Trump has wavered on these things when he was president.

00;12;49;09 - 00;12;56;09

Stephen Gutowski

Now, since leaving office, maybe his use have changed on this. Maybe he's less willing to cooperate or compromise that. What do you think?

00;12;56;12 - 00;13;20;16

Jennifer Mascia

Right at the end of the day, Trump is a New York conservative, and having lived in New York City for 30 years, I can tell you that conservatives in New York, they draw the line when it comes to guns. They do not share the same beliefs as their, you know, brethren. In Texas, for instance, conservatives in New York really do like, believe in some gun restrictions because that's what they're really used to up here.

00;13;20;19 - 00;13;39;06

Jennifer Mascia

And, I think that at the end of the day, Trump is like a New York conservative. I mean, he used to be more liberal, and now he's really operating from a point of there's only so far any or conservatives are willing to go on guns. And that just might be when he was last in office, we saw him come up against the edge of that.

00;13;39;08 - 00;13;59;06

Jennifer Mascia

The truth is that when when these things happen, you hear a tone from Trump that's actually sympathetic, in a way, like, I know he said some insensitive things like, people should just get over shootings. But the truth is, when when pressed on these things, he's like, let's. I'm always surprised because he is kind of like, let's be reasonable here, you know?

00;13;59;06 - 00;14;21;00

Jennifer Mascia

And he brings that New York perspective and it's like, oh, there it is. There's the line. And so it is possible we could get like a bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which John Cornyn sponsored. And even though he's not happy about how some of that has gone, we could talk about that in a minute. But I think you might see that where it's not requirements but incentives for states to adopt certain policies.

00;14;21;02 - 00;14;29;04

Jennifer Mascia

I could see something like that, like a compromise bill, especially after, God forbid, if there's another event like that, a major mass shooting.

00;14;29;06 - 00;14;59;02

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. I mean, I, I just think his rhetoric doesn't always quite match his record. On the willingness to consider more gun restrictions in the wake, specifically in the wake of a major mass shooting. Because there was also a report that he after the El Paso shooting, he considered, supporting some weapons ban. Now, you know, there is also the factor that he does have, lean more of an open ear to the NRA and other gun rights advocates.

00;14;59;02 - 00;15;06;02

Stephen Gutowski

And he has not, outside of the bump stock ban, which the NRA supported to up to a point at least.

00;15;06;05 - 00;15;13;29

Jennifer Mascia

And he was tireless. And Wayne Wayne Lapierre is not there anymore. So I am curious to see how that relationship would play out. Now with new players.

00;15;13;29 - 00;15;40;28

Stephen Gutowski

And he did just cancel an array rally in July. For this I was thinking was supposed to be this week. So. Yeah. As we're recording here on Friday, but, Friday, November 1st, but yeah. So, you know how much sway the NRA still has over him is also another question. Although, you know, look at, I don't want to, I don't want us to pretend like this is, like any sort of guarantee.

00;15;40;28 - 00;15;51;11

Stephen Gutowski

This is just something that's. You can notice in his in his record. That he gets a little more willing to consider gun restrictions in the immediate aftermath of mass shootings.

00;15;51;11 - 00;15;56;03

Jennifer Mascia

And he won't be running again. So he could really do whatever he wants, in theory.

00;15;56;05 - 00;16;18;27

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. So we'll see. But at the same time, while there is maybe that possibility for legislative action in the wake of this very specific kind of movement, which, again, didn't actually result in any new other than the bump stock ban, which was in the realm of what we're about to talk about here, executive action stuff.

00;16;18;27 - 00;16;42;09

Stephen Gutowski

Other than that, the no legislation passed with new gun restrictions under Trump. Just to be clear, I'm just talking about the tendency he had after some of these mass shootings to express interest in doing that. But, what's so your piece that you've just published focuses much more because the legislative stuff even and it's I think it's pretty much the same story for Harris.

00;16;42;09 - 00;16;58;09

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Who is the most likely outcome? If she wins, she'll have to face the Republican controlled Senate anyway. That's very unlikely to send her any, any sort of, new gun restrictions. Yeah. Right. And during her at least first two years in office.

00;16;58;11 - 00;17;05;28

Jennifer Mascia

And certainly not assault weapons ban, I mean, I know that is one of her priorities, but that at this point it's pretty much a nonstarter.

00;17;06;01 - 00;17;26;21

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. So I guess just to finish up on the legislative side, yeah, if Harris wins, she's likely going to have a Republican Congress. Can publican Senate at least maybe a Democratic House, but yeah. Do you foresee any realistic possibility that at least for this first two years before we get another election, of any real gun on either side?

00;17;26;21 - 00;17;29;12

Stephen Gutowski

Honestly, any gun movement legislatively, if.

00;17;29;12 - 00;17;49;16

Jennifer Mascia

She I think I think on the federal level, it's pretty much stalled. I, I was surprised when the bipartisan safer communities

Act even passed, and I was surprised it passed with so much Republican support. I had actually been quoted as saying, you will not see any federal legislation, which is why you never predict. But, you know.

00;17;49;18 - 00;18;12;08

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, you never really know. Yeah. And and again, major mass shootings tend to move the needle on these things. Yeah. It can be hard to predict what will whether they'll move it enough to get something across the line or not. But, but but yeah, I mean, I, you know, honestly, even with you might see stunt bills, but they're unlikely to either.

00;18;12;11 - 00;18;21;21

Stephen Gutowski

Harris would probably be to them even if he could. I mean, even stunt bills, pro gun stunt bills probably wouldn't make it through either, right? Because you need 60 votes for most of those things.

