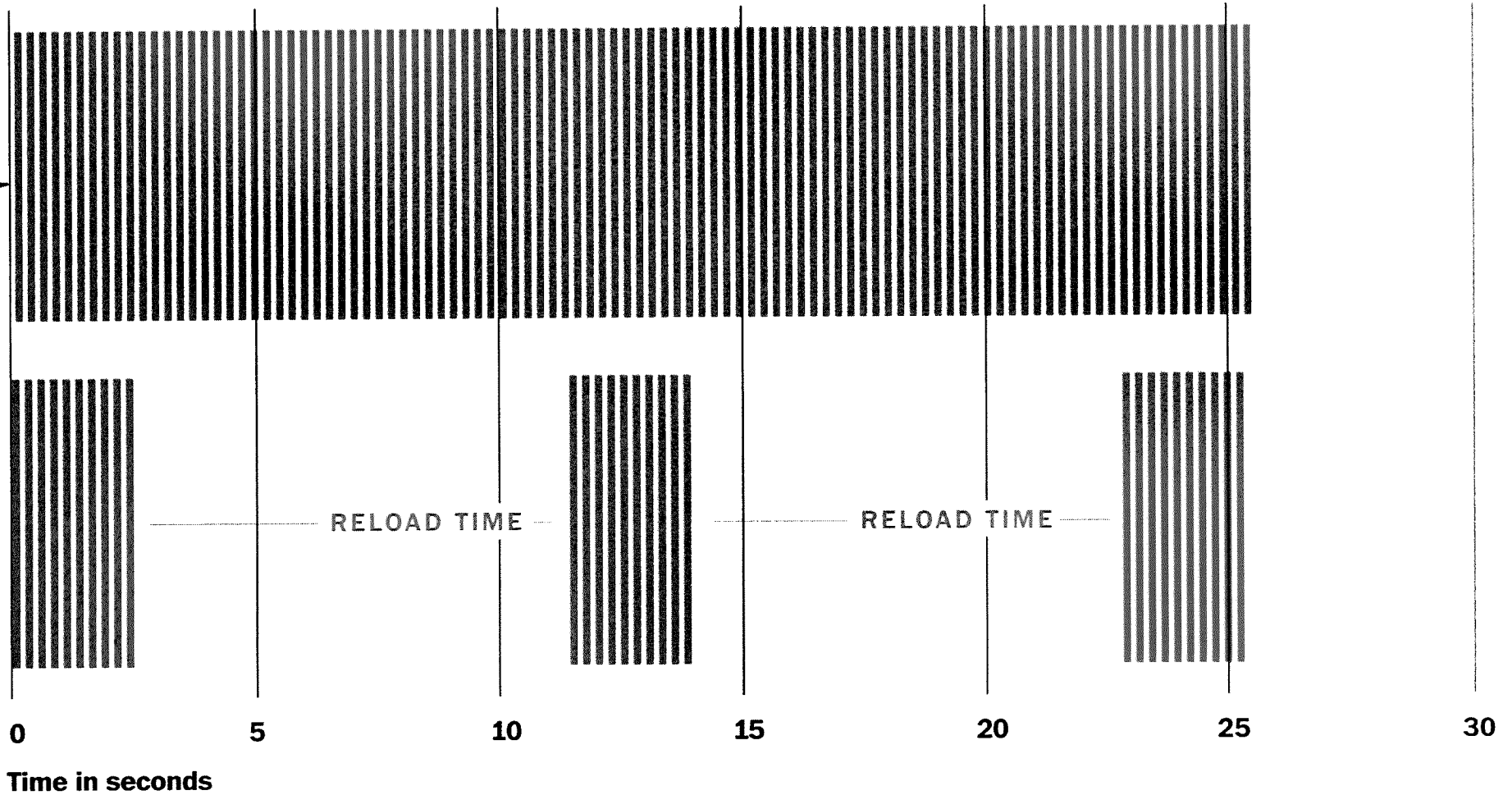


Comparing magazine sizes

In the 30 seconds it takes a person to reload and shoot a 10-round magazine three times, someone with a 100-round magazine can shoot 100 bullets without reloading.

