



# The Activist

## SPRING 2013

**Women Against Gun Violence  
2013 Leadership Awards Brunch  
Sunday, May 19, 2013 at the Taglyan Cultural Complex**

**Honoring  
Sari & Aaron Eshman • Juliet Leftwich • Ralphs Grocery Company**

**With Special Recognition to our Keynote Speakers, the Heroes of Tucson  
Patricia Maisch and Daniel Hernandez, Jr.**

**For more information about how you can celebrate with us, call:  
310-204-2348**

### WHAT'S SHOCKING US

Each issue of our newsletter has a page on what is shocking us. Usually it is images from popular culture and we will still have those inside this edition. But what is really shocking us is that 46 United States Senators voted against Universal Background Checks (Manchin-Toomey Amendment). Here are their names and phone numbers in Washington DC. You can also look them up at [http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm) to send emails. We Deserve A Vote!



Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn.  
202-224-4944

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H.  
202-224-3324

Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo.  
202-224-6441

Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont.  
202-224-2651

Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska  
202- 224 -3004

Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo.  
202- 224-5721

*Continued page 2*

**WHAT'S SHOCKING US—THE SHAMEFUL 46**

Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark.  
202-224-4843

Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D.  
202-224-2551

Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala.  
202- 224-5744

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C.  
202-224-3154

Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla.  
202-224-4721

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D.  
202- 224-2321

Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga.  
202-224-352

Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga.  
202-224-3643

Sen. David Vitter, R-La.  
202-224-4623

Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind.  
202-224-5623

Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb.  
202- 224-4224

Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss.  
202- 224-6253

Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla.  
Main: 202-224-5754

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis.  
202-224-5323

\*Senator Reid voted no as a procedural move so that he would retain the ability under Senate rules to bring up the measure again should supporters believe they've mustered enough votes to secure passage.

Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss.  
202-224-5054

Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah  
202-224-5444

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn.  
202-224-3344

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.  
202-224-2541

### **UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS — DO WE NEED TO COMPROMISE?**

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas  
202-224-2934

Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan.  
202-224-6521

Independent national polls have found that 90% of all American strongly support background checks for all gun sales.

Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho  
202-224-6142

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska  
202-224-6521

They are joined by 82% of gun owners — including 74% of NRA members.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas  
202-224-5922

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky.  
202-224-4343

A majority of Americans know that background checks are the best way to stop felons, domestic abusers and the dangerously mentally ill from buying firearms. Since the beginning, the National Instant Criminal Background Check system has blocked over 2 million gun sales to people prohibited from purchasing them and in the 14 states that go beyond the federal law requirement there are 38% fewer women shot to death by intimate partners, 17% fewer firearms aggravated assaults, and 48% less gun trafficking.

Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo.  
202-224-3424

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio  
202-224-3353

Sen. Deb Fischer, R-Neb.  
202- 224-6551

Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark.  
202-224-2353

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz.  
202-224-4521

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev.\*

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.  
202- 224-5972

Sen. James Risch, R-Idaho  
202-224-2752

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa  
202- 224-3744

Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan.  
202-224-4774

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah  
202- 224-5251

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.  
202-224-3041

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D.  
202- 224-2043

Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C.  
202- 224-6121

Are background checks inconvenient for law abiding gun owners? 90% of background checks are completed in less than 2 minutes! We wish the wait at the DMV was that short!

Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev.  
202-224-6244

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala.  
202- 224-4124

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CALIFORNIA — THE LIFE ACT**

Almost 6,000 Californians are injured or killed by guns every single year. The measures contained in the LIFE Act (Life-Saving Intelligent Firearms Enforcement) are critical to protecting our communities from gun violence. Below are the bills included in the LIFE Act.

