

**White, Cleo (OLP)**

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**From:** White, Cleo (OLP)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 3:14 PM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
**Subject:** Please call John Lott on 484-802-5373 (Johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)

Cleo White  
Staff Assistant  
Office of Legal Policy  
Room 4324  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
202-514-4601

**John Lott**

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**From:** John Lott  
**Sent:** Friday, March 10, 2017 3:54 AM  
**To:** Ryan Newman  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ideas

Dear Ryan:

I hope that you are doing well. If you have a chance to talk sometime, please let me know.

Best,  
John

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.  
President  
Crime Prevention Research Center  
<http://crimeresearch.org>  
[johnrlott@crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)  
(484) 802-5373



Begin forwarded message:

**From:** John Lott <[johnrlott@crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)>  
**Subject:** Ideas  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at Tuesday, February 28, 2:35 AM  
**To:** Ryan Newman <[Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov](mailto:Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov)>

Dear Ryan:

I hope that your transition to DOJ has been going well. There were a number of ideas that I hope can be dealt with by the DOJ.

— Vote Fraud. I have a very simple idea for this. Take the lists of dreamers or documented aliens (e.g., people with visas) and compare them to voter registration lists. California has given drivers licenses to 820,000 “undocumented immigrants.” They have also given tuition discounts to other illegal aliens. It would be possible to compare lists for California and other states that do things like this to voter registration lists and also see who has voted.

— Redo the studies that the Obama administration has done of racism in police departments. You and I have talked a little bit about these studies. The Obama

administration refused to give out their data, but it should be a simple task to show the bias in their estimates. A follow up study might show that these false claims systematic racism, have reduced the rate that blacks are willing to report crimes to police and that has helped lead to higher crime rates.

— Show that the NICS check mistakes have primarily disarmed minorities.

— Minor change in minimum wage enforcement can make it harder for illegal aliens to get below minimum wage jobs.

— Gun control advocates use the data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and the FBI UCR data on Justifiable homicides to claim that guns are rarely used for self defense.

— DOJ data from the National Crime Victimization Survey needs to be fixed by changing a couple survey questions. Whether guns are used defensively is misestimated by the National Crime Victimization Survey screening question, which asks people if they have been a victim of a crime before they are asked how they responded. Problem is that if people successful use their gun to stop the crime, they may not have viewed themselves as being victims. Also problems with the FBI UCR justifiable homicide data for both civilians and police.

I am not sure that you have gotten my messages, but I have tried calling you the last couple of weeks. If you get a chance, you can reach me at (484) 802-5373.

Thanks.

John

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.  
President  
Crime Prevention Research Center  
<http://crimeresearch.org>  
[johnrlott@crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)  
(484) 802-5373



**White, Cleo (OLP)**

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**From:** White, Cleo (OLP)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8:05 AM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
**Subject:** Good morning.....Sorry for the delay message Please call John Lott on 484-802-5373. He called yesterday.

Cleo White  
Staff Assistant  
Office of Legal Policy  
Room 4324  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
202-514-4601

Holland, James

---

**From:** Holland, James  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2017 2:49 PM  
**To:** ryan.newman@usdoj.gov  
**Subject:** Reconnecting and (b) (6)  
**Attachments:** (b) (6) - Narrative.pdf; (b) (6) - Resume.pdf

Ryan,

I've heard that you've moved over to DoJ. Congratulations! I was wondering if you had any time for a chat/coffee/lunch/drinks in the near future? We're interested in recommending good District and Circuit judges as well as getting conservative pro-2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment US Attorneys placed throughout the country that will focus on prosecuting gun crimes. In that vein, I've attached the resume and some supporting documents for (b) (6) who—to the best of my knowledge—(b) (6). Hopefully I'm not wasting your time and you're the right guy to send this stuff to.

All the best,

James P. Holland  
Federal Liaison  
National Rifle Association  
(b) (6)

**White, Cleo (OLP)**

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**From:** White, Cleo (OLP)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2017 4:11 PM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
**Subject:** Please call John Lott on 484-802-5373

Cleo White  
Staff Assistant  
Office of Legal Policy  
Room 4324  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
202-514-4601

**Holland, James**

---

**From:** Holland, James  
**Sent:** Monday, May 1, 2017 11:37 AM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
**Subject:** RE: Reconnecting and (b) (6)

A little birdie told me that you may not be at this same email address for very long. Whatever the truth, we should meet up for a drink at your convenience sometime soon.

Best,

James

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**From:** Newman, Ryan (OLP) [mailto:Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2017 7:42 PM  
**To:** Holland, James <JHolland@nrahq.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Reconnecting and (b) (6)

James, great to hear from you. Feel free to pass along recommendations.

We should definitely catch up soon. Let me know when you have some free time.

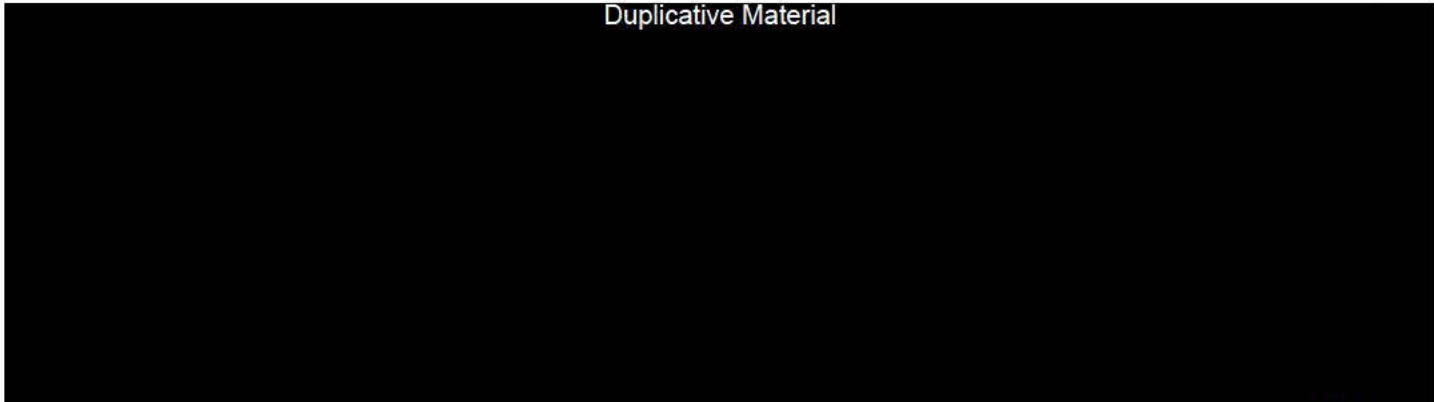
Take care,  
Ryan

Ryan Newman  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legal Policy  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530  
office: (202) 514-6131 | cell: (b) (6)