00;18;21;23 - 00;18;31;09

Jennifer Mascia

If unless the Senate is a Republican Senate and decides to get rid of the filibuster, which it does for certain things, that will be interesting.

00;18;31;12 - 00;18;52;22

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. So that's the kind of the wild card in all these discussions is like Harris has supported nuking the filibuster for legislation or at least some legislation. I guess she wants carve outs or something, which is kind of effectively just the end of the filibuster, I would say. But yeah. Yeah, I mean, it's harder it's much harder to predict what would happen in those scenarios.

00;18;52;28 - 00;19;04;24

Stephen Gutowski

Right. But consider assuming that the filibuster remains, it's hard to imagine any real major gun legislation going through either under either of these presidents. Right?

00;19;04;26 - 00;19;27;13

Jennifer Mascia

Correct. I mean, the low hanging fruit is universal background checks. And Biden has kind of tried to do a backdoor UVC bill with that executive order, which we'll talk about in a minute. So I, I don't even think that that's, I it's all a nonstarter. Pretty much. It's really the action is happening in the courts, the state level and executive orders.

00;19;27;16 - 00;19;53;05

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. So let's move on to that stuff. Yeah. Because I think we're in agreement on. Yeah, legislation barring major changes to the either our gun politics or the way that our, our federal government currently functions, which is possible. Right? I don't want to discount those possibilities. But, barring those things happening pretty much we're probably not getting much legislation, gun legislation, one way or the other under either these presidents.

00;19;53;07 - 00;20;24;27

Stephen Gutowski

Right. But that's not all the president does. So first off, let's start with courts, with with judge appointments. Right. That's a big part of what the president does and has a huge impact on gun policy, as we've seen at the Supreme Court of late with Bruen and or Jimmy and, and, you know, these different decisions that they've handed down, even the bump stock ban, being struck down, not under the Second Amendment, but still having major impact on gun policy.

00;20;24;29 - 00;20;46;10

Stephen Gutowski

What, you know, I would imagine that if Trump wins and has a Republican Senate, you you'd expect him to start. Do

you see any you see no reason to think he wouldn't act. He would act any differently than he did in his first, his first term. Or you just expect him to appoint the same sort of judges that he did, then.

00;20;46;12 - 00;21;05;10

Jennifer Mascia

He's going to appoint judges and appoint them quickly. And whoever winds up leading a Republican Senate is going to be his partner in that, just like Mitch McConnell was. So, President Trump did an interview with America's first freedom magazine, actually, sorry, a member of his team answered a number of questions about his gun priorities in the latest issue of America's First Freedom.

00;21;05;10 - 00;21;27;02

Jennifer Mascia

And the first thing they mentioned was the federal courts at every level. He pointed out, I think he said 60% of the courts now are Biden appointment appointments. It's really, really important for them at every level, not just the Supreme Court. To get their, to get pro-gun judges in, because that is where the action is, as we've seen since Bruen.

00;21;27;04 - 00;21;47;23

Jennifer Mascia

It opened the floodgates for challenging laws. And different courts are coming out with different things. And, you know, you don't even need a circuit split anymore to get it up to the Supreme Court. So that's really going to be that, that, that mechanism, that channel, just all along the line, Republicans, as far as the eye can see is the goal in the courts.

00;21;47;25 - 00;21;54;21

Stephen Gutowski

And and you don't see any reason to believe he'd act any differently as far as like the ideological makeup of these judges this time around.

00;21;54;29 - 00;21;56;10

Jennifer Mascia

No. Absolutely not.

00;21;56;13 - 00;22;20;27

Stephen Gutowski

Okay. Yeah. I mean, I think that's that's fair and accurate and. Yeah, something that is probably his strongest benefit from a pro-gun point of view, right? Yeah. And is probably his biggest, negative from a, pro-gun control place. Right? Right. This is where this is where the real impact is, these judge appointments. And so going to Harris, Harris is a little bit of an interesting question, right.

00;22;20;28 - 00;22;33;18

Stephen Gutowski

Because the most likely outcome, if she wins still seems to be that Republicans take the Senate. Yes. And so she'd have to deal with a Republican Senate when it comes to judge appointments. What do you think that would look like?

00;22;33;21 - 00;22;51;01

Jennifer Mascia

That's going to look like, a lot of obstruction. You know, it's funny, there were there are Republicans like, I remember, Lindsey Graham. He was like, look, if a president is going to, you know, recommend a judge nine times out of ten, they're qualified. And he would just send them through because that's advise and consent, right?

00;22;51;03 - 00;23;11;23

Jennifer Mascia

You have summer people. I mean, the Senate is tends to be more sober than the House. The Republicans are a little bit more moderate, a little bit more practical and reasoned. And so, you know, you might have pockets of obstruction. I can't see that every single Republican is going to want to fight her. But it depends on that's way more, you know, the

House would do something like that.

00;23;11;25 - 00;23;36;14

Jennifer Mascia

But that's it really depends on where the election leads. The MAGA movement, like where in government we see the vestiges of Trump's, loyal loyalty to Trump. Because I assume if he does not win this election, he will definitely still be in political life. His daughter in law runs the RNC. There's no reason to think that he would not run in 2028.

00;23;36;14 - 00;23;48;26

Jennifer Mascia

I've I've heard it all online, so, it really depends. The future of the MAGA movement depends on how much obstruction really you're going to see in Congress.

00;23;48;28 - 00;24;09;10

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. I mean, I definitely think that you're right that the as far as the, the tenor of the Senate when it comes to judge appointments has really changed over the years. And moved away from the idea that, you know, if they're qualified, it doesn't matter that they're coming from a very different ideological point of view than I do.