SB 374 (Steinberg): Would strengthen and simplify the state's assault weapons ban by prohibiting the future sale of semi-automatic rifles capable of accepting detachable ammunition magazines, and would close gaps in state records by requiring firearm owners to submit missing gun ownership records to the Department of Justice;

SB 396 (Hancock): Would prohibit the possession of large capacity ammunition magazines, some of which can hold up to 100 rounds of ammunition;

SB 53 (De Leon): Would prevent convicted criminals from being able to purchase ammunition by requiring ammunition purchasers to obtain permits that would only be issued after an applicant passes a background check;

SB 683 (Block): Would improve firearms education by requiring all firearm purchasers – not just handgun purchasers, as required by current law – to pass an objective written test on firearm safety before acquiring a weapon;

SB 47 (Yee): Would close a loophole in the state's assault weapons ban that currently allows the sale of assault weapons equipped with a "bullet button," a device that enables a firearm user to quickly reload by switching ammunition magazines;

SB 755 (Wolk): Would prevent dangerous people from acquiring guns by expanding the categories of people prohibited from possessing firearms to include individuals with convictions for drug and alcohol offenses and other serious misdemeanors;

SB 140 (Leno): Would appropriate funds from firearm sales to support the Department of Justice's efforts to remove guns from 17,000 people identified in the state's Armed Prohibited Persons System database who are prohibited from having guns but are currently in possession of them; and

SB 567 (Jackson): Would improve the definition of "shotgun" so that rifled bore shotguns with revolving ammunition cylinders would be properly designated as assault weapons and therefore prohibited.

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**TRACKING LEGISLATION**

Every year, the **Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence** tracks and analyzes all of the firearms legislation pending in the California Legislature. This year, California legislators have introduced a historic number of firearms bills, including a number of significant and innovative measures to strengthen the state's gun laws.

This analysis, available through the link below, summarizes over 30 bills that would change California's gun laws. Please note that this analysis is ongoing and will be revised to reflect subsequent amendments and other developments.

<http://smartgunlaws.org/tracking-state-gun-laws-2013-california-firearms-legislation/>



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## 5-Year-Old Boy Shoots And Kills Little Sister, Police Say

BURKESVILLE, Ky. -- Authorities in southern Kentucky say a 2-year-old girl has been accidentally shot and killed by her 5-year-old brother, who was playing with a .22-caliber rifle he received as a gift. Kentucky State Police said the toddler was shot just after 1 p.m. CDT Tuesday in Cumberland County and was taken to a nearby hospital, where she was later pronounced dead. Cumberland County Coroner Gary White told the Lexington Herald-Leader that the children's mother was at home at the time.

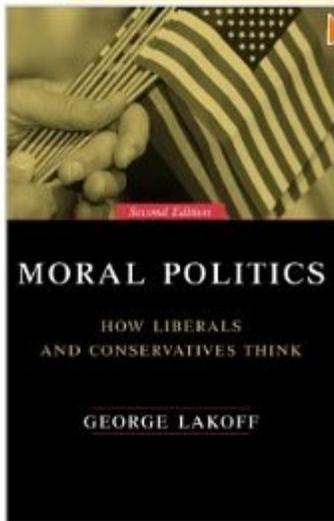
White told the newspaper that the boy received the rifle made for youths last year and is used to shooting it. He said the gun was kept in a corner and the family didn't realize a shell was left inside it. White said the shooting will be ruled accidental. An autopsy is scheduled for Wednesday.



Hayden Panettiere — not aware of the 46 suicides a day committed by gun and may be thinking about a body part that gun enthusiasts insist is NOT related to guns.



The Coffee County, Tennessee commissioner who posted an anti-Muslim meme on his Facebook page said he doesn't understand why he's being "singled out" for doing that.



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## Moral Politics : How Liberals and Conservatives Think

In this classic text, the first full-scale application of cognitive science to politics, **George Lakoff** analyzes the unconscious and rhetorical worldviews of liberals and conservatives, discovering radically different but remarkably consistent conceptions of morality on both the left and right. For this new edition, Lakoff adds a preface and an afterword extending his observations to major ideological conflicts since the book's original publication, from the impeachment of Bill Clinton to the 2000 presidential election and its aftermath.