🔊 100-round magazine 🔊 10-round magazines

Wolff
Michelle Stapleton



Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, Members of the committee, I am Michele Stapleton, I live in Brunswick, and I come to gun safety advocacy after careers in law and journalism. Journalism took me to the scene of many gun crimes. And law taught me how to read and analyze caselaw.

I speak in favor of LD 1109 (large capacity magazines).

I'm going to focus on just three sources and give you links so you can read more on your own.

#1/ Is a study published by the NIH on high-fatality mass shootings over a 28-year period. **The Effect of Large-Capacity Magazine Bans on High-Fatality Mass Shootings**, 1990–2017, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6836798/> (2019 Dec;)

Researchers looked at states that had bans, states that did not have bans, and shootings during the national assault weapon ban. They found

- That firearms equipped with LCMs are involved in a disproportionate share of mass murders and murders of police.
- That states without bans not only had more mass shootings.
- That they also had more deaths per incident.
- That shooters perceive LCMs to be more effective at killing many people.
- That LCM allowed gunmen to fire more shots.
- That they also provide active shooters with extended cover.
- That victims struck by multiple rounds were more likely to die,
- That while gunmen are firing, it is extremely difficult for those in the line of fire to make defensive efforts.
- That if there are lulls—when shooters reload or change weapons—the pause allows law enforcement to intervene or victims to flee.
- That bans were associated not only with fewer deaths per incident, but also with fewer incidents overall.

#2/ High-capacity-magazine bans could save lives. Will they hold up in court?

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/high-capacity-magazine-ban-legal-challenges/> A year ago the Washington Post did a 15-part series on the AR-15 style rifle.

In the one article I've linked there's a graphic that shows how in the 30 seconds it takes a person to shoot and load three 10-round magazines, someone else can empty a 100-round magazine.

The Post highlights specific incidents where reloading made a difference. In a California synagogue members of the congregation overcame the shooter while he was replacing his 10-round magazine.

At Sandy Hook several children fled while Adam Lanza was reloading.

I'll ask you like one of the sources interviewed for the article asked: "[S]top, look around...How far can you get in six, seven, eight seconds if you bolted? If there was a pause in the shooting?"

The Post article also interviewed a researcher who studied cases of self defense. She found that people averaged just over two shots in self-defense. She found many people never fired a single shot. She found only two cases where someone fired more than 10 shots.

3. **Duncan v. Bonta**, <https://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2025/03/20/23-55805.pdf> (9th Cir. 2025)

Just last week the Ninth Circuit issued a landmark decision on California's ban. Before you say "But, we're not in the Ninth Circuit," consider that there was not just a random three-judge panel, but the court sitting en banc. And, there are five pages worth of attorneys who participated of counsel and with amicus briefs. Attorney Generals from 45 states and DC if I counted correctly, including Aaron Frey's office in Maine. And, of course, the advocacy groups on both sides. So, this was a huge case, well-briefed.

Following methodology set forth by the Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit said the California ban does not violate the Second Amendment because it's merely an "accessory" that is not vital to a gun's operation. And, second, the nation has a tradition of protecting innocent persons by prohibiting "especially dangerous" uses—for example, barring guns from sensitive places like courthouses—and that this ban qualifies as such an "especially dangerous" use.

The court noted that persons may still carry as many bullets, magazines, and firearms as they wish. The only effect on self-defense is that they have to pause to reload, something rarely done in self-defense.

The court said "pauses [to reload] are crucial because they allow intended victims and law enforcement personnel to flee, take cover, and fight back. More than twice as many people have been killed or injured in mass shootings that involved a large-capacity magazine than in mass shootings that involved a smaller-capacity magazine. And in the past half-century, large-capacity magazines have been used in about three-quarters of gun massacres with ten or more deaths and in every gun massacre with twenty or more deaths."

There's a lot more there in these three sources, but I'm out of time.

Thanks for your consideration.