00;24;09;10 - 00;24;33;18

Stephen Gutowski

I'm going to still vote to accept their nomination. And it's become way more politicized in that time, I think, from both sides of it. Like that was Harry Reid was the first to, nuke the filibuster on judge appointments. And then McConnell followed that up and expanded it to the Supreme Court. And it's just been kind of a race to the bottom on that front since then.

00;24;33;18 - 00;25;00;18

Stephen Gutowski

And so, yeah, I mean, I would imagine that they'd it would be similar to what we see now with Biden's appointments, except that there won't be the ability to tie break with the vice president. And you have to rely on, at least for the more controversial appointments, which may be how many appointments are controversial has certainly expanded over the years.

00;25;00;20 - 00;25;23;18

Stephen Gutowski

But at least for those, you know, you may not be able to get 50, Republicans, to or, you know, you you only need 1 or 2 Republicans, obviously, to crossover. And there are people like Susan Collins or Lisa murkowski or, or Mitt Romney who may be more willing to do something like that, for a lot of judges.

00;25;23;18 - 00;25;44;03

Stephen Gutowski

But that kind of leads me to think she may be limited in who she can put up. She might want to try and put out more moderate jurists to try and get more judges through, even if they're not going to be exactly the kind of people she would pick with Senate control. Is that a fair assessment? Right?

00;25;44;05 - 00;26;02;14

Jennifer Mascia

Yeah. And it's something we saw with President Obama when he got in, you know, and he took a lot of heat from his own side over being really conciliatory toward Republicans. I think we're going to see that this is going to be a very contested election. It's it's, you know, as you can tell, the stress level in this country is off the charts.

00;26;02;16 - 00;26;16;13

Jennifer Mascia

She's going to want to do everything she can to really kind of ease the transition. And I think reaching out to

Republicans is going to be one of those things. And look, she used to be in the Senate and she knows several of these lawmakers. So I think we can absolutely, see more of that.

00;26;16;15 - 00;26;18;16

Stephen Gutowski

Because she was one of the furthest left members.

00;26;18;17 - 00;26;20;12

Jennifer Mascia

Yeah. She was yeah, she was.

00;26;20;15 - 00;26;22;28

Stephen Gutowski

I don't know how many close relationships she has.

00;26;22;29 - 00;26;25;11

Jennifer Mascia

They all go to lunch together. We know.

00;26;25;14 - 00;26;57;27

Stephen Gutowski

That's true. Sure. You know, and, like, I mean, I think practically she would have to probably moderate some of her judge picks just as just to try and move some through and not waste two years. Yeah. Constantly having to to battle every single pick. But that that will be a strategy question I think, because on both sides like whether it's worth Republicans, fighting every single pick or whether it's worth Harris trying to moderate some to get, a few peel off a couple Republican, votes.

00;26;57;27 - 00;27;05;28

Stephen Gutowski

Well we'll see. Yeah. And that'll probably largely to, like you said, depend on the the political atmosphere in either party after the election. If she does win.

00;27;06;01 - 00;27;15;20

Jennifer Mascia

Yeah. Yeah. So with the Supreme Court, if a vacancy came up there, it's going to be really contested and really pitched.

00;27;15;22 - 00;27;33;24

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Yeah, that that certainly seems to be the case. And I will say the two oldest members of the court are, Republican appointees. So, well, we don't have any indication that they're in poor health or anything like that. You would think that the oldest members are the most likely to be replaced, in any given moment.

00;27;33;24 - 00;27;54;13

Stephen Gutowski

And, yeah. So it could certainly become, especially, you know, if there's a chance of flipping from, Republican appointee to Democratic appointee, it's going to be, as we've seen the last several cycles, probably very contentious. Yes. And consequential. That's that's going to be these are the I think the judge appointments are the most consequential thing.

00;27;54;13 - 00;27;55;18

Stephen Gutowski

So would you agree with that.

00;27;55;21 - 00;28;09;09

Jennifer Mascia

Absolutely. Especially on this issue. Okay. I mean this is where I sit. There are thousands of cases going through the courts. Gun laws are being challenged at every level because of the new history and tradition test. So this is this is the show.

00;28;09;12 - 00;28;17;14

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. And and a lot of the districts, you know, the level where the appeals courts level right below the Supreme Court, those.

00;28;17;16 - 00;28;18;05

Jennifer Mascia

Yeah.

00;28;18;07 - 00;28;43;18

Stephen Gutowski

There's potential to shake up the balance of, appointees on there as well for this, for whoever becomes the next president. So it is it is certainly a high priority for, you know, people who who consider gun policy as a major part of their vote. This is probably where you would want to pay the most attention to what could practically be, difference between these two administration.

00;28;43;25 - 00;28;44;06

Stephen Gutowski

Potentially.

00;28;44;07 - 00;28;45;28

Jennifer Mascia

Absolutely. Yeah.

00;28;46;00 - 00;29;03;26

Stephen Gutowski

But it's not the only thing. Right? The next the next obvious place to go is the executive orders. Right. And so where let's say, you know, Trump gets in, this is a large part of what your piece focused on. What what do you see as, the things he could do from an executive order standpoint?

00;29;03;28 - 00;29;36;25

Jennifer Mascia

So the three most controversial executive orders, that President Biden released were the first batch in 2021. The pistol brace rule, the ghost gun rule, and engaged in the business. The ATF clarified the definition of who needs to get a license to sell guns, effectively trying to close, the private sales loophole without going through Congress. So, these are the things that President Trump is going to roll back almost immediately.