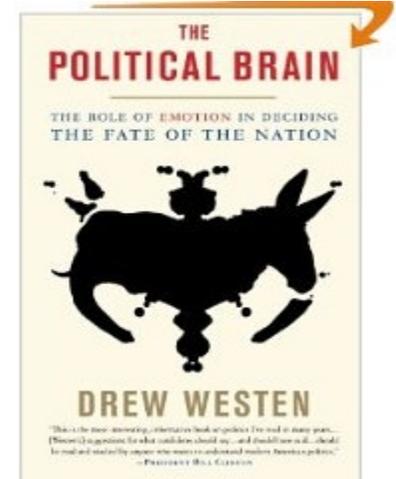
## The Political Mind: A Cognitive Scientist's Guide to Your Brain

One of the world's best-known linguists and cognitive scientists, **George Lakoff** has a knack for making science make sense for general readers. In his new book, Lakoff spells out what cognitive science has discovered about reason, and reveals that human reason is far more interesting than we thought it was. Reason is physical, mostly unconscious, metaphorical, emotion-laden, and tied to empathy—and there are biological explanations behind our moral and political thought processes. His call for a New Enlightenment is a bold and striking challenge to the cherished beliefs not only of philosophers, but of pundits, pollsters, and political leaders. *The Political Mind* is a passionate, erudite, and groundbreaking book that will appeal to anyone interested in how the mind works and how we function socially and politically.

## The Political Brain: The Role of Emotion in Deciding the Fate of the Nation

*The Political Brain* is a groundbreaking investigation into the role of emotion in determining the political life of the nation. For two decades **Drew Westen**, professor of psychology and psychiatry at Emory University, has explored a theory of the mind that differs substantially from the more "dispassionate" notions held by most cognitive psychologists, political scientists, and economists—and Democratic campaign strategists. The idea of the mind as a cool calculator that makes decisions by weighing the evidence bears no relation to how the brain actually works. When political candidates assume voters dispassionately make decisions based on "the issues," they lose. That's why only one Democrat has been re-elected to the presidency since Franklin Roosevelt—and only one Republican has failed in that quest.

In politics, when reason and emotion collide, emotion invariably wins. Elections are decided in the marketplace of emotions, a marketplace filled with values, images, analogies, moral sentiments, and moving oratory, in which logic plays only a supporting role. Westen shows, through a whistle-stop journey through the evolution of the passionate brain and a bravura tour through fifty years of American presidential and national elections, why campaigns succeed and fail. The evidence is overwhelming that three things determine how people vote, in this order: their feelings toward the parties and their principles, their feelings toward the candidates, and, if they haven't decided by then, their feelings toward the candidates' policy positions.



Westen turns conventional political analyses on their head, suggesting that the question for Democratic politics isn't so much about moving to the right or the left but about moving the electorate. He shows how it can be done through examples of what candidates have said—or could have said—in debates, speeches, and ads. Westen's discoveries could utterly transform electoral arithmetic, showing how a different view of the mind and brain leads to a different way of talking with voters about issues that have tied the tongues of Democrats for much of forty years—such as abortion, guns, taxes, and race. You can't change the structure of the brain. But you can change the way you appeal to it. And here's how...



**WOMEN  
AGAINST  
GUN  
VIOLENCE**

## **The Activist** Spring 2013

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[www.wagv.org](http://www.wagv.org)

### **Women Against Gun Violence Mission Statement**

To prevent gun violence by educating the public, policymakers and the media about the human, financial and public health consequences of this epidemic and to mobilize communities to take decisive action against the dangers of firearms.

## **IN THE UNITED STATES:**

**40%** OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN HAVE GUNS

**9** CHILDREN A DAY ARE KILLED WITH GUNS

**46** SUICIDES A DAY ARE COMMITTED WITH GUNS

**34** PEOPLE A DAY ARE MURDERED WITH GUNS