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**From:** Holland, James [mailto:JHolland@nrahq.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2017 2:49 PM  
**To:** [ryan.newman@usdoj.gov](mailto:ryan.newman@usdoj.gov)  
**Subject:** Reconnecting and (b) (6)

Duplicative Material



**Davis, Valorie A (OLP)**

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**From:** Davis, Valorie A (OLP)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 31, 2017 1:06 PM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
**Subject:** Telephone Message: John Lott 484-802-5373

**Valorie Davis**

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Legal Policy  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Room 4250  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
Telephone: 202-305-0072



**John Lott**

---

**From:** John Lott  
**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2017 12:41 AM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP); Ryan Newman  
**Subject:** Some empirical work that could be done by the DOJ  
**Attachments:** DOJ Studies John Lott.docx; FBI Errors on Active Shooters.pdf

Dear Ryan:

It was great talking to you on Friday. I can only hope that the confirmation process for you straightens itself out.

A while ago I put together some ideas that I have had for empirical work [REDACTED] (b) (6) [REDACTED]. This list and a write up that I did on some errors in a September 2014 FBI report on active shooters might be of some interest. I hope that these are helpful.

If you and others have time for lunch to flesh out these and other ideas, please let me know.

Thanks very much.

Best,  
John

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.  
President  
Crime Prevention Research Center  
<http://crimeresearch.org>  
johnrlott@crimeresearch.org  
(484) 802-5373



***A partial list of John R. Lott, Jr.'s ideas on empirical work that could be done by the Department of Justice***

***Background checks on guns and racism***

The last annual “full” report on the NICS was released in 2010, and the Obama administration stopped releasing the reports at that time. The reports should not only be reinstated, but they should be expanded.

There are many ways that the reports could be expanded. Under the Obama administration the 4473s that people fill out when they buy a gun record race of the purchaser. There have been 3 million NICS denials, but virtually all of those are false positives. The mistakes arise because the government doesn't use all the information available. It uses phonetically similar names and birthdates, but not other information such as Social Security numbers and addresses. Since people tend to have names similar to others in their racial group and since there are large differences in crime rates across groups, blacks and Hispanics are more likely to suffer false positives in purchasing a gun.

The reports should also more clearly identify the number of false positives in the NICS denials.

***National Crime Victimization Survey***

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is often used to claim that there is only about 100,000 defensive gun uses a year. What is not normally recognized is that the difference between claims of about 2 million defensive gun uses and 100,000 cases is because of the screening questions used in the surveys. The NCVS asks people if those surveyed have been a victim of a violent crime. The other surveys ask people if they or someone that they have been with has been threatened with violence. This distinction is important because if someone successfully uses a gun to defensively, they may not view themselves as having been victims of a violent crime. If so, the screening question won't count as a defensive gun use. The BJS should examine how sensitive their results are to the screening question used.

***Guns used in Self-defense***

During Democratic administrations, the government frequently reports top guns used in crime. For those who used guns in self-defense, it would be possible to add a question at the end of the National Crime Victimization Survey that asked those individuals what guns that they have used in self-defense. Those numbers could then be used to release a report on the guns most frequently used in self-defense.

***Police and racism***

The empirical work put out by the Obama administration has reinforced the belief that police are systematically racist. These studies might have adversely impacted crime (if

blacks are unwilling to tell police about crimes) and police shootings - both of those points are testable.

But the research put out by the Obama administration was seriously flawed and the problems are easily explainable. For example, these studies attributed any and all disparities to racism. In Ferguson, they see racism in the fact that blacks accounted for 85% of vehicle stops, but only 67% of its population.

But the people who drive through Ferguson aren't all from Ferguson. Indeed, the seven bordering municipalities have an average black population of over 80%. According to the former Ferguson police chief, traffic stops were designed to ticket people who lived outside the city. This would export their tax burden to neighboring towns. Adjusting for this one simple point causes almost the entire "racism" gap to disappear. All the Obama administration report had to do was account for where drivers live.

I would be interested in measuring whether these reports appear to be associated with a drop in the rate that blacks report crimes to police and in turn whether that is associated with higher crime rates.

### ***Guns and self-defense***

The Obama administration put out a number of studies from an FBI report on Active Shooters to a DOJ IG report on background checks being run efficiently. While gun control advocates have made extensive use of both of these reports, there are major problems with both. For example, the report on active shooters missed twenty mass public shootings during the beginning of the period that they studied and they used a news search that also missed the earlier period, so that combined these biases falsely make it look like that there was a big increase in these shootings overtime.

With the reciprocity for concealed handgun permits coming up sometime within the next year, there are a number of reports that could be done on how law-abiding permit holders are to estimates on the effect that permits have on crime rates. Obviously there are academic studies that can be cited on these points, but up-to-date government studies by the

### ***Gun ownership***

Gun control advocates have tried to paint gun owners as out of step with the general population by claiming that relatively few people own guns. Even as gun sales have soared, some surveys have shown a drop (e.g., General Social Survey). Gun control advocates have a recent survey claiming that 3% of Americans own 50% of the guns. They have tried to claim that a smaller and smaller number of Americans own more and more guns.

There are some surveys on the other side. And also the number of concealed handgun permits has soared. But what I would like to see is the FOID card data from Illinois and

compare it to the survey data for that state. I have been unsuccessful in getting that data on my own.

### **Death Penalty**

If you want to give liberals heartburn, this topic will do it. What is ignored in the discussion over the high legal costs involving the death penalty and all the resulting appeals are the legal costs that are saved in non-death penalty cases from simply the ability to threaten the death penalty. In first-degree murder cases, prosecutors often can't offer the murders less than first-degree murder in plea negotiations. In the absence of the death penalty, the killer thus has no incentive to accept a plea bargain. He might as well take his chances at trial, even when the evidence is overwhelming. But first-degree murder cases are still costly affairs.

*This research would likely be considered outside the BJS's normal role, but it might be possible to still have my involvement.*

### **2014 FBI report on active shooters**

I have also included a write up on a September 2014 FBI report on active shooters. This report is horribly done and is being used continually by gun control advocates. See included document.