00;29;36;27 - 00;29;38;04

Jennifer Mascia

He, he's he.

00;29;38;05 - 00;29;38;23

Stephen Gutowski

Said.

00;29;38;26 - 00;29;43;02

Jennifer Mascia

Yeah, yeah. I mean, they're going to go through loopholes. Oh, yeah.

00;29;43;04 - 00;29;46;19

Stephen Gutowski

Is, oh, whether it's a loophole or not is obviously right.

00;29;46;19 - 00;30;03;14

Jennifer Mascia

But you know what? Actually, you're right, because it's not technically a loophole. It's that hasn't gone for so long that terminology, it's literally like the 90s gun sale loophole. I mean, this terminology is old enough to drink. So, it's it's a private sales exemption gap. Right. Or whatever.

00;30;03;18 - 00;30;08;21

Stephen Gutowski

That they regulate commercial sales and they don't regulate federal law, doesn't regulate noncommercial sales.

00;30;08;25 - 00;30;10;20

Jennifer Mascia

Right, exactly. Yeah.

00;30;10;22 - 00;30;17;18

Stephen Gutowski

Obviously, you're right about the the consequences of it are the same, whatever however you describe it. But, you know, right. Stickler for those things. No.

00;30;17;20 - 00;30;18;15

Jennifer Mascia

00;30;18;25 - 00;30;43;11

Stephen Gutowski

But yeah. So you there's are the three big executive orders. They've come come up against a lot of resistance in the courts. Although the Supreme Court just held oral arguments on the the ghost gun law and probably, you know, privately, there's new frames and receivers rule and, and honestly seemed fairly sympathetic towards the ATF's view of it.

00;30;43;11 - 00;30;52;17

Stephen Gutowski

So I'll have to see what they do on it. But, but yeah, I mean, that's the Trump has said I will undo these and he can't. Right. Because these are just executive orders.

00;30;52;19 - 00;30;55;21

Jennifer Mascia

Yes. I mean, the, actually, I think.

00;30;55;21 - 00;30;56;08

Stephen Gutowski

Rules.

00;30;56;08 - 00;31;15;28

Jennifer Mascia

Again. Right, right, right. And the, the engaged in the business thing like that. That was something that his team told America's first freedom is second on the list after the judges. I mean, they really are going to go through line by line, essentially, and see what they can undo. And you can expect them doing that during the transition.

00;31;15;28 - 00;31;17;19

Jennifer Mascia

So they're going to be ready on day one.

00;31;17;21 - 00;31;36;19

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Yeah. And I think that's a that's something to expect him to follow through the you know we talked a little bit about him getting kind of open to compromise or whatever new laws after mass shootings. But this one seems like something I think you would definitely expect he would actually, go through and do immediately.

00;31;36;19 - 00;31;56;25

Stephen Gutowski

He's undoing stuff that that Biden has done. I mean, he also just seems to really dislike Joe Biden as well, was part of the motivation for it. But but also like this is this is a priority for a lot of, people in the, the, the gun industry and the gun rights movement side of things. And, he seems in tune with that and will do that.

00;31;56;27 - 00;32;08;18

Stephen Gutowski

And then, it's not just the orders, though. There's also other actions he can take as president through the executive branch, right through agencies. And what what do you expect to see there?

00;32;08;21 - 00;32;20;04

Jennifer Mascia

Well, this is a he also, by the way, the executive order was also ordered kind of a crackdown on, you know, inspections. They've ramped up inspections and license revocations.

00;32;20;06 - 00;32;21;16

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Of tolerance rules.

00;32;21;23 - 00;32;47;01

Jennifer Mascia

Right. Zero tolerance. President Trump can absolutely put the brakes on that. And I fully expect him to because, it has taken a lot of heat in the gun community. But in terms of writing his own, you know what's funny? He is going to unwind everything Biden did. I didn't really see anything that told me that he was ready to write new laws.

00;32;47;01 - 00;33;07;21

Jennifer Mascia

It really is about peeling away regulations and rules. Yeah, new over new rules. Well, you know, that's debatable. Some people say these rules are lawmaking. And that's interesting that, you know, we had the the Chevron decision. So the ghost gun oral arguments, you know, it is interesting that they are they seemed receptive to the ATF rulemaking in general.

00;33;07;23 - 00;33;23;05

Jennifer Mascia

Yeah. So that is interesting. But yeah, I can't really see him. I'm not really sure what he could get in executive orders. Could he write some kind of national concealed carry reciprocity through there? I mean.

00;33;23;05 - 00;33;47;13

Stephen Gutowski

You know, you know, that's where I guess you go back to the first, first term, right? And, yeah, he didn't really the only executive action he took on guns, especially through like the rulemaking process was the bump stock ban. Right. Which is kind of been the template for most of these Biden rules as well. So he he did spike a, the end of his very end of his administration.

00;33;47;13 - 00;33;54;18

Stephen Gutowski

There was an attempt by the ATF to do the, the braces, rule that got spiked.

00;33;54;20 - 00;33;55;15

Jennifer Mascia

Right.

00;33;55;17 - 00;34;09;07

Stephen Gutowski

But that's not that's not writing in new like, rules that are favorable towards the industry. I think he he did move, oversight of exports and imports of firearms, right?

00;34;09;08 - 00;34;11;18

Jennifer Mascia

Yes. He did. You you state to State.

