

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
POLITICAL VICTORY FUND
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NRA-PVF

2020 U.S. SENATE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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OFFICE SOUGHT YOUR MAN CORNY PARTY THE 2021 CONTROLLING
CORNYS SEAT PARTY OF HOUSE, SENATE
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THIS SIGNATURE ATTESTS THAT THE STATEMENTS AND INFORMATION
BELOW ACCURATELY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE UNDERSIGNED
CANDIDATE:

Candidate's Signature

Date

Please circle the letter corresponding to the answer of your choice.

(For more information on issues, visit <https://www.nraila.org/get-the-facts/>)

1. All U.S. states and the District of Columbia have a legal mechanism whereby law-abiding residents can carry a concealed firearm for self-defense. Forty-two states currently recognize a right to carry concealed firearms for self-defense, whether by the routine issuance of licenses to eligible applicants or otherwise. Forty states recognize licenses from other states to varying degrees. Twenty-three states grant full legal recognition to out-of-state concealed carry licensees or other lawful concealed carriers. Yet in a small handful of states, otherwise law-abiding American travelers are routinely prosecuted and threatened with lengthy mandatory prison time for failing to realize that their concealed carry licenses will not be given recognition. The NRA therefore supports legislation to ensure lawful concealed carriers are granted recognition when traveling from one state to the next subject to each state's rules of behavior for concealed carry.
 - A. I agree with the NRA and would vote for concealed carry reciprocity legislation.
 - B. I disagree with the NRA and would not support such legislation.

2. Under current federal law, retail sales of firearms by holders of a Federal Firearms License (FFL) require a background check, while firearm transfers between law-abiding private parties living in the same state do not. Gun control advocates want to change this to mandate background checks every time a firearm changes hands, even among friends and relatives. Such a law could lead to jail time and heavy fines for a person who simply loans, gives, or sells a firearm to a long-time friend without going through an FFL. The NRA objects to requiring background checks for law-abiding private party sales or transfers that do not amount to business activity aimed at livelihood and profit, which the Justice Department has said can only be enforced with the creation of a federal firearms registry.
 - A. I agree with the NRA that commercial transactions are different than private transfers between two law-abiding citizens, and I will not vote for legislation that seeks to require federal government approval for private firearm transfers.
 - B. I disagree with the NRA and support legislation to require federal government approval for private firearm transfers.

3. In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed a 10-year ban on the importation and manufacture for sale to private persons of nearly 200 models of semiautomatic firearms and ammunition magazines that could hold more than 10 rounds. Federal studies determined the ban had no measurable effect on crime, and it was allowed to expire in September 2004. In April 2013, the Senate rejected an amendment offered by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), by a bipartisan vote of 40-60, that would have substantially expanded upon the failed 1994 law. Despite that vote, gun control proponents continue to demand expanded bans on popular semiautomatic firearms and standard capacity magazines owned by millions of law-abiding Americans.
 - A. I agree with the NRA and would vote against legislation to ban commonly-owned semiautomatic firearms and standard capacity magazines.
 - B. I disagree with the NRA and support legislation to ban commonly-owned semiautomatic firearms and standard capacity magazines.

4. During the late 1990's, dozens of big city mayors, backed by gun control groups, filed lawsuits against American firearms manufacturers, falsely claiming they were responsible for the criminal misuse of firearms by third parties. Their goal was to either bankrupt the industry or force industry members to "voluntarily" adopt gun control via agreements between the parties. To stop this abuse, Congress passed and President George W. Bush signed into law the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA). Without this law, this coordinated effort against America's firearms manufacturers would have succeeded. Michael Bloomberg and other gun control advocates want to repeal this critical law.

- A. I agree with the NRA and would not vote to repeal or weaken the PLCAA.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and support repeal of the PLCAA.

5. The lawful use of sound suppressors (known in federal law as "silencers") is increasingly popular among shooters and hunters. Possession and use of suppressors is lawful in 42 states, with 40 of those permitting their use for hunting. Suppressors protect the hearing of the shooter. The NRA supports legislation to remove suppressors from the National Firearms Act (NFA), in order to eliminate the \$200 tax and nearly one-year wait associated with their purchase.

- A. I agree with the NRA and would vote for legislation to remove suppressors from the NFA.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and oppose such legislation.

6. Second Amendment decisions in the courts often depend on the judges involved. The NRA believes that a judicial nominee's past rulings involving the right to keep and bear arms need to be considered in deciding whether to confirm or reject them for the federal bench.

- A. I agree with the NRA. A judicial nominee's record in support of gun rights and belief that the Second Amendment guarantees a fundamental individual right of all law-abiding Americans to keep and bear arms for self-defense is a critical factor in whether I would vote to confirm the nominee.
- B. I disagree with the NRA. I do not think a nominee's record on firearms issues or interpretation of the Second Amendment should be factors in supporting or opposing confirmation.

