

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
POLITICAL VICTORY FUND
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NRA-PVF

2018 U.S. HOUSE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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-- AUTHORIZATION --

THIS SIGNATURE ATTESTS THAT THE STATEMENTS AND INFORMATION BELOW ACCURATELY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE UNDERSIGNED CANDIDATE:


Candidate's Signature

2018-04-11
Date

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

(For more information on issues, visit <https://www.nra.org/issues/>)

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.
 B.

I agree with the NRA and would vote for concealed carry reciprocity legislation.
I disagree with the NRA and would not support such legislation.

2. 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 in 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.

3. Since the mid-1960’s, the NRA has called for meaningful reform of America’s broken mental health system. While most people with mental health issues are not violent, all too often those who are a danger to themselves or others fail to receive adequate treatment before they commit an act of violence. Comprehensive mental health reform legislation has been introduced in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives that would help prevent tragedies caused by the dangerously mentally ill. Unfortunately, anti-gun elected officials have ignored this serious problem, choosing instead to exploit these situations to push their gun control agenda.

- A. I agree with the NRA and support comprehensive mental health reform that would fix America's broken mental health system, while not infringing on the rights of law-abiding gun owners.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and do not support reforming America's mental health system.

4. Government funded gun research was openly biased in the 1990’s. Center 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 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.

5. 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.

6. Under a program administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA), hundreds of thousands of veterans and their family members receiving VA benefits have been permanently prohibited from possessing firearms simply because they have been determined to need help managing their financial affairs. The 115th Congress passed legislation – which President Trump signed – to block a similar program developed by the Obama administration that would have affected Social Security Beneficiaries.

- 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.

7. 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.

8. The NRA believes sportsmen should have 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.

9. 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 immediate 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.

10. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) requires the thousands of firearm dealers in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas to file reports on all sales of two or more semi-automatic rifles to the same buyer within five consecutive business days if the rifles are larger than .22 caliber and use detachable magazines. This includes many popular rifles owned by millions of Americans for self-defense, hunting and other lawful purposes. This mandate wastes scarce law enforcement resources that should be used for legitimate investigations, is not authorized by statute, and places unauthorized burdens on lawful gun dealers.

- A. I agree with the NRA and would vote for legislation to prohibit this reporting requirement.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and oppose legislation to prohibit this reporting requirement.

11. The Supreme Court's 2008 decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* ruled that D.C.'s ban on handgun possession violated the Second Amendment. In 2017, a federal appellate court held that D.C.'s ban on carrying handguns in public for self-defense was unconstitutional. The D.C. Council, however, has continued to defy these decisions by enacting laws that discourage law-abiding residents and visitors of the District from possessing or carrying handguns for self-defense. These include expensive and time-consuming registration procedures, even for applicants who pass required background checks and training. The NRA supports legislation to repeal D.C.'s overreaching gun control laws and to limit its authority to infringe upon the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding persons.
- A. I agree with the NRA and would vote for legislation to restore Second Amendment rights in Washington, D.C.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and oppose legislation to reform D.C.'s restrictive gun control laws.
12. 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."
13. 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, however, and to mandate background checks every time a firearm changes hands, even among friends and relatives. Such a law could lead to jail time 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.
14. 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 legislation.
- 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.

15. 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 1.1 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 of law *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.

16. 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 2004 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.

17. Anti-gun groups have called for bans or restrictions on online ammunition sales. With billions of rounds of ammunition manufactured in the U.S. each year, recordkeeping on these sales would be extremely burdensome and impractical for both consumers and retailers. Federal recordkeeping requirements for ammunition sales created by the 1968 Gun Control Act were repealed in 1986 because federal agencies believed they had no substantial law enforcement value.

- A. I agree with the NRA and would vote against additional regulation of ammunition sales.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and support new restrictions on ammunition sales.

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. Federal law requires gun manufacturers, importers and dealers to respond promptly to ATF requests for assistance in tracing firearms in the course of bona fide criminal investigations. ATF’s longstanding practice has been to hold such trace requests as confidential law enforcement information. In the past decade, anti-gun groups and municipalities have sought this information for use in lawsuits against firearms manufacturers. Congress has passed appropriations riders that prevent disclosure of firearms trace data for non-law enforcement purposes. The national Fraternal Order of Police and other law enforcement organizations support these protections because disclosure would negatively impact ongoing criminal investigations, lead to the exposure of confidential informants, and endanger law enforcement officers themselves by revealing sensitive personal information.

- A. I agree with the NRA and would vote to ensure that firearms trace data be kept limited to bona fide criminal investigations only.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and would vote to repeal the prohibition on public disclosure of firearms trace data.

22. A dedicated segment of firearm enthusiasts have chosen to legally purchase rifles that fire certain .50-caliber cartridges. The .50-caliber Browning cartridge, for example, is used in highly technical long-range target shooting competitions. Other .50-caliber cartridge designs have existed for well over a century, and have been used throughout that time for hunting large game. Despite the reality that these rifles are not used in crime because they weigh 30 pounds or more and cost thousands of dollars, anti-gun activists want to impose severe new restrictions on these guns.

- A. I agree with the NRA and would vote against new restrictions on ownership of .50-caliber rifles by law-abiding Americans.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and support restrictions on .50-caliber rifles.

23. Do you agree with the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, and *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, that the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms for self-defense for all law-abiding Americans?

A.
 B.

Yes.
No. Please explain: See Below

24. Are you a member of the National Rifle Association, or of any other shooting, hunting or wildlife conservation organization(s)? If so, please list organizations and latest year of membership:

NRA - 2018, GOA - 2018, NAGR - 2018

In the Supreme Court ruling mentioned above, the Chief Justice Notes
"...nothing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions ... or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms..."

Any law that allows one class of citizen to carry in a location that is not granted to all citizens if an infringement of our right to bear arms. In the creation of "Gun Free" zones we are not creating zones free from firearms, we are creating zones where law abiding citizens must disarm and be unable to protect themselves. I do not agree with this mentality, or that only select people should be given the right to bear arms in all zones (eg. Police.)