00;34;11;18 - 00;34;36;07

Stephen Gutowski

Department, to the Commerce Department. So that was that's something maybe he can do something more in this. But yeah, he hasn't really talked about anything. Just that I've seen at least on that, that detailed level of here are some of the rules that I would do. And he just talked about getting rid of Biden. And to that end, I think in the same vein, he wants to get rid of the ATF director, right?

00;34;36;09 - 00;35;09;03

Jennifer Mascia

Yes he does. He wants to, appoint he said he wants to sack Steve Battleblock and he wants to appoint, a pro-gun ATF director who is going to value, you know, personal protection over, you know, public considerations. Yeah, etc.. They and also an attorney general and that attorney general appointment will be key. He wants to do a number of things in terms of, you know, he wants to make federal funding for law enforcement contingent upon arrest and prosecutions.

00;35;09;03 - 00;35;24;24

Jennifer Mascia

These things effects gun violence, you know, and violent crime. He so he wants to do a lot in that arena that will filter down into how gun laws are being, enforced by the ATF.

00;35;24;26 - 00;35;53;04

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Yeah. You know, that'll back has obviously been, controversial figure in the gun industry, right. He was a AG in Ohio Democratic, AG, right. There the he I think he lost the AG's election, correctly, he was, he was a he was a, U.S. attorney. And then he ran to be Ohio AG and as a Democrat.

00;35;53;04 - 00;35;57;06

Stephen Gutowski

And then he lost that. And he was the backup to to Chipman, who was the.

00;35;57;08 - 00;35;57;28

Jennifer Mascia

Yes, he was.

00;35;58;03 - 00;36;08;04

Stephen Gutowski

The more controversial figure. But he was still somebody that I think has, been viewed as a, as a political by the, the gun industry.

00:36;08;06 - 00:36;28;11

Jennifer Mascia

Which is interesting because he has a partnership with the NSF. So the bipartisan Safer Communities Act, gave \$1 million to the NSF for, what was it for? Suicide prevention, I believe. And so there's there is like a partnership there. There.

00:36;28;13 - 00:36;29;03

Stephen Gutowski

Has been.

00:36;29;06 - 00:36;56;28

Jennifer Mascia

Always. Yeah, the ATF really has two masters. The ATF has, the gun industry, that it has to regulate, but it also has a relationship with the gun industry. And that's, you know, that's something important to. And I actually went on Instagram, Darrell Bock was posing with NSF. So I he's been way more low key, I think, than David Chipman would have been, who had come from a gun advocate gun advocacy organization.

00:36;57;01 - 00:37;04;04

Jennifer Mascia

And so, you know, but he still, does not pass muster. He's not going to make it to the next round. So I think that that's.

00:37;04;04 - 00:37;30;12

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, I think it's pretty clear that the industry and the gun rights groups like the NRA view Darrell Bock as political and do not want him to be ATF director, in spite of some of the things you're talking about here. Like, I think that's a very clear, position among industry officials and, and, gun rights advocates. But the the other interesting thing, though, about this is if he and obviously can he can do that.

00:37;30;12 - 00:37;53;03

Stephen Gutowski

He can he can fire the ATF director like he did. Yes, director. Yeah. The first time around, the interesting thing, though, is kind of thinking about replacing him because Trump did that. A block became the permanent ATF director after there were a series of acting directors, including during the entirety of, the Trump administration. He was all acting directors.

00:37;53;05 - 00:38;22;15

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Trump did try to appoint a permanent director when he was president. And interestingly, he his nominees failed him due to Republican opposition. I believe Ted Cruz was the one who who, went after this, the Trump's nominee during the the nomination process, during the confirmation hearings because they they thought that Trump's nominee was to, unfriendly towards the gun industry as well.

00:38;22;15 - 00:38;33;26

Stephen Gutowski

So I don't know, like it'd be interesting to see if we get to that point. What, like there isn't a he doesn't have a track record of putting up ATF directors that the industry was happy with. So.

00:38;33;28 - 00:38;34;08

Jennifer Mascia

You know.

00:38;34;08 - 00:38;35;26

Stephen Gutowski

He didn't try again after that point either.

00:38;36;00 - 00:38;46;22

Jennifer Mascia

Republicans would like to see no ATF director. I'll be honest with you. They they want to see it move back under Treasury. And I think that that would dilute some of their enforcement and budget. Certainly.

00:38;46;25 - 00:38;54;06

Stephen Gutowski

Do you think that's a realistic thing that could happen in the Trump administration? Yeah. They get sort of demoted as an agency back under control.

00:38;54;09 - 00:39;17;11

Jennifer Mascia

Yes, yes I do. I think that is definitely, you know, project 2025, which has Trump people in it, even though Trump has not adopted it as his platform. They that was one of their proposals is to move it back under Treasury. But I've heard that for years. That's nothing new. That's a priority. And look, having acting directors, I mean, people are like, well, the agency's running, right?

00:39;17;11 - 00:39;44;02

Jennifer Mascia

And yeah, it's absolutely. But they don't quite have the half of a permanent Senate confirmed director. And I think, you know, with Harris, if she wins, we might see a lot of acting directors because they won't get confirmed. And I think that the, you know, the Senate might take an equally tough tack with him. Look, the truth is that, Republicans adore Trump's followers, but sometimes Trump is not the right wing stalwart that they expect him to be.

00:39;44;02 - 00:39;56;26

Jennifer Mascia

And without another election hanging over his head, this is his last term. You know, the wheels can come off and he could really do what he wants. So we could see a mixture of, you know, policies that run the gamut really.

