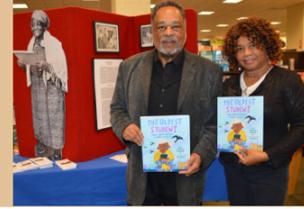




Former State Rep. Robin Smith Told Local Camp REACH Teens That Being Good Christians Makes Good Citizens

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East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Rita Hubbard

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Nashville's Shonka Dukureh Steps Into Role of a Lifetime in New Elvis Film

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Chattanooga News Chronicle

A Progressive Voice in the African American Community

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Complimentary

Black Owned Businesses Recognized at Juneteenth Minority Business Owners Roundtable



Black Business Owners at Kingdom Center (Photo by CNC: G. Faye Stoudemire)



Tamara Stewart, Chief Equity Officer, City of Chattanooga; Bryan Slayton, Owner, BadwRAPs, Inc; and Chattanooga Urban League President and CEO Candy Johnson were attendees at the Juneteenth Roundtable event.. (Photo by CNC: G. Faye Stoudemire)

By Camm Ashford
The Chattanooga Department of Equity and Community Engagement on Monday hosted more than 70 people during a "special edition" of its monthly Minority Business Owners Roundtable. The free Juneteenth Business Celebration highlighted some of the black-owned businesses within the Martin Luther King Boulevard footprint--including the Chattanooga News Chronicle; Chatt Smokehouse; Uncle Larry's; The Peach Cobbler Factory; and The Big 9 Street Food. Other black and

women-owned businesses participating were MetalMakers Company; Chambers Welding & Fabricating, Corp., Enchanted Events; Hardnett Financial Group; Dynasty Financial Solutions; Flutterbies-Art With A Message; Bad wRAPs and BBQ ROWE & Catering. The event, held at the Kingdom Center on East M.L. King Boulevard from 6-7:45 p.m., was aimed at "uplifting the history of Juneteenth and Black Economic Empowerment." John L. Edwards III, founder and CEO of the Chattanooga News Chroni-

cle, talked about growing up in Chattanooga and the legacy of the East Martin Luther King district. Once called "The Big 9" because it was formerly Ninth Street, Martin Luther King Boulevard (MLK) for many years was the heart and soul of Black entertainment and entrepreneurship in Chattanooga. Edwards said he lived through some dark times, including segregation, but over the years went on to build relationships and resources that would

eventually help him establish the Chattanooga News Chronicle, a source of positive and inspiring community news. "Recognizing black businesses that continue a tradition here on Martin Luther King is an opportunity, as well as a remembrance, of something that is so important to our community and our history," he said.

The Chattanooga News Chronicle has occupied an office at 611 E. Mar-

[See Roundtable Page 3](#)

First Bipartisan Gun Control Bill in a Generation Signed Into Law: 3 Essential Reads on What It Means



President Joe Biden signs the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act into law while First Lady Dr. Jill Biden looks on.. Stefani Reynolds/AFP via Getty Images

By Howard Manly
Race + Equity Editor, The Conversation US
President Joe Biden signed into law on June 25, 2022, a bipartisan bill that is the first significant change in federal gun legislation in nearly three decades. Known as the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the bill was written

in response to the shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas, and sped through a usually slow-moving Congress. Though the bill's limited scope has left many disappointed, it does tighten up gun control in a number of key areas.

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TDOT Unveils New Hotline to Address Potholes & Other Roadway Maintenance Issues



The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is launching a new hotline for drivers to report potholes and other maintenance issues that may be considered roadway safety hazards. "We all know it's been a terrible year for potholes and here at TDOT we are always looking for ways to improve our customer service," said Commissioner Butch Eley. "For the citizens, this hotline will give them another convenient way to report maintenance problems on our interstates and state routes. For TDOT, this centralized way of receiving, processing, and tracking information will enhance our operations." The new hotline number is 833-TDOTFIX (836-8349). The virtual

call center operates Monday – Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. If someone calls on holidays, weekends, or after hours they can leave a message or call back during business hours. TDOT must collect as much relevant information as possible about a maintenance work request. The call center agent will ask the driver a series of questions and submit that information through TDOT's online maintenance work request form. Drivers should remember Tennessee's Hands-Free Law when calling the hotline. Citizens can still alert TDOT to potholes and other maintenance issues using this online form: <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/maintenance/maintenance-request.html>

Red Flag Laws Saved 7,300 Americans From Gun Deaths in 2020 Alone – and Could Have Saved 11,400 More

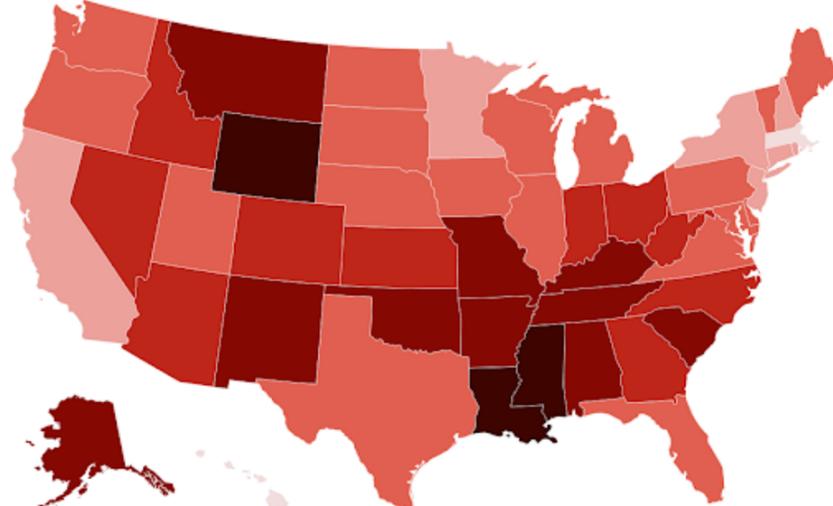
By John A. Tures
Professor of Political Science, La-Grange College
Lawmakers in Congress are poised to pass the first gun control legislation in three decades. Among the elements in that legislation is support for states to pass what are called "red flag laws." These laws, already in place in many states, let police take guns from people deemed a threat to themselves or others. The laws also seek to bar those people from buying guns. The proposal has emerged again in the wake of the mass school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, as well as others in recent weeks. The current draft of a

Senate bill would make \$750 million in federal funding available to help states administer a red flag law if they have or pass one – though states without them could also qualify for the money by adopting other policies unrelated to guns. The contrast between states that have them and states that don't provides a useful opportunity for a scholar like me, who uses data to help understand politics, to examine whether they may help reduce gun-related deaths. **19 states, plus DC, have red flag laws**

[See Red Flag Laws Page 4](#)

States with red flag laws had fewer firearm deaths in 2020

On average, states with red flag laws had 11.25 firearm deaths per 100,000 residents in 2020. States without red flag laws averaged 17.5 firearm deaths per 100,000 residents in the same year. New Mexico's red flag law took effect halfway through 2020. Map: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: CDC



Attention Readers
Print Schedule: July 14, 28 | August 11, 25
Weekly content will still be available on our website and social media!

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