### **Voter Fraud**

Take the lists that exist of people who are in the US illegally or who are legal non-citizens and match them with voter registration lists.

-- [740,000](#) signed up for President Barack Obama's program granting temporary deportation deferral: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA

-- California has given driver licenses to over 840,000 undocumented aliens. Probably a similar number of documented aliens, but they don't separate those numbers out. Both undocumented and documented aliens are not legally able to vote.

-- 11 other states and DC also issue driver's license to people who are illegal aliens.

-- Many states, such as California, give discounts on college tuition to illegal aliens.

-- The *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals* program has more than 750,000 young unauthorized immigrants have had their initial applications approved. The Federal government thus has detailed information on those individuals.

-- The Federal government also has lists of people who are in the United States legally.

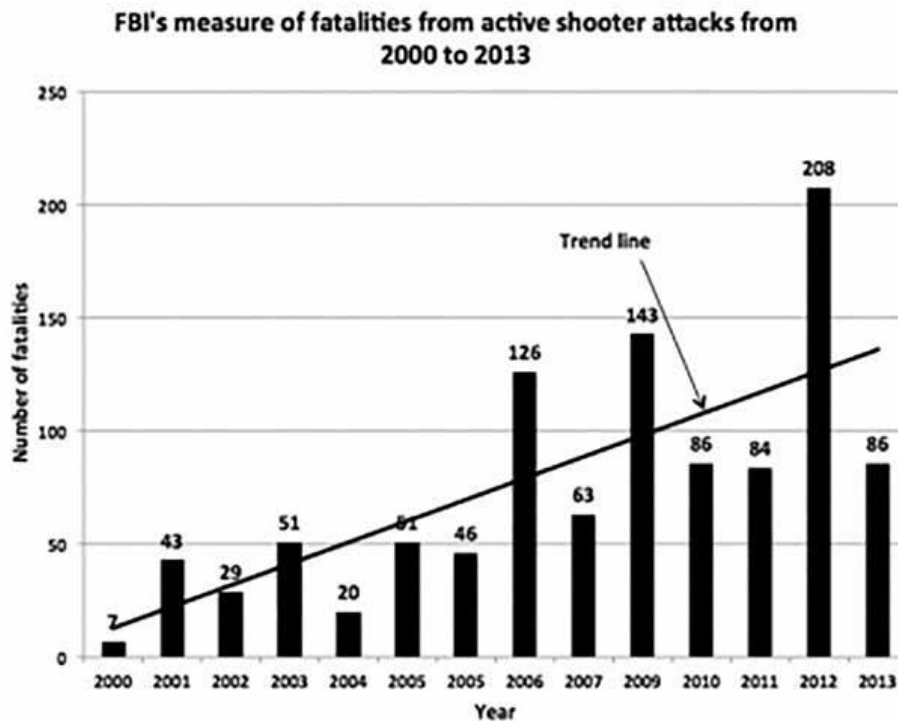
-- Because they are registered to vote (or have a driver's license), illegal aliens are called for jury duty. I recently got called for jury duty, and I witnessed a significant number

who were excused from serving because they were US citizens, though I have no idea about how many were there for different reasons.

-- When criminal illegal aliens are deported there should be a systematic search across databases that would include information on whether they were registered to vote.

Besides measuring the rate of vote fraud, in the past I have done research on laws that reduce vote fraud increase voter participation rates. If people are more confident that the votes will be accurately counted, they are more likely to vote. With all the recent voting regulations, it would be possible to update that work.

**FIGURE 5**



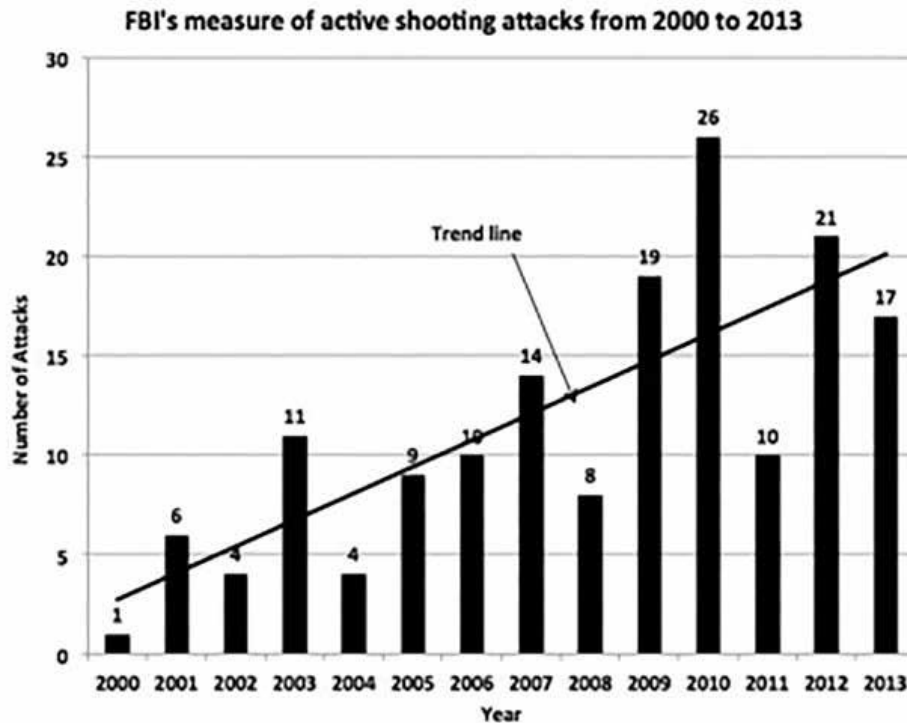
accidents with him.”<sup>42</sup> Overall, it is abundantly clear that Everytown did a very sloppy and incomplete job of identifying cases of mental illness.

It is amazing that anyone takes Bloomberg’s reports seriously.

### **EVEN FBI CRIME DATA ISN'T SAFE**

Unfortunately, the Obama administration is now using the FBI as a propaganda tool. Just weeks before the November 2014 election, the FBI released a report claiming that public shootings had skyrocketed since 2000.<sup>43</sup> Supposedly, 160 “mass” or “active” shootings had occurred in public places from 2000 to 2013, increasing from just one in 2000 to seventeen in 2013.

