



# SHASTA COUNTY

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## Office of the Sheriff



January, 2013

Vice President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20501

**Tom Bosenko**  
**SHERIFF - CORONER**

Dear Vice President Biden:

I am the elected Sheriff of Shasta County, California. I have 34 years of progressive law enforcement experience. I have been elected twice by the Citizens of Shasta County to serve them as their Sheriff. I take my job and oath of office seriously in the protection of our Citizens.

History of gun control within the United States has demonstrated it is ineffective. The states with the most restrictive gun laws continue to have some of the highest crime rates and gun related crimes, including California.

The recent tragedies have triggered legislative reactions from local to federal levels, creating more useless and ineffective laws which impact and victimize law abiding citizens and infringe upon our freedoms and our rights, especially the Second Amendment. This is not the answer. Two recent United States Supreme Court decisions (Heller and McDonald) have ruled in favor of the Second Amendment and state that a citizen's lawful right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed upon. Legislators need a comprehensive approach to the root problems such as mental illness, drug addiction, and the criminals themselves.

Criminals, by their very nature, will not comply with society's laws. The criminals and their behavior represent a clear and present danger to the safety and security of our citizens and communities. Strict laws, vigorous prosecution, and severe punishment of criminals who possess or use a gun in the commission of a crime have proven effective.

Enhancements to improving school safety and security are needed. Additional Officers in our schools and communities will protect our citizens and our children and will reduce crime.

I will strongly oppose any attempts to undermine our constitutional rights or impose unlawful regulations or actions against our citizens.

TOM BOSENKO  
Sheriff-Coroner