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FACT CHECK: Mike Johnston's IE Ad Intentionally Misleading Voters *Johnston's record on guns, not what he claims*

Denver, CO – Denver mayoral candidate Michael Johnston's IE [Advancing Denver](#), which is largely funded by out-of-state billionaires like Reid Hoffman and Steve Mandel, [released a new TV ad](#) that is misleading on Johnston's gun record. The ad offers solutions already passed by the state legislature and empty political promises to solve the epidemic of gun violence.

"When Michael Johnston had the opportunity to lead in the state legislature on gun safety, he didn't. He never sponsored the magazine limit bill that he is now claiming he led on" **said Nico Delgado, spokesperson for the Brough campaign.** "Never putting your name on the bill isn't courageous, adding your name only after it passes isn't leadership. He is intentionally misleading voters."

"Giving a speech on guns is not doing the real work to stop the epidemic of gun violence gripping our schools and community. We don't need more thoughts, prayers and words – we need real action." **said Maisha Fields, long time gun safety activist and advisor to Brough campaign.** "Michael Johnston didn't have the courage to sponsor the magazine limit nor did he have the courage to sponsor an assault weapons ban for the 8 years he served in the legislature, he had the chance to lead and didn't."

"Michael Johnston has repeatedly exaggerated his record on gun safety, repeatedly claims he successfully stood up to the NRA and won, these claims are painful for us teachers and students who continue to be impacted by the gun violence ravaging our schools." **said Lisa Smith, Teacher at East High School.** "Johnston had 8 years in the legislature to do something about guns and didn't. We need real action, no more speeches or empty promises."

Here are the facts:

When previously in office, here's the role Michael Johnston played on gun safety issues:

- He was not a sponsor or co-sponsor of legislation prohibiting large-capacity ammunition magazines in Colorado despite claims he "banned weapons of war" used in Aurora and Columbine mass shootings. [[HB13-1224](#), enacted 3/20/13; [CO Senate Journal](#), 3/11/13]

- In 2013, Johnston joined as a co-sponsor for the legislation to establish background checks only after its successful third reading. [[HB13-1229](#), enacted 3/20/13; [CO Senate Journal](#), 2018; [Reuters](#), 3/15/13]
- His 2023 Mayoral campaign website stated he [“took on the NRA twice—and won, passing laws to require universal background checks and banning weapons of war used in Aurora and Columbine mass shootings.”](#)
 - Not only does Michael Johnston falsely claim he led [on the magazine limit passed in 2013](#), he never even sponsored the bill.
 - [Media has exposed the ineffectiveness of the magazine limit](#), it’s misleading to claim to have beaten the NRA twice when we have experienced only an increase in mass shootings and gun violence since 2013.

The misleading statements continue as Michael promises to advance efforts that have already been put in place by our legislature and offer solutions he said won’t work:

- Michael Johnston’s [campaign plan](#): “I will also support expanding the red flag law so that district attorneys can initiate the filings for an extreme risk protection order.”
 - [The legislature already passed this reform.](#)
- Johnston acknowledged that a 10-Day waiting period for firearm purchases is a “statement of values.”
 - *Johnston, himself a gun owner, said he would push for a 10-day waiting period for gun purchases in the city. But that may end up being more symbolic than impactful. There are more gun stores in cities around Denver than there are gun stores in Denver. There are 49 licensed gun dealers in Denver, but 268 dealers between Aurora, Littleton, Lakewood, Arvada, Westminster and Englewood. Johnston said, however, it would be a statement of values, and could inspire other municipalities around Denver to do the same. [[Denverite](#), 2/11/23]*

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Kelly Brough is not a politician and has never run for office, but she has the lived experience to understand the challenges facing Denver families and the executive experience to take action and make real, positive change. Her proven track record and experience as the Chief of Staff to former Mayor John Hickenlooper and first woman CEO of the Denver Chamber of Commerce has positioned her to successfully tackle Denver’s biggest challenges like housing costs, homelessness, and public safety. Learn more about Kelly at <https://kellybrough.com/>.