00:39;56;29 - 00:40;25;29

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. That's that's probably fair to to say as a possibility. Yeah. And so, going back to Harris, if she wins, what's realistic to expect from her on executive actions? Like, is this one of the things I wonder, like, they've kind of already gone after a lot of the obvious gray areas with, with these, rules that the Biden administration has already done.

00:40;26;02 - 00:40;39;01

Stephen Gutowski

You know, do you expect to I mean, I would imagine people come up, people can come up with all kinds of ideas. Have you heard of any particular rules that she might try to, propose if she's elected?

00:40;39;03 - 00:41;02;21

Jennifer Mascia

I haven't, but, I think we can expect, you know, the, executive orders that Biden issued, you know, in batches over the years really are clarifications to, you know, strengthening and tightening the bipartisan Partizan Safer Communities Act. So I think we'll see. Executive actions that just kind of, you know, take the existing ones and just go a little bit farther.

00:41;02;23 - 00:41;14;14

Jennifer Mascia

They fully that I'm pretty sure the Harris you know, potential Harris administration expects the white House Office of Gun Violence Prevention to be shuttered. Now, that is something that Vice President Harris is in charge of. And, I.

00:41;14;19 - 00:41;16;11

Stephen Gutowski

Think they would shutter that if she was like.

00:41;16;16 - 00:41;19;02

Jennifer Mascia

Oh, I'm sorry if Trump was elected. Sorry.

00:41;19;03 - 00:41;20;02

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, I think that's that's.

00:41;20;02 - 00:41;23;09

Jennifer Mascia

A it's a tough week, folks. Now if not.

00:41;23;11 - 00:41;24;11

Stephen Gutowski

But under Harris, it would just.

00:41;24;12 - 00:41;40;09

Jennifer Mascia

Probably under Harris it would, it would stick around and she would, you know, handpick a successor. And she knows that job very well. I think, you know, that is something. And look, they don't have enforcement ability. They don't make laws. They don't enforce laws. But what it is is a central clearinghouse for all of their gun violence messaging and policy.

00:41;40;12 - 00:41;56;12

Jennifer Mascia

So I think, you know, we can expect to see that, you know, continue. And under a Trump administration, it wouldn't or it would be used for something else, you know, some other kind of, you know, information. Yes. Process. That's fair distribution process. Yeah.

00:41;56;15 - 00:41;57;01

Stephen Gutowski

Sure.

00:41;57;03 - 00:41;58;02

Jennifer Mascia

Yeah.

00:41;58;04 - 00:42;05;23

Stephen Gutowski

And so, but you don't have any ideas on specific rules that she hasn't talked about. I mean, she, she definitely hasn't talked about it, any. So, you know.

00:42;05;23 - 00:42;23;09

Jennifer Mascia

Guns have really not been a part of this election. And I know that your, you know, your viewers have probably noticed you, like, I remember 2016 when we had both sides of the ticket wide open, guns were being used by candidates on either side to kind of like, you know, against what we're winning down the primary candidates.

00:42;23;11 - 00:42;48;11

Jennifer Mascia

That was definitely I remember Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders went at it over guns. So now, you know, we all know where each side falls on guns. They're dug in. I don't think we're going to see many surprises. Her priorities legislatively

are going to be we're going to hear universal background checks, assault weapon ban, things that really aren't, you know, practical, to be honest with you, but I haven't as far as anything specific.

00:42:48;14 - 00:43:04;25

Jennifer Mascia

Yeah. But I think we'll just see, you know, a doubling down of what we already have, continuing Biden's executive orders. And you're right, they've kind of. I don't really think there's many areas left that they can, honestly, that they can do without Congress. It's limited.

00:43:05;02 - 00:43:23;26

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, I mean, I do it does seem like they maybe have already done most of the ones that they could. I mean, even the latest one, even the, the, you know, in the business gun dealer thing that you mentioned earlier, they're basically trying to get more people to have to get licenses to sell their used guns.

00:43:23;29 - 00:43:32;07

Stephen Gutowski

Right. As a, as a sort of workaround to universal background checks, even that is kind of a rehash of what Obama had tried to do.

00:43:32;09 - 00:43:33;27

Jennifer Mascia

Right?

00:43:34;00 - 00:43:52;19

Stephen Gutowski

Remember that? Yeah. I mean, he had the ATF under Obama had come out and said it could be as few as one gun sold to make you in the business technically, but the practical impact of it was never that significant. And, I don't know, it just already feels like they're kind of reaching on some of these ones anyway.

00:43:52;25 - 00:44:00;06

Jennifer Mascia

And he did it when he had one one foot out the door. And honestly, the government has never quantified the number of guns. And I think that's. Yeah.

00:44:00;06 - 00:44:00;23

Stephen Gutowski

And they don't that's.

00:44:00;23 - 00:44:03;09

Jennifer Mascia

Probably a problem now. They don't want to. Yeah.

00:44:03;11 - 00:44:24;00

Stephen Gutowski

They want to have that. The leeway to say based on the circumstances, you should have had a license not based on how many guns were sold period of time. Whatever. Right. But because that's the broadest view of the statute. And the statute hasn't changed. And it's very unlikely to change as we've mentioned. So that's probably the best they can do.

00:44:24;02 - 00:44:32;02

Stephen Gutowski

And then also they have to in theory, when they have to defend these rules in court, if they were to try and prosecute people under them. Right. So, you know.

00:44:32:04 - 00:44:33:21

Jennifer Mascia

And that's where the judges come in.

00:44:33:24 - 00:45:02:11

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. But, you know, the I guess there is one, one, suggestion that I've heard from gun control activists is that they, they, they had wanted this already. And Biden administration didn't do this when they created the office of, Gun Violence Prevention. They wanted the head of that to be a cabinet secretary position. Right. That seems to have not obviously didn't happen.