Typical newspaper headlines were “F.B.I. Confirms a Sharp Rise in Mass Shootings Since 2000” (*New York Times*); “Mass Shootings on the Rise, FBI says” (*Wall Street Journal*); “FBI: Mass shooting incidents

**FIGURE 6**

occurring more frequently” (CNN); and “Mass shootings in U.S. have tripled in recent years, FBI says” (*Los Angeles Times*).<sup>44</sup>

In a study recently published in the *Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Today*, I show that the FBI data were remarkably dishonest. Crimes were undercounted at the beginning of the period and over counted toward the end.<sup>45</sup> In fact, mass public shootings have only increased slightly over the last four decades. The change isn’t even statistically significant. Out of the 160 cases the FBI report counts from 2000 to 2013, thirty two instances involved a gun being fired with no one killed (see Appendix Table 1.3). And eleven of those have either zero or just one person wounded. Another thirty five cases involved one single person murdered. The increase in attacks is an illusion resulting from how the data was put together.

These so called “active” shooters drive much of the purported increase in attacks. An “active” shooter case occurs any time a gun is fired, even if no one is injured or killed. Such cases involving one or no deaths have allegedly increased considerably. Seventeen cases occurred during the seven year period from 2000–2006. The next seven years saw fifty cases, with most of those in the last few years.

The problem here is that the authors used Google news searches to compile these cases. Google is good for finding recent stories, but articles become more scarce as one looks further back in time. That isn’t a problem for finding mass public shootings, where large numbers of people are killed. Suppose there are 800 news stories within the first week after an attack. Five years later a Google news search might show only 400 stories. After ten years, maybe just a couple hundred will show. But it will always find some news articles about the event. However, when no one was wounded or killed in a shooting, you might be lucky to find one news story even a week after the event. After a few years, a Google news search might find no evidence that the shooting ever took place.

There are other ways of searching for these news stories that don’t suffer from this problem—computer databases that permanently save all the news stories that they collect. A couple of the best known databases are Nexis and Westlaw, but those weren’t used in collecting these cases, so the drop off in these “active” shooter cases is very likely just a result of how the data is collected. In any case, there is no reliable way to find cases where guns are fired and no one is actually shot.

Amazingly, the FBI report also manages to miss twenty multiple victim shootings in which at least two people were killed. Among them was a 2001 Chicago bar shooting that left two dead and twenty one wounded. Another missed shooting left four dead at a concert in Columbus, Ohio in 2004. Worst of all, the FBI missed a school shooting that left nine people dead. The missing cases were three times more likely to have occurred from 2000–2006 than from 2007–2013, thus making the earlier years look safer than they actually were.

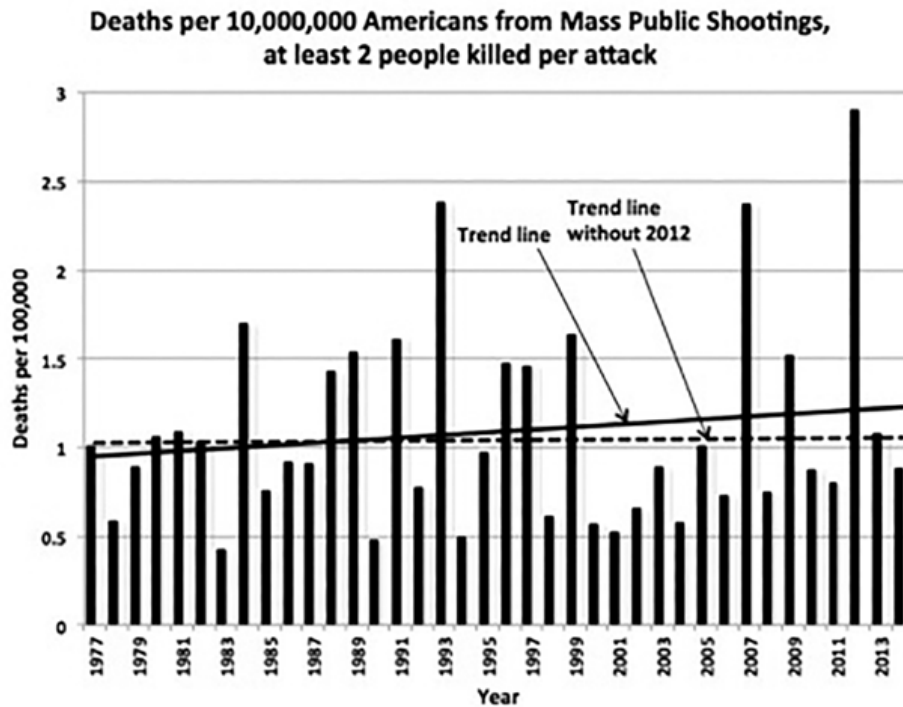


## THE WAR ON GUNS

## THE FBI'S MISSING CASES

Year	Mo.	Day	City	State	Attacker Name	Killed in public	Wounded	Location
2000	3	2	Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania	Ronald Taylor	2	3	Restaurant
2000	3	10	Savannah	Georgia	Darrel Ingram	2	1	School
2000	4	28	Mount Lebanon	Pennsylvania	Richard Baumhammers	5	1	Neighborhood
2001	1	11	Nevada County	Nevada	Scott Thorpe	3	2	County mental health office / Restaurant
2001	4	13	Chicago	Illinois	Luther Casteel	2	21	Bar
2002	4	6	Tacoma	Washington	Felise Kaio, Jr.	2	1	Bar
2002	5	31	Long Beach	California	Antonio Pineiro	2	4	Supermarket
2002	6	11	Kearney	Missouri	Lloyd Robert Jeffress	2	2	Monastery
2002	10	29	Tucson	Arizona	Robert S. Flores	3	0	School
2004	12	8	Columbus	Ohio	Nathan Gale	4	7	Concert
2005	2	24	Smith County	Texas	David Hernandez Arroyo, Sr.	2	4	Tyler Courthouse
2005	4	8	Eastern Shore	Maryland	Allison Lamont Norman	9	5	School and multiple public locations
2005	12	4	Fort Lauderdale	Florida	Ralston Davis, Jr.	2	1	Multiple locations (apartment/gas station)
2006	4	19	St. Louis	Missouri	Herbert Chalmers, Jr.	2	1	Home and Workplace
2006	9	3	Shepherdstown	West Virginia	Douglas W. Pennington	2	0	University
2007	8	6	Newark	New Jersey	Melvin Jovel	3	1	School
2008	10	26	Conway	Arkansas	Kawin Brockton, 19, Kelsey Perry, 19, Mario Tony, 20, Brandon Wade, 20	2	1	School
2012	2	21	Norcross	Georgia	Jeong Soo Paek	3	0	At the spa
2013	6	12	St. Louis	Missouri	Ahmed Dirir	3	0	Office (in a Missouri office at AK Home Health Care LLC)
2013	6	20	West Palm Beach	Florida	Javier Burgo	2	0	Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts

**FIGURE 7**



Another slight of hand involves choosing 2000 as the starting date for the analysis. It is widely known that 2000 and 2001 were unusually quiet years with few mass shootings. The authors probably knew perfectly well that they could get the desired results by starting with those years, omitting some of the early shootings, and finally padding later years by counting non mass shootings.

