



NRA-PVF

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2022 U.S. House Candidate Questionnaire

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Please check the letter corresponding to the answer of your choice:

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 license 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 support 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 life-long 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 firearm 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 semi-automatic 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-CA), 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 semi-automatic 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 semi-automatic firearms and standard capacity magazines.

B. I disagree with the NRA and support legislation to ban commonly-owned semi-automatic firearms and standard capacity magazines.

4. During the late 1990s, 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 parties. To stop this abuse, Congress passed and 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 the 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 shooters. The NRA supports legislation to remove suppressors from the National Firearms Act (NFA), in order to eliminate the \$200 tax and months long wait associated with the 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. Government funded gun research was openly biased in the 1990s. 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 – 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 CDC from conducting research, it simply states that CDC funded studies must not advocate or promote gun control.

A. I agree with the NRA and support prohibiting the CDC from using taxpayer funds to advocate for 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.

7. The U.S. Supreme Court has made it 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.

8. The “instant” background check system only prohibits the purchase of firearms based on objective disqualifiers. Due process requires the government to substantiate firearms 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 indefinitely.

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.

9. Under a program administered by the Department of Veteran’s 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 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 veterans from possessing firearms.

10. 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.

11. **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.

12. **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 give 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 of the continental United States. The legislation would allow these veterans 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.

13. **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 scope of misdemeanor convictions that would lead to a permanent loss of Second Amendment rights.

B. I disagree with the NRA and support expanding the scope of misdemeanor convictions used as a basis for a permanent loss of Second Amendment rights.

14. **Federal law prohibits the possession of firearms by convicted felons and 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".

15. A foundational principle of the American judicial system is to assure that an individual is entitled to judicial due process – including notice of the relevant accusations, opportunity to appear at a hearing before a neutral judge, to present evidence in his or her favor, and access to legal representation – before the individual is declared legally ineligible to possess firearms or forced to surrender any firearms the individual owns. The NRA believes that an individual’s Second Amendment rights cannot be denied without stringent due process.

- A. I agree with the NRA and believe an individual’s Second Amendment rights cannot be denied without stringent due process.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and do not believe due process is necessary before an individual can be declared legally ineligible to possess firearms.

16. Legislation has been introduced that would ban persons on the so-called “Terrorist Watchlist” – which is comprised of several secret federal 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, U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA), U.S. Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) 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.

- 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.
- B. I disagree with the NRA and support legislation authorizing the use of secret government lists to deny Second Amendment rights, including legislation that lacks due process protections.

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 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 requirements for machine guns and short-barreled rifles and shotguns). The NRA opposes firearm 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 by authorized users – with an eye towards making such technology mandatory when it is significantly 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 attempts 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 the 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 firearms as “ghost guns” and have used confusion about these firearms and emerging 3D printing technology to create concerns 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.

22. 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 firearm manufacturers. Congress has passed appropriation riders that prevent the 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.

23. A dedicated segment of firearms 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 time for hunting. 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.

24. Do you agree with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision 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. Yes.
- B. No. Please explain: _____

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

NRA-Current

**Please use the space below or a separate sheet of paper for any additional comments.
If your campaign has released a position paper on firearms issues, please feel free to include it.
Thank you for your time and consideration.**

--AUTHORIZATION--

This signature attests that the above information accurately represents the views of the candidate.

Candidate's Signature: *Brandon Williams*

Date: 06/15/22