00:45:02:13 - 00:45:11:03

Stephen Gutowski

Maybe. Do you think that's something that could happen? There's that's like that's some something that I've heard that hasn't happened yet that maybe Harris does. I don't know.

00:45:11:05 - 00:45:41:09

Jennifer Mascia

I haven't, I haven't, but then again, we haven't heard much about guns from, from in this race, but, honestly, I mean, they waited, what, two years, to even mount this Office of Gun Violence Prevention, right? I can't really see them. I don't know, something tells me that she's going to want to just kind of play it moderate and not jump in, you know, guns blazing, and start making this part of the infrastructure.

00:45:41:15 - 00:45:51:20

Jennifer Mascia

They did wait so long, it really feels like she's probably not going to make a move like that, at least not within the first couple of years of her administration.

00:45:51:22 - 00:46:22:17

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Although one of the things that, and one of the reasons that this hasn't been a major issue in the election, and one of the things we haven't perhaps seen more movement on this from the administration of late is just the the general lack of mass shootings or high profile gun violence over the last year has not brought this issue to the forefront and force them to try and do something, or say something or move, move, move something around so that that I think is where you would.

00:46:22:20 - 00:46:54:20

Stephen Gutowski

That's when you'd wonder, like, okay, here's one. They might start to come up with something, outside of what they've already done and, and push towards something different. That's my thought. At least on, on, you know, she hasn't had to come out and have really detailed neither, I see. Right. So I think the same reason being that this has not been a focus, and that's in part because a lot of the times that we spend talking about gun policy on the national level are in the aftermath of a mass shooting, and we just have not had a high profile mass.

00:46:54:23 - 00:47:01:27

Stephen Gutowski

Right, right. Like ones that capture the nation's attention. Right. And we simply have not had many of those this entire year. Right.

00:47:02:04 - 00:47:22:12

Jennifer Mascia

So last, high casualty event was Lewiston, Maine, a year ago. And then we had the, Kansas City Super Bowl parade shooting, which had two fatalities and a number injured. Yeah. And then, you know, thankfully, you know, we haven't had an event like that that, that. Yeah. Right. That makes lawmakers, you know, that puts them on the hot seat.

00:47;22;14 - 00:47;26;09

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. The closest thing during the meat of the election was the. Well, there are two things.

00:47;26;10 - 00:47;27;15

Jennifer Mascia

The assassination attempt.

00:47;27;21 - 00:47;50;12

Stephen Gutowski

The assassination attempt, which was on one of the candidates who happened to be the ostensibly pro-gun one. Right. He didn't react in a way that made him shift his his policies. It also kind of didn't become a major gun policy story. And then you had the Georgia high school shooting as well. But that also just didn't.

00:47;50;20 - 00:47;51;05

Jennifer Mascia

Right?

00:47;51;08 - 00:47;59;24

Stephen Gutowski

Wasn't the same level of, of, of horror as we've seen before. And so it did break through as, as much, I guess.

00:47;59;24 - 00:48;06;13

Jennifer Mascia

And that's the name of the game and news, isn't it? That's the name, unfortunately. It's how many people are dead. Yeah.

00:48;06;14 - 00:48;27;17

Stephen Gutowski

Yes. Unfortunately that's that's the best way for us to have gun policy discussions. But it is the reality of how this often occurs. That's when people pay attention. Like that's. And so people aren't really paying attention because we haven't had a lot of those things. And so that's been pretty stagnant on gun policy. And we haven't gotten a ton of detail on these things.

00:48;27;17 - 00:48;51;04

Stephen Gutowski

We we have a pretty good idea generally of where either candidate is and and so forth. But but yeah, details certainly short on either way. And so some of the stuff is just speculating. From our, from my knowledge of following these, these events. But I think we did a pretty good job of probably working through what we did stick, possibilities are boring.

00:48;51;04 - 00:49;28;24

Stephen Gutowski

You know, unprecedented situations. Right? Because it's in part, it's, precedent. It's very hard to predict what could happen. But if things stayed relatively similar to how they've been recently, and these are then you get a Harris or Trump administration. This is how it seems likely things will go. And the biggest so I guess bottom line, some of this stuff, the biggest areas of potential difference in reality, in practice, at least for the first two years, until you get another election cycle, right, that might change the makeup of Congress.

00:49;28;26 - 00:50;12;03

Stephen Gutowski

Our probably in judge appointments and perhaps, an executive actions of some kind, whether it's changing personnel at the ATF or moving the ATF around. I don't think that would require legislation to do. Right. Right. So, yeah, but changing ATF funding or ATF, you know, things with the ATF because you got more leeway there. And then, yeah,

executive actions of some kind, whether it's repealing the ones that the Biden administration has, has put in or, trying to come up with new ones on top of those, that's where the real meat will be on gun policy, right?

00;50;12;06 - 00;50;32;29

Jennifer Mascia

Yeah, I definitely think so. There is one, one wild card, something we haven't discussed is that Trump is, a gunshot victim now, and he I, I'm sure that he's traumatized or not. And I'm wondering if that does factor anyone. Right. And I, I'm wondering if that would factor into I heard a lot of talk about when that happened.

00;50;33;01 - 00;50;56;05

Jennifer Mascia

How did this person, get it gone? Well, he didn't have a criminal history, but there were behavioral markers. So I am hearing a lot of why don't our background checks cover this? And so maybe, you know, that might give him pause somehow. I don't know what he would do about that. I don't think we can strengthen criminal background checks and and just start adding criteria willy nilly.