7. Government funded gun research was openly biased in the 1990's. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) officials unabashedly supported gun bans, used CDC funds to advocate for strict gun control, and poured millions of taxpayer dollars into funding "research" that was in fact advocacy - thinly disguised medical journal hit pieces against gun ownership. Congress investigated this practice, and in 1997 forbade the CDC from using taxpayer funds "to advocate or promote gun control." Recently, gun control groups and some anti-gun elected officials have wrongly attacked this provision as preventing all research and studies relating to firearms. This is not the case. The provision does not prohibit the CDC from conducting research, it simply states that CDC funded studies must not advocate for or promote gun control.

- A. I agree with the NRA and support prohibiting the CDC from using taxpayer funds to advocate or promote gun control.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and would repeal the prohibition against the CDC using taxpayer funds to advocate or promote gun control.

8. The U.S. Supreme Court has made clear that the "core" Second Amendment right is the use of arms for self-defense. Despite this ruling, certain provisions in federal law impose a "sporting purposes" test to determine the legality of various types of firearms and ammunition. This undefined term provides regulators with very broad discretion and has been interpreted over time in increasingly restrictive ways. The NRA supports legislation to eliminate the use of a "sporting purposes" test to determine the legality of firearms and ammunition.

- A. I agree with the NRA that suitability for self-defense, not "sporting purposes," is the proper standard for determining the legality of firearms and ammunition and would vote for legislation to fix this problem.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and oppose legislation to eliminate the "sporting purposes" standard.

9. The "instant" background check system only prohibits the purchase of firearms based on objective disqualifiers. Due process requires the government to substantiate firearm purchase denials with reliable documentation. A "safety-valve" provision in current law enforces this requirement by allowing (not mandating) an FFL to proceed with a sale after 3 business days if the FBI still has not denied the sale (illegal possession, of course, remains actionable). Gun control advocates want to repeal this safety-valve, which would effectively grant the FBI discretion to deny sales even to people who aren't legally prohibited from possessing firearms.

- A. I agree with the NRA that the 3-day safety valve provision is an important civil rights safeguard and should not be repealed or extended.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and think the FBI should have the discretion to deny people on a case-by-case basis for any reason the FBI deems sufficient.

10. Under a program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), hundreds of thousands of veterans receiving VA benefits have been permanently prohibited from possessing firearms simply because they have been determined to need help managing their financial affairs. These individuals are being stripped of their Second Amendment rights by a bureaucratic rule that denies them due process! The NRA supports legislation that would reverse this rule to protect the due process rights of veterans.

- A. I agree with the NRA and would vote to pass legislation that would prohibit the VA from stripping veterans and their families of their Second Amendment rights without a judicial finding of dangerousness.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and believe that the VA is right to ban these beneficiaries from possessing firearms.

11. Since 1998, a national instant criminal background check that includes disqualifying events from all states has been conducted by the FBI for retail handgun, rifle and shotgun sales. However, an outdated 1968 federal law still bans interstate handgun sales to people other than federal firearm licensees (FFL). Because of this law, a private individual can purchase a rifle or shotgun, but not a handgun, from an FFL outside of their state of residence. The NRA supports legislation to update federal law by allowing a law-abiding individual to purchase a handgun from an FFL in any state; provided that the FFL complies with all requirements of federal law and the laws of the state where the FFL is located and the state of residence of the purchaser.

- A. I agree with the NRA and would vote for legislation to allow interstate handgun sales.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and oppose such legislation.

12. Lack of access is one of the main reasons for the decline in hunting, fishing, trapping and recreational shooting. The NRA believes sportsmen should have increased access to federally owned or administered lands for hunting, fishing, trapping and recreational shooting where these activities can safely be conducted.

- A. I agree with the NRA.
- B. I disagree with the NRA.

13. As American combat veterans of World War II and the Korean War and their survivors grow older, they sometimes discover that they possess firearms acquired during the veteran's service overseas that are required to be registered under the National Firearms Act (NFA). In many cases, these firearms were brought to the U.S. in good faith as war trophies by young service members who were not aware they were subject to these requirements. The NRA supports legislation to provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their family members could - without fear of prosecution - register such firearms acquired before October 31, 1968, by a member of the Armed Forces stationed outside the continental United States. This legislation would allow these veterans and their family members to retain these valuable, historic firearms in a lawful manner.

- A. I agree with the NRA and would vote for veterans' amnesty legislation.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and oppose veterans' amnesty legislation.

14. The modern trend in criminal justice is to reintegrate offenders into society by restoring their rights after they have satisfied their sentences. Gun control proponents want to go in the opposite direction with Second Amendment rights by opposing restoration and seeking lifetime prohibitions for an expanding list of misdemeanor convictions. Misdemeanor court proceedings have fewer legal procedural protections and convictions do not result in the permanent loss of other civil rights. These expanded misdemeanor prohibitions could also apply retroactively to convictions that predated the prohibitions. The NRA opposes expanding misdemeanor firearm disqualifications.