Let’s look at the numbers from before 2000. In 2000, University of Chicago economist Bill Landes and I analyzed data on mass public shootings from 1977 to 1999. Exactly like the later work by the FBI, we limited our study to non gang attacks that resulted in two or more fatalities in a public place. We also excluded shootings if they occurred in connection with some other crime, such as a robbery.

The attached graph shows the rate of death from mass public shootings. There has only been a slight, statistically insignificant upward trend over the thirty eight years from 1977 through 2014. Even then, the trend entirely depends on a single year 2012 when there were ninety one deaths (Figure 7).

The problem with the Obama administration's false numbers goes much farther than the influence that they may have had on the 2014 election. These numbers may be used in academic research, leading to flawed results. And they are also used in the gun control debate. I have run into gun control advocates who use these flawed numbers many times. Remember George Orwell's famous quote from *1984*: "He who controls the past controls the future." Those who control the data control future debates.

But how far does this corruption go? For example, can we trust the data in the FBI report on the Ferguson police department?

## THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE STUDIES

Excessive and uncritical media coverage isn't the only result of these studies. They provide talking points for politicians. When President Obama addressed the country on January 5, 2016, about his latest push for gun control, Bloomberg funded research provided the "facts" that Obama cited:

- "Congress actually voted to make it harder for public health experts to conduct research into gun violence; made it harder to collect data and facts and develop strategies to reduce gun violence."
- "After Connecticut passed a law requiring background checks and gun safety courses, gun deaths decreased by 40%. Forty percent."
- "Since Missouri repealed a law requiring comprehensive background checks and purchase permits, gun deaths have increased to almost 50% higher than the national average."
- "A violent felon can buy the exact same weapon over the internet with no background check, no questions asked. A recent study found that about 1 in 30 people looking to buy guns on one website had criminal records one

out of 30 had a criminal record. We're talking about individuals convicted of serious crimes — aggravated assault, domestic violence, robbery, illegal gun possession. People with lengthy criminal histories buying deadly weapons all too easily.”

Astute readers will note that the first three quotes originated from Bloomberg funded studies that we have already discussed. The same is true for the fourth quote, and it too is misleading. Here is how they came up with it: Michael Bloomberg's Everytown organization set up a website pretending to sell guns, but *no guns were sold*. Criminal background checks were done on the people's names for those who visited the site and people who might have criminal backgrounds were identified: however, there were all kinds of false positives. Someone might not have a criminal record, but someone else with a similar name might.

And so the crusaders for gun control march on, with botched research, muddy numbers, and assumptions presented as facts.

## John Lott

---

**From:** John Lott  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 10:01 PM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
**Cc:** Ryan Newman  
**Subject:** Re: Some empirical work that could be done by the DOJ

It also looks like I will be available for part of Thursday. Please let me know if any of these times work for you. Thanks.

Best,  
John

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.  
President  
Crime Prevention Research Center  
<http://crimeresearch.org>  
[johnrlott@crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)  
(484) 802-5373



On Monday, June 12, 2017, at Monday, June 12, 2:27 PM, John Lott  
<[johnrlott@crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)> wrote:

Dear Ryan:

It looks like I will be down in DC on Friday. If you have the time, it would be great to meet with you and anyone else for either breakfast, lunch, or possibly even dinner. Of course, I could come by your office and visit anyway.

Best,  
John

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.  
President  
Crime Prevention Research Center  
<http://crimeresearch.org>  
[johnrlott@crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)  
(484) 802-5373

<CPRC JPEG Letter.jpeg>

On Monday, June 5, 2017, at Monday, June 5, 9:08 PM, Newman, Ryan  
(OLP) <[Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov](mailto:Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov)> wrote:

Thanks, John. Will do.

Ryan Newman  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legal Policy  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530  
office: (202) 514-6131 | cell: (b) (6)

---

**From:** John Lott [<mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org>]

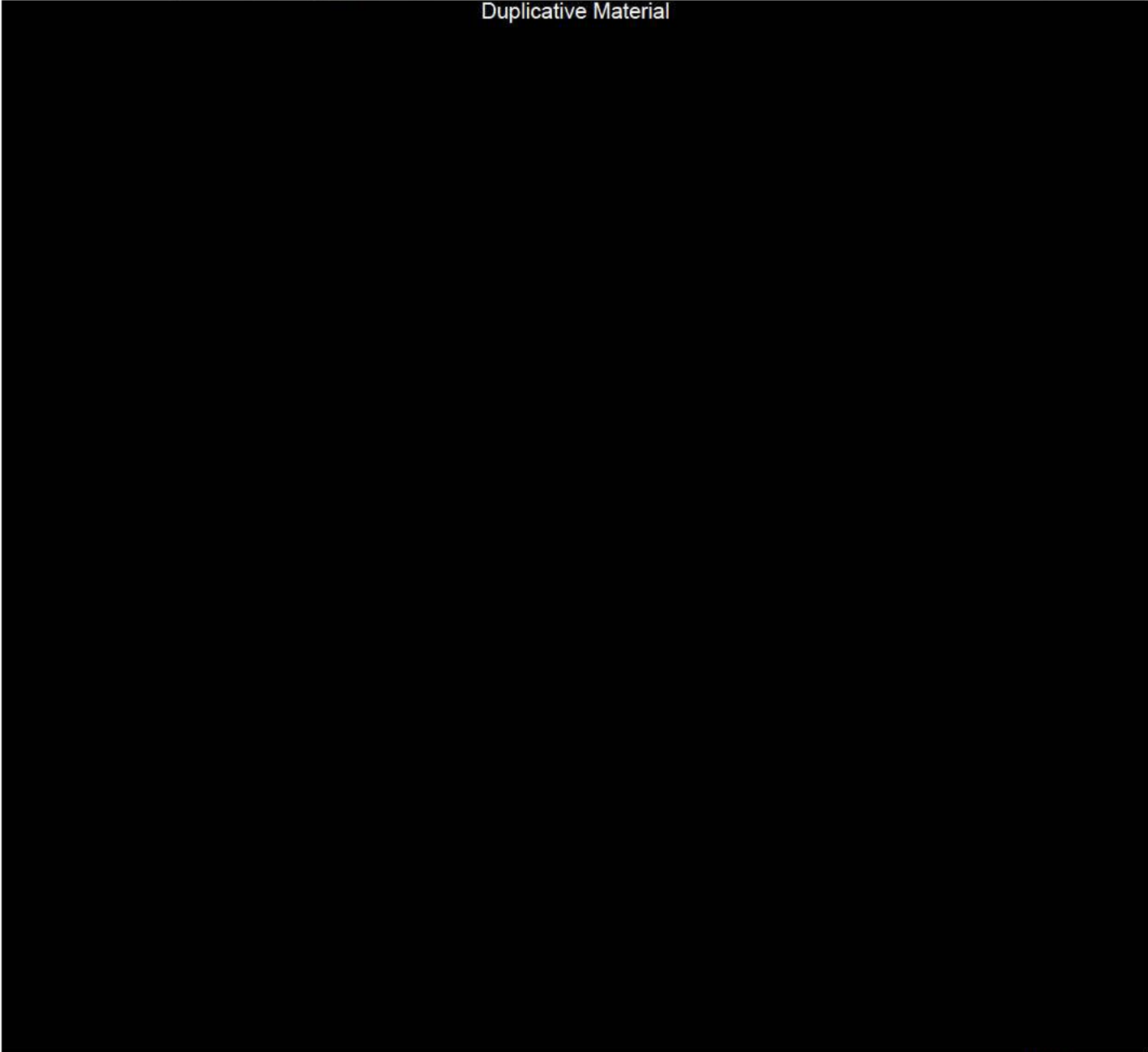
**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2017 12:41 AM