00;50;56;07 - 00;51;08;13

Jennifer Mascia

But that is something to think about. If if he does ask himself, how are these people able to get guns even though they haven't committed a crime? Yeah. You know, that might lead him on a path that we haven't even thought of yet.

00;51;08;15 - 00;51;33;13

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. I mean, there's there's always possibility that there's some, some proposal outside of the normal discourse that we hear policies where most of positions on your traditional gun proposals are pretty hardened, you know, whether it's whether it's, universal background checks and or some of its ban or national reciprocity or whatever, there's pretty stable, solidified positions on those things.

00;51;33;13 - 00;52;02;09

Stephen Gutowski

And there's always a possibility that something beyond, I think, one of the things they talked about during parkland, that came out of the Trump White House idea of like, a universal background check system, but one that was, something you could, have an app that you would be able to somehow write, check to make sure the person you're selling gun to is it doesn't have a criminal record, because that's one of the, something that private gun sellers might be interested in using.

00;52;02;11 - 00;52;08;13

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Right. But can't actually do, you know, as a private gun so you don't have access to next. You'd have to go to it.

00;52;08;15 - 00;52;19;29

Jennifer Mascia

And that's the thing I, I agree the public should have access to NICs. There are people who don't know they have perimeters in their background. And I think that we should all be able to check our backgrounds, because that could be a crime.

00;52;20;01 - 00;52;24;19

Stephen Gutowski

And there's obviously, privacy issues with that too. But, you know, we.

00;52;24;19 - 00;52;27;17

Jennifer Mascia

Should be able to get our own background, you know, like our own.

00;52;27;17 - 00;52;37;06

Stephen Gutowski

Or have some sort of, way of privatizing the information inside of the check while still showing whether or not the person is prohibited.

00:52:37:12 - 00:52:38:04

Jennifer Mascia

Right?

00:52:38:07 - 00:52:57:02

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. There's there's obviously ideas beyond what we normally talk about. And that's I guess that's what you're getting at. Like, maybe there's something there that could come up. And that is a possibility. And I do think that and I've wrote about this at the time, that assassination attempts and assassinations of political figures have led to Major gun.

00:52:57:06 - 00:53:12:00

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, gun law changes in the United States over recent history. Right. The last 30 or 40 years. That's when you're seeing major gun bills pass. Even if it isn't the person who was, like Reagan.

00:53:12:03 - 00:53:12:17

Jennifer Mascia

Right?

00:53:12:20 - 00:53:24:00

Stephen Gutowski

Was, the Brady bill was the result of that assassination attempt, but it was didn't pass under Reagan. Right. Yeah. So there's there's some things to consider. It's just those are longer shot things.

00:53:24:00 - 00:53:36:15

Jennifer Mascia

Right? And look, Trump is a businessman. If he is, elected for a second term, maybe he convenes a, gun. CEO roundtable, and they start talking about ideas. You just you never know.

00:53:36:17 - 00:53:58:29

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. You don't know. And I think that goes back to the point of, like, after parkland, what you saw him do was a roundtable. It was with lawmakers, but it was something that, wouldn't necessarily fit with your traditional like, NRA backed politician would not have necessarily done what he did after parkland. So you never know what he might do.

00:53:59:05 - 00:54:35:23

Stephen Gutowski

I do think he is, or at least up to this point, has been very much, considers what his voters, his core supporters like and don't like. And that probably also hinders him from wanting to adopt any new gun restrictions. Right. But not totally, you know, didn't totally put him off the idea. But now but yeah. So I still think, at the end of the day, with either of these candidates, the most likely thing you're going to see in a in their administrations is, of significance on guns is going to be judge appointments and executive actions.

00:54:35:26 - 00:54:54:25

Stephen Gutowski

Absolutely. Those are the areas where they're going to have more power and leeway to do things. Legislation is going to be much more difficult for. So. All right. Well, hey, look, I appreciate you joining the show and give us giving us your opinion and your your point of view and your your reporting on this and analysis. I think it's, I think it's great to have, differing perspectives, like I said.

00:54:54;25 - 00:55:06;03

Stephen Gutowski

And I thought we got to some really interesting stuff there. And, I think it's informative for people. So I appreciate you doing this. And, tell people where they can find more of your reporting if they want to read it.

00:55:06;05 - 00:55:27;19

Jennifer Mascia

The Trace.org, and we welcome all readers, including Kate readers. You know, actually, some of the most productive conversations I've had on Twitter have been with pro-gun, advocates. So, you know, you know, we have a surprising amount of common ground. I think we all agree that we don't want gun violence to go up. We just disagree about how that can happen.

00:55:27;19 - 00:55:34;05

Jennifer Mascia

So, yeah, you know, I'm I'm choosing to look on the on the bright side, we have a lot of, a lot of common ground in this country, so.

00:55:34;06 - 00:55:57;27

Stephen Gutowski

Well, hey, I appreciate your perspective because it's different than from mine. And I think that makes me and the audience a bit better informed, so. Thank you. Yeah. People can judge for themselves and make up their own minds, and, and, I encourage them to read, the piece that we, that you wrote that we talked about, to get, you get a better understanding of the world and what's what the stakes are for this election, what their likely outcomes are.

00:55:57;29 - 00:56:15;03

Stephen Gutowski

So, Yeah, again, thank you so much for being with us. I'm going to hand it off to myself to tell people a little bit about another outlet that does good reporting. The Dispatch, there was an ad swap, and they're our sponsor again this week. So headed over there.