

1. During the late 1990' s, dozens of big city mayors, backed by gun control groups, filed lawsuits against American firearms manufacturers to try and hold them responsible for the unforeseeable criminal misuse of firearms. The goal of these lawsuits was to bankrupt the industry by forcing it to spend hundreds of millions of dollars in legal fees and settlements. 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, America's firearms manufacturers would have gone out of business. Had that happened, our military and law enforcement would have been forced to procure their firearms from foreign countries. Hillary Clinton and gun control groups have recently expressed their desire to repeal this important legislation.

A. I agree with the NRA and support the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. (Although I must note that I disagree with your contention that without this law "America's firearms manufacturers would have gone out of business ... [and] our military and law enforcement would have been forced" to buy weapons from foreign countries. That kind of needless scaremongering serves no purpose in a serious debate.)

B. I disagree with the NRA and would repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.

2. 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 and simply need treatment, all too often those who are a danger to themselves or others are not placed in a mental institution or psychiatric hospital 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, the Obama Administration has ignored this serious problem, choosing instead to exploit these situations to push its 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. (Your statement incorrectly implies that President Obama opposes or has thwarted Congressional action on mental health issues. I found no evidence to support this assertion. I have also not found any evidence that the NRA has proposed increase funding for any of these important mental health services. I am also concerned about a variety of civil rights issues embedded in this concept, particularly related to identifying and potentially institutionalizing people without their consent.

B. I disagree with the NRA and do not support reforming America's mental health system.

3. Government funded gun research was openly biased in the 1990's. CDC officials unabashedly supported gun bans, used CDC funds to advocate 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". Notably, this prohibition does not prevent the CDC or other federal agencies from studying issues related to firearms use and ownership, nor does it prevent any studies by nongovernmental entities -- it simply states that CDC studies must not 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.

- 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.
 - C. I support government funding of CDC research into a variety of public health issues, including questions regarding firearms and public safety. I recognize that some researchers may have an “anti-gun” bias, but under the current law all research has been banned. Perhaps this wasn’t the intent of the drafters of the laws in question, but it has been the effect.
4. In response to a 2013 Obama administration executive action, the Social Security Administration (SSA) is considering a policy to provide the names of Social Security and disability beneficiaries who have a "representative payee" to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Once entered into the NICS, a person loses their Second Amendment rights and is prohibited from possessing or owning a firearm. If implemented, this would instantly deny more than four million Americans their Second Amendment rights based on their request for assistance in managing their finances. Minors who lose a parent would be classified as prohibited persons simply because they are legally unable to manage their finances. The Veterans Administration (VA) has already implemented a similar program to designate veterans as "prohibited persons" when they have a fiduciary assigned to administer their VA benefits. Like the SSA program described above, the VA procedures are also devoid of significant due process protections. To date, 177,000 veterans have been denied their constitutional rights based on their inability to manage their financial affairs.
- A. I agree with the NRA and oppose prohibiting Social Security and disability beneficiaries with representative payees, as well as veterans who have assigned fiduciaries, from possessing or owning firearms. In addition, I would support legislation allowing those veterans who were wrongly denied their Second Amendment rights for that reason to petition out of the NICS.
 - B. I disagree with the NRA and believe that Social Security and disability beneficiaries with representative payees and veterans with assigned fiduciaries should be prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms.
 - C. I do not have enough information to weigh in on this issue at this time. There are clearly people who lack the intellectual capacity to have access to dangerous weapons. In question 2 you discuss the importance of mental health reform, and I presume that you recognize that some people are possibly dangerous and mentally unstable, and therefore should not have access to firearms. It would appear reasonable that there are also some people with other mental defects that should not have access to firearms. It appears this is the concern of the VA and SSA programs described above, but your willingness to play fast and loose with the facts in other questions makes me skeptical that your statements about this issue are completely accurate.
5. Under current law, commercial firearms dealers must be licensed by the federal government and conduct background checks each time they sell or transfer a firearm to an unlicensed person. Occasional transfers between private individuals residing in the same state do not require the same federal procedures, provided they do not constitute a regular course of trade or business with the principal objective of livelihood and profit through repetitive purchases and re-sales. Federal law prohibits any transfer, commercial or private, to one who the transferor has reason to believe is

prohibited from possessing a firearm. Gun control advocates, however, want to require background checks and record-keeping every time a firearm changes hands, even between close friends and many family members, even though criminals don't get guns through legal means. The NRA objects to mandating governmental approval of these private, non-commercial exchanges.

A. I agree with the NRA that commercial transactions are different than private transfers between two law abiding citizens, and I oppose legislation that seeks to require federal government approval for private firearm transfers. (That being said, I agree that there are many sellers at gun shows and "flea markets" that are skirting these rules, on both sides, and I support tightening those rules.)

B. I disagree with the NRA and support legislation to require federal government approval for private intrastate firearm transfers.

6. The Firearms Owners' Protection Act of 1986 and the Brady Act of 1993 prohibit using records of firearms sales or background checks to create a national registration system for firearms, firearm owners, or firearms transactions. However, during the Clinton Administration, the FBI maintained such records for up to six months. The Bush Administration changed this practice by requiring destruction of background check records within 24 hours, unless the person was identified as prohibited. Current law still allows records to be maintained on illegal attempts to buy firearms by felons and other prohibited persons. However, gun control supporters have proposed that these records be retained indefinitely, whether or not a person passes a background check.

A. I agree with the NRA that records of background checks for people who attempt to buy guns illegally should be retained for law enforcement purposes, but that the records of those who pass background checks should be destroyed immediately and that there should be no national registry of lawful gun owners.