**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP) <[RNewman@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:RNewman@jmd.usdoj.gov)>; Ryan Newman

(b) (6)

**Subject:** Some empirical work that could be done by the DOJ

Duplicative Material



**John Lott**

---

**From:** John Lott  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2017 1:22 AM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
**Subject:** Re: Piece in the Chicago Tribune: How Democrats keep guns in the hands of the rich

Ryan, [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

BTW, here is an op-ed that is a little different from what I normally write, but the media coverage over the last few days has just been too much.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/media/346878-the-media-couldnt-be-more-blatant-in-distorting-trumps-words-on>

Thanks.

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.  
President  
Crime Prevention Research Center  
<http://crimeresearch.org>  
[johnrlott@crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)  
(484) 802-5373



On Tuesday, August 8, 2017, at Tuesday, August 8, 8:18 PM, Newman, Ryan (OLP) <[Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov](mailto:Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov)> wrote:

Thanks, John.

Ryan Newman  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legal Policy  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530  
office: (202) 514-6131 | cell: [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**From:** John Lott [mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 7, 2017 12:51 PM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP) <RNewman@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Piece in the Chicago Tribune: How Democrats keep guns in the hands of the rich

Dear Ryan:

I thought that you would appreciate this piece.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-guns-permits-democrats-rich-lott-perspec-0808-jm-20170807-story.html>

Best,  
John

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.  
President  
Crime Prevention Research Center  
<http://crimeresearch.org>  
[johnrlott@crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)  
(484) 802-5373

<image001.jpg>



**Davis, Valorie A (OLP)**

---

**From:** Davis, Valorie A (OLP)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 18, 2017 11:46 AM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
**Subject:** Telephone message: John Lott 484-802-5373

*Valorie Davis*

Office of Legal Policy  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Room 4250  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
Telephone: 202-305-0072

## John Lott

---

**From:** John Lott  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2017 10:38 PM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
**Cc:** Ryan Newman  
**Subject:** Re: Some help appreciated

Dear Ryan:

I hope that things are going well. Just so you know, I believe that I was able to get a hold of the data that I had asked about.

If you have a chance to get together for lunch, that would be great.

Best,  
John

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.  
President  
Crime Prevention Research Center  
<http://crimeresearch.org>  
[johnrlott@crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)  
(484) 802-5373



On Tuesday, August 29, 2017, at Tuesday, August 29, 6:04 PM, John Lott <[johnrlott@crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)> wrote:

Dear Ryan:

There is one item that I could use your help quickly on some data before the reciprocity debate that is coming up in September. The claim coming out from gun control advocates is that concealed handgun are being stolen from permit holders and then being used in crime. As I suspect you already know, there is a database for this information (National Crime Information Center <https://fas.org/irp/agency/doj/fbi/is/ncic.htm>), but unfortunately only law enforcement are allowed access to it. Part of the reluctance for giving out the data might be that the names of the persons whose guns were stolen, but at a minimum all I care about getting is the state totals by years on the number of guns stolen for as many years as possible. I am definitely not interested in any personal information. It is my understanding that the data also contains information on whether the guns that were taken from non-FFLs was obtained through larceny, burglary, or robbery. While

were taken from non-FLETC was obtained through bribery, forgery, or robbery. While that additional information would be nice, it isn't essential.

If you can't help, I can try some other way to get the data

I also wanted to see if you might have time again for lunch sometime. There were some topics that I hoped to talk to you about.

Thank you very much.

John

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(484) 802-5373

<CPRC JPEG Letter.jpeg>

**Newman, Ryan (OLP)**

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**Subject:** Lunch with John Lott

**Start:** Monday, October 2, 2017 12:00 PM

**End:** Monday, October 2, 2017 1:00 PM

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** No response required

**Organizer:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)

## John Lott

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**From:** John Lott  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2017 8:26 PM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
**Subject:** Re: Lunch?  
**Attachments:** NICS for voting Revised Final 3.docx

Sure, that would be great. Noon is fine. BTW, you might find this op-ed that I should be having come out soon of interest.

Best,  
John

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Crime Prevention Research Center  
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johnrlott@crimeresearch.org  
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On Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at Wednesday, September 20, 8:19 PM, Newman, Ryan (OLP) <[Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov](mailto:Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov)> wrote:

John,

How about Monday, October 2, at noon?

Ryan Newman  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legal Policy  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530  
office: (202) 514-6131 | cell: (b) (6)

---

**From:** John Lott [<mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2017 2:16 PM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP) <[RNewman@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:RNewman@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Subject:** Lunch?