- A. I agree with the NRA and would oppose any attempt to expand the list of misdemeanor convictions that would lead to a permanent loss of Second Amendment rights.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and support expanding the list of misdemeanor convictions used as a basis for a permanent loss of Second Amendment rights.

15. Federal law prohibits possession of firearms by convicted felons and certain other "prohibited persons." Federal law also provides a process by which such persons can apply to the Attorney General to seek restoration of their gun rights. In the past, such relief was routinely granted to people who had committed non-violent crimes many years earlier and had not committed any additional crimes. Since 1992, however, congressional appropriations riders have prevented federal agencies from processing these applications, leaving applicants no effective recourse to restore their Second Amendment rights. The NRA supports a process by which non-violent prohibited persons can apply to have their rights restored after appropriate screening.

- A. I agree with the NRA and support restoring funding for "relief from disabilities."
- B. I disagree with the NRA and oppose restoring funding for "relief from disabilities."

16. Legislation has been introduced that would ban persons on the so-called "Terrorist Watchlist" – which is comprised of several secret federal government lists – from purchasing or possessing firearms. The listing process is highly subjective, highly secretive, and affords virtually no due process or opportunity to challenge mistakes. The Watchlist currently contains approximately 1.2 million names and is fraught with errors. At one point, for example, former U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), former U.S. Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), and children as young as two years old were included on the Watchlist. The NRA opposes the use of secret government lists to deny Americans their fundamental Second Amendment rights without due process protections *before* such rights are taken away.

A. I agree with the NRA that secret government lists should not be used to deny Second Amendment rights and will oppose any legislation that doesn't provide full due process protections *before* such rights are taken away.

B. I disagree with the NRA and support legislation authorizing the use of secret government lists to deny Second Amendment rights, including legislation that only provides for due process protections *after* such rights are taken away.

17. Anti-gun efforts are increasingly targeting access to ammunition, with proposals to ban mail order sales, require background checks and point-of-sale record-keeping, eliminate traditional lead bullets and shot, ration purchases, and even restrict the amount of ammunition that may be possessed at one time. Congress, with ATF's approval, phased out a prior requirement for ammunition purchase records as burdensome and unhelpful. Most of these proposals, meanwhile, would target the law-abiding people who are making a point of maintaining a high level of proficiency and training with their firearms.

A. I agree with the NRA and would oppose any attempts to restrict or further regulate the purchase or possession of firearm ammunition.

B. I disagree with the NRA and think ammunition is too readily available and should be further regulated.

18. Firearm owner licensing is a system in which private citizens are required to obtain permission from a government agency to *buy and/or possess* a firearm. Licensing requirements may include fingerprinting, expensive and arbitrary safety or proficiency training, fees, and an explanation as to why the firearm "is needed." The NRA opposes firearm owner licensing as a violation of Americans' constitutional rights, as well as a waste of resources, since criminals already obtain firearms without complying with existing legal formalities.

A. I agree with the NRA and would vote against expanding federal firearm owner licensing.

B. I disagree with the NRA and support new federal licensing for all firearm owners.

19. Firearm registration is a system in which a government agency maintains immediately accessible records of specific firearms owned by individual citizens. Current federal law prohibits the creation of a federal firearms registration system (other than the existing registration requirement for machine guns and short-barreled rifles and shotguns). The NRA opposes firearms registration – which has led to gun bans and confiscation in the United States (in California and New York City) and in other countries (including Australia and Great Britain) – as an unconstitutional and unnecessary measure that will be ignored by criminals.

- A. I agree with the NRA and would vote against expanding federal firearm registration.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and support legislation expanding federal firearm registration.

20. Gun control proponents want taxpayers to fund research and development of so-called "smart guns" – i.e., firearms that incorporate technology that would allow them to operate only for authorized users – with an eye toward making such technology mandatory when it is sufficiently developed. The NRA opposes public funding for "smart gun" research and development, as well as legal mandates that such technology be incorporated into firearm design and believes that firearm designs should be market-driven.

- A. I agree with the NRA and would vote against any attempt to use taxpayer funds to develop "smart gun" technology or to enact legal mandates for its use.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and believe that development of this technology should be publicly-funded, and its use should be mandatory.

21. Under current law, commercial manufacturing of a firearm requires a federal firearm license. Federal law does not prohibit law-abiding individuals from making a firearm for personal use. However, anti-gun activists inappropriately refer to these personal use firearms as "ghost guns" and have used confusion about these firearms and emerging 3D printing technology to create concern that these firearms are not detectable by walk-through metal detectors or other commonly used methods of weapons detection. Not only is this false, but manufacturing an undetectable firearm has been illegal since 1988. Therefore, the NRA opposes further restrictions on firearms manufactured for personal use.

- A. I agree with the NRA and would oppose any attempt to expand federal law to further regulate manufacturing a firearm for personal use.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and believe in banning personal firearms manufacturing.