B. I disagree with the NRA and support keeping all background check records indefinitely.

7. Since 1998, a national instant computerized background check has been conducted for all retail handgun, rifle and shotgun sales. However, a 1968 federal law still bans interstate handgun sales to people other than federal firearm licensees. The NRA supports legislation to update federal law by allowing the interstate sale of handguns after an approved background check, as is currently allowed for long guns.

A. I agree with the NRA and support legislation to allow interstate handgun sales.

B. I disagree with the NRA and oppose such legislation.

8. 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.

A. I agree with the NRA that secret government lists should not be used to deny Second Amendment rights and oppose this legislation.

B. I disagree with the NRA and support legislation authorizing the use of secret government lists to deny Second Amendment rights.

C. I disagree with some of your contentions regarding the "Terrorist Watchlist." It, like all human creations, is imperfect, but if a person is not allowed to fly on an airplane, they should not be allowed to purchase a firearm. I also think that this is the kind of issue that makes the NRA look extreme. If the NRA is truly interested in being a reasonable voice for the rights of gun owners, they should, on an occasion as simple as this, act reasonably.

9. Forty-two states now respect the Right-to-Carry, by issuing licenses or permits to law-abiding citizens or otherwise authorizing them to carry concealed firearms for personal protection, without requiring proof of "special need" (In six states, permits are not even required). Legislation supported by the NRA has been introduced to let a person carry a firearm for self-defense while traveling throughout the United States, if the person has a means of lawfully carrying a concealed firearm in his or her home state. Carrying firearms would remain subject to state restrictions on the places and manners in which firearms may be carried.

A. I agree with the NRA and would support Right-to-Carry reciprocity legislation.

B. I disagree with the NRA and would oppose Right-to-Carry reciprocity legislation.

C. Throughout American history states have retained the authority to regulate issues of health and safety within their states. This is known as "Federalism." I believe that the states should retain the authority to determine how best to protect the safety, health and welfare of their own citizens, and not have "one size fits all" federal rules shoved down their throats. If one state, through the democratic process, makes the determination that they do not want their citizens to carry firearms, I believe that decision should prevail.

10. 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 all law abiding Americans?

A. Yes.

B. No. Please explain: _____

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 2014, another federal court held that D.C.'s ban on carrying firearms 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 firearms for self-defense. These include expensive and time-consuming registration procedures and provisions that grant the chief of police discretion to deny the licenses necessary for lawful carry, even to 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 support 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.

C. In *Heller*, the Supreme Court said that Second Amendment rights, like all rights, are subject to reasonable restrictions. "Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited. From Blackstone through the 19th-century cases, commentators and courts routinely explained that the right was not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose." I agree with Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia on this. D.C., like all jurisdictions, has the right to introduce reasonable restrictions on weapons.

12. 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 all ammunition magazines that could hold more than 10 rounds. According to federal studies, 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 the failed 2004 law. Despite that vote, calls by gun control proponents persist to pass expanded bans on commonly-owned semiautomatic firearms and standard capacity magazines.

A. I agree with the NRA and oppose legislation to ban commonly-owned semiautomatic firearms and standard capacity magazines, which would outlaw the most popular models of firearms in the United States.

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

13. Anti-gun groups have called for bans or restrictions on online ammunition sales. With at least 10-12 billion 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 created in the 1968 Gun Control Act were abolished in 1986, because federal agencies believed they had no substantial law enforcement value.

A. I agree with the NRA that additional regulation of ammunition sales is unnecessary.

B. I disagree with the NRA and support new restrictions on ammunition sales.

14. The U.S. Supreme Court has made clear that the "core" Second Amendment right is the use of arms for self-defense, not "sporting purposes". 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. For example, narrow interpretations of "sporting purposes" clauses have been used to restrict firearm imports and to treat popular rifle ammunition as "armor piercing" handgun ammunition. In early 2015, ATF sought to change nearly 30 years of settled law by reclassifying M855 ammunition, the second most popular type of ammunition for America's most popular rifle, as "non-sporting". 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 support legislation to fix this problem in federal law.

B. I disagree with the NRA and oppose legislation to eliminate the "sporting purposes" standard.

15. 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, mandatory but arbitrary safety or proficiency training, fees, or a statement as to why the firearm "is needed." The NRA opposes firearm owner licensing as a violation of citizens' constitutional rights, as well as a waste of resources, since criminals obtain firearms without complying with such requirements. 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 oppose federal firearm owner licensing or registration.

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

C. I believe that under the well settled concept of Federalism, that states should have the authority to make laws that they believe will best serve their citizens.

16. 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 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. In addition, it is not authorized by statute. The NRA supports legislation to prohibit this reporting requirement.

A. I agree with the NRA and support legislation to block the ATF from requiring the ill-advised and wasteful reporting requirement on multiple sales of long guns.

B. I disagree with the NRA and oppose legislation to block this reporting requirement.

C. I do not have enough information at this time to answer this question. Why are these rules in place in only three states, and why these three states?

17. "Operation Choke Point" is an enforcement action spearheaded by the Department of Justice that ostensibly seeks to "choke off" access to financial services by fraudulent businesses. In reality, the methods DOJ has employed in this effort have resulted in banks exiting entire lines of lawful businesses, including firearms and ammunition sales that DOJ and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation portrayed as "high risk." The NRA supports legislation that would prevent this abuse of power and clarify DOJ's enforcement authority over banks conducting business with lawful entities, including sellers of firearms and ammunition.

A. I agree with the NRA and support legislation to protect lawful firearm and ammunition sellers from being denied access to financial services.

B. I disagree with the NRA and oppose legislation to limit federal banking regