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## **San Diego Leadership Credited in Statewide Gun Violence Prevention Study**

*Prominent medical journal report cites San Diego as a key driver in the use of GVROs in California*

San Diego is credited for spurring much of the statewide growth in the use of Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) according to a newly released [four-year study of California's "red flag" law](#) published by the prestigious Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

The annual statewide number of GVRO respondents increased by 900% between 2016 and 2019, from 70 to 700, with the most substantial increase occurring between 2018-2019 (225 vs 700). JAMA reported that San Diego accounted for nearly 40% of that overall total statewide increase, far more than any other county.

The JAMA report further indicates that strong local leadership can influence where the law is being applied. City Attorney Mara W. Elliott's early development of a GVRO team and law enforcement training strategy could account for the disproportionate growth of GVRO use in San Diego and throughout Southern California, the report concluded.

The study was undertaken to help inform GVRO policy and practices in California and elsewhere. In a 2019 analysis, the authors found that "red flag" laws may be useful for preventing mass shootings.

**"It is encouraging to see our impact on California's use of this indispensable tool to prevent suicides, mass shootings, intimate partner homicides, and other gun-related violence,"** City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said. **"Red flag laws allow us to be proactive in identifying dangerous behavior so that we can avert a tragedy before it occurs, and I'm hopeful GVRO use will continue to rapidly grow."**

Since January 1, 2016, California law has allowed for the temporary removal of firearms and ammunition from individuals who pose a risk of violence to themselves or others. Upon taking Office in December 2016, Elliott began working to establish California's first comprehensive GVRO program through a collaboration with law enforcement and the courts. Since the program's launch in December 2017, courts have removed more than 600 firearms, including 50 assault weapons, from people who posed a threat to themselves and others, including stalkers, disgruntled employees, and potential school shooters.

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