

A QUESTION FOR EVERY MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF IN AMERICA:

Will you pledge that you will never forcibly confiscate firearms from law-abiding citizens?

In an overreaching reaction to Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans and other government officials went door to door confiscating firearms from law-abiding citizens at gunpoint.

There were no police, no lights, no phones, no 9-1-1. Gangs of armed thugs ruled the streets.

Local officials could not protect their citizens. But they made a dangerous situation worse by denying their citizens firearms to protect themselves—just when they needed them most.

A lawful person's right to keep a gun for self-defense shouldn't be revoked due to storm tracks, disease epidemics, tornado paths, flood levels, wildfires, Richter scales, street riots, terrorist events or the impulse of local bureaucrats.

Another natural or manmade disaster is inevitable. So the NRA is launching a two-part initiative to ensure that this does not happen again.

1. We're asking every mayor and police chief to sign this pledge:

I will never forcibly disarm the law-abiding citizens of

City Name

Mayors and police chiefs already swear to support the U.S. Constitution in their oaths of office. Signing this pledge should be just as effortless.

But those who refuse to make this pledge should be prepared to explain why. Gun-owning citizens deserve a clear description of the scenarios in which their mayor and police chief think they should be forcibly disarmed.

That's why there's another important part of this initiative.

2. The NRA will support the introduction of state and federal legislation that makes it a crime to forcibly disarm law-abiding citizens. Violation should result in arrest and hard prison time.

Currently there's no real consequence to prevent local officials from subverting the Constitution at will. Americans need to know, once and for all, whose side their local leaders are on.

So do rank and file police and military officers, many of whom were horrified when ordered to confiscate peoples' firearms in New Orleans. The NRA has always been supported by the officers on the front lines, who don't want politically-motivated leaders to deploy them as instruments of tyranny to disarm their fellow townsmen or *their own friends and families*.

We do not seek to restrain officials from declaring states of emergency to protect the population. Nor do we oppose taking firearms from criminals.

But never again should individual gun owners be criminalized and forcibly disarmed at the whim of local officials. Whatever the circumstances, lawful gun owners have the right to possess their firearms in their homes. And if forced to evacuate, they have the right to transport their firearms to a safe place.

Americans who obey the law are increasingly fed up with governments that abuse it or don't enforce it. Whether it's officials who violate the Constitution, or don't prosecute armed, violent felons, citizens are demanding uniform access to, and protection by, the rule of law.

Toward that end, the NRA has a history of unflinching defense of Second Amendment freedoms for all law-abiding people.

Requesting this pledge, and encouraging this legislation, will continue that proud mission.



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Executive Vice President



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If you own a firearm, don't miss Wayne LaPierre's and Chris Cox's addresses to NRA members LIVE from Milwaukee this Saturday, May 20, beginning at 10:00 AM CDT on www.NRANews.com.