Dear Ryan:

Do you have time for lunch? If you have time, there are a few things that I would appreciate talking to you about.

Thanks.

John

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President

Crime Prevention Research Center

<http://crimeresearch.org>

[johnrlott@crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org)

(484) 802-5373

<image001.jpg>

John R. Lott, Jr.\*

Background checks are required for so many things from getting a job to buying a gun. But despite legitimate concerns about voting by illegal aliens and felons, Democrats become outraged by the mention of checks for voting.

Last week, in testimony to the President's Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, I suggested using the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to screen for ineligible voters. Democrats have long lauded this system, calling it simple, accurate, and in complete harmony with the second amendment right to own guns. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) bragged that the checks are done "without in any way abridging rights." Former Vice President Joe Biden claimed that expanding the system to cover all private transfers of guns would not be "in any way imposing on or impinging on the rights that the Second Amendment guarantees."

But literally only a few states currently even try in any way to check whether registered voters are US citizens. In 34 states, felons are not able to vote immediately upon release from prison. Even the states that check people criminal records rely on just records in their own states.

The NICS checks information from the entire country and looks at more than people's criminal histories. It also checks on citizenship status. So why not use that information to prevent ineligible people from voting?

Background checks for gun purchases are costly, running roughly \$55 to \$175 for checks on private gun transfers. Requiring federally licensed gun dealers to do checks on each individual transfer is somewhat time-consuming. The current NICS system places the entire financial burden on gun buyers. This is unfair to poor people just trying to obtain a gun for self-defense, just as it would be unfair to voters.

But checks on voters would be a simple and very low-cost process. States would compare a state's computer database of voters with NICS. Indeed, many states already regularly compare their list of concealed handgun permit holders to ensure that they are still eligible to carry. Under my proposal, the states would pick up the costs.

The reaction to using NICS for voting was swift and harsh. "Horrified," "patently absurd," and "flabbergasted" were some of the reactions. That it was being proposed just to "suppress" voting. Reporters attacked my qualifications. The Washington Post's Christopher Ingraham asserted that except for one unpublished paper, I had not done any other research "on elections or voting." CNN's Eric Bradner quoted someone questioning whether I was really "an academic" and that I hadn't written anything about elections in a decade. ProPublica's Jessica Huseman attacked Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach for "falsely" saying I am a "prolific author" in academic publications.

But I have published 19 peer-reviewed, academic articles on the issues of elections, voting, and election law. My most recent is from 2014. I also served as a statistical expert for USA Today on the 2000 presidential election, wrote the Statistical Report on that election for the Minority members of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and testified before the US Senate on election issues. In total, I have published over 100 peer-reviewed articles and I have held academic positions at the Wharton Business School, University of Chicago, and Yale.

Salon's Heather Parton argued that I am disqualified from the discussion because I usually study "gun violence on behalf of the NRA." But the NRA has never paid for my research.

Most of the responses have been personal in nature. But there have also been some more substantive comments.

A Kansas City Star editorial raised the concern that, "A background check does sound like an efficient way to suppress the vote." But Democrats claim that costly background checks don't suppress or infringe on gun ownership. So what's so oppressive about a background check that is free for voters?

The Washington Post's Philip Bump worries that background checks will "slow the process of registering to vote," by requiring voters to fill out the same "complex" form that is needed to buy a gun. But many of the questions for buying a gun aren't relevant to voting. For example, mental health, dishonorable discharge from the military, misdemeanor domestic violence, and drug addictions don't affect one's ability to vote. To do the background checks, people registering to vote could provide the same information that they currently do, with possibly adding their social security number.

Bump claims background checks will prove to be very costly, running around \$2.55 per check. But Bump is confused about how the system works. The main cost of running the system comes from putting criminal and citizenship information into the database. That information is already being collected on all Americans on the chance that they might decide today to go and buy a gun. The cost of matching up state voter lists to the NICS system is trivial compared to the costs of compiling and maintaining all of the data to begin with. So it won't involve much added expense to perform voting checks using the existing NICS system.

Unfortunately, Democrats and the media have never been concerned about these costs imposed on those wanting to protect themselves and their families.

Finally, UCLA professor Adam Winkler claims the NICS system can't work for voting because the regulations on gun ownership are "entirely different." While there are differences, there is also a large overlap, and states can be provided specifically with the information that is only relevant to determining voter eligibility.



Democrats have long dismissed evidence that the NICS system is blocking the wrong people from getting guns, simply because their names phonetically resemble the names of prohibited people. But there is an incredibly simple solution to this problem. Just require that the government use a person's exact name, social security number, birthdate, and address.

While Democrats praise background checks as reducing crime, most research doesn't support that view. But stopping criminals from getting guns is a lot more difficult than using background checks to stop ineligible people from voting. Stopping drug gangs from getting illegal guns is about as easy as stopping them from bringing in illegal drugs into the US. But who gets to go through the line at a voting booth is a lot easier to monitor.

The NICS system solves all of the objections that Democrats are likely to raise. They are on record believing that it is a fair and accurate system that doesn't prevent eligible people from buying a gun. But Democrats hysteria over applying this to voter registration raises real questions about their sincerity.

\* Lott is the president of the [Crime Prevention Research Center](#) and the author more recently of "[The War on Guns](#)" (Regnery, 2016).

**Newman, Ryan (OLP)**

---

**From:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 2, 2017 11:14 AM  
**To:** John Lott  
**Cc:** Hudson, Andrew (OLP)  
**Subject:** RE: Lunch?

It's next to the Navy Memorial.

Ryan Newman  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legal Policy  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530  
office: (202) 514-6131 | cell: (b) (6)

---

**From:** John Lott [mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 2, 2017 11:10 AM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP) <RNewman@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Cc:** Hudson, Andrew (OLP) <ahudson@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Lunch?

OK, thanks, could you give me an address for that particular one? Thanks.

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.  
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(484) 802-5373



On Monday, October 2, 2017, at Monday, October 2, 11:06 AM, Newman, Ryan (OLP) <[Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov](mailto:Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov)> wrote:

I could do 12:30. How about we meet at Chopt, right across the street from DOJ?

Ryan Newman  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legal Policy

U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530  
office: (202) 514-6131 | cell: (b) (6)

---

**From:** John Lott [<mailto:johnrlott@crimeresearch.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 2, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP) <[RNewman@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:RNewman@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hudson, Andrew (OLP) <[ahudson@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:ahudson@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Lunch?

