

Nev. gun laws inching closer to Calif.'s

By David Montero, Los Angeles Times

Joe Leal says he knows the good ones from the bad. He's been doing this for decades. He trusts that his brown eyes – narrowed beneath a furrowed brow – won't deceive him.

He looks down at the shiny silver handgun under a glass case. Next to it is an all-black one. Criminals don't want guns like this, he explains. They're expensive and only the serious enthusiast will lay down more than \$2,000 for such a weapon. Even his lower-end guns fetch at least \$600.

He'll check their identification to make sure they're a Nevada resident. If he gets a bad vibe, he'll walk the customer over to a table where a federally licensed gun dealer can run a background check. That's if he even decides to go that far. When he's suspicious, the 82-year-old former U.S. Army lieutenant and long-time Nevada resident simply refuses to sell.

Leal is a private seller who might move 15 firearms a year. He calls it his "hobby jobby" and doesn't believe he needs the government telling him when to run a background check – as is now being proposed on the November ballot. It's not the Nevada way, he explains.

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