Congratulations on moving over to DOD, Ryan! I would still like to see you, but it would be good to meet Andrew.

I could do a short lunch with you today, and I would be very happy to meet with Andrew tomorrow or Wednesday if that works for him. If you want to still meet today, tell me where to meet you. Would 12:30 work?

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<image001.jpg>

On Monday, October 2, 2017, at Monday, October 2, 10:45 AM, Newman, Ryan (OLP) <[Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov](mailto:Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov)> wrote:

John,

I'm fine postponing lunch today.

It's looking like this week or next will be my last at DOJ, so I'll be busy winding things up. I'm heading over to DOD.

Drew Hudson, whom I am cc'ing here, should be your point of contact at OLP going forward. He is a counsel in the office, a former Sessions staffer, and all around great guy. I think Drew may be available for lunch tomorrow or Wednesday. I'll try to come along as well, if I can.

Take care,  
Ryan

Ryan Newman  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legal Policy  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530  
office: (202) 514-6131 | cell: (b) (6)

---

**From:** John Lott [<mailto:johnlott@crimeresearch.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 2, 2017 8:33 AM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP) <[RNewman@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:RNewman@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Lunch?

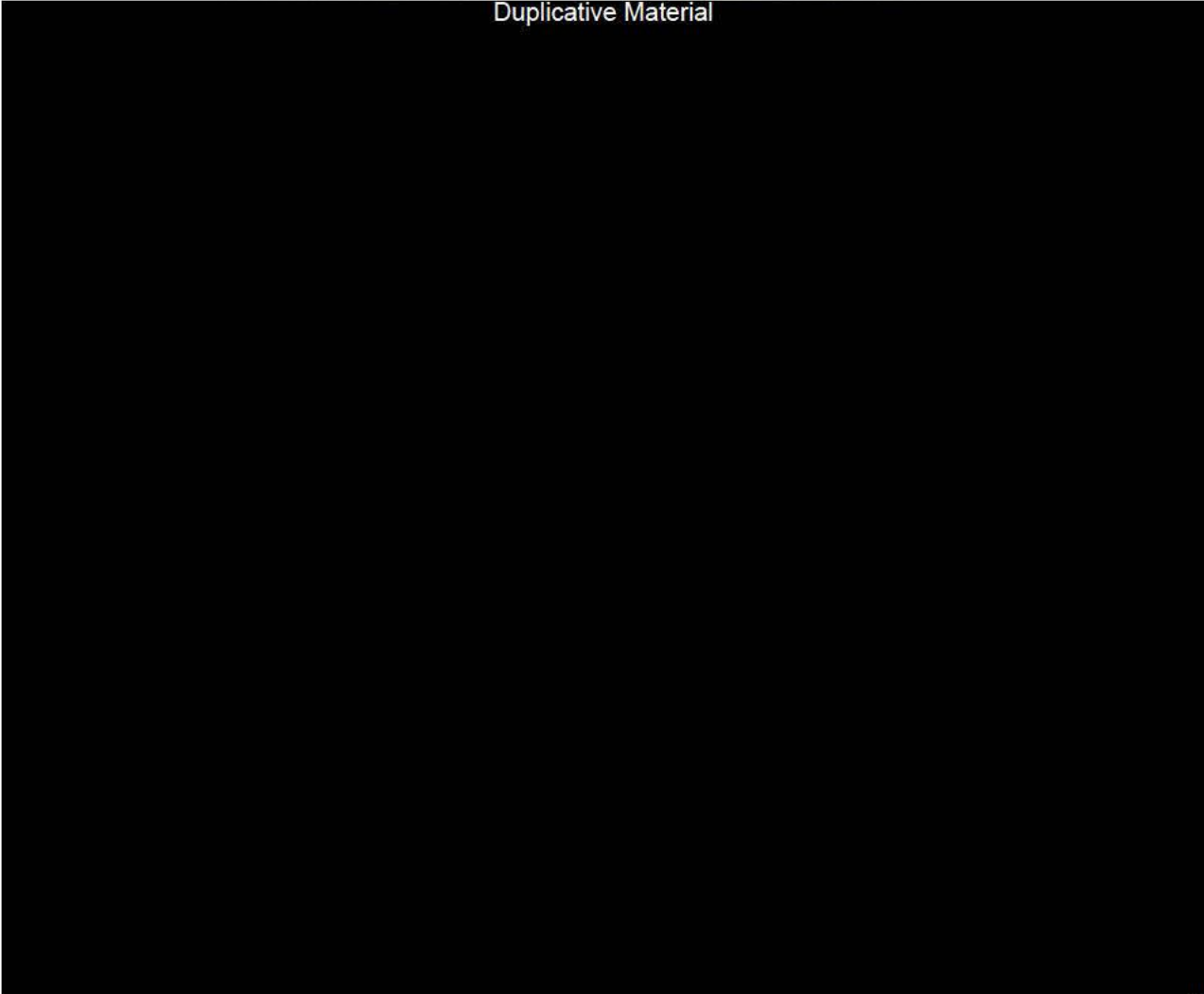
Ryan, were you still planning on lunch today? With the attack in Las Vegas, tomorrow or Wednesday would actually probably be easier for me, but I will still work out today if necessary. Where?

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.  
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<image001.jpg>

On Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at Wednesday, September 20, 8:26 PM, John Lott <[johnlott@crimeresearch.org](mailto:johnlott@crimeresearch.org)> wrote:

Duplicative Material



**John Lott**

---

**From:** John Lott  
**Sent:** Monday, October 2, 2017 11:16 AM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
**Subject:** Re: Lunch?


Got it. Thanks.

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.  
President  
Crime Prevention Research Center  
<http://crimeresearch.org>  
johnrlott@crimeresearch.org  
(484) 802-5373



On Monday, October 2, 2017, at Monday, October 2, 11:06 AM, Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
<[Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov](mailto:Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov)> wrote:

Duplicative Material



**John Lott**

---

**From:** John Lott  
**Sent:** Monday, October 2, 2017 11:40 AM  
**To:** Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
**Cc:** Hudson, Andrew (OLP)  
**Subject:** Re: Lunch?

FYI



John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.  
President  
Crime Prevention Research Center

<http://crimeresearch.org>  
johnrlott@crimeresearch.org  
(484) 802-5373



On Monday, October 2, 2017, at Monday, October 2, 11:14 AM, Newman, Ryan (OLP)  
<[Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov](mailto:Ryan.Newman@usdoj.gov)> wrote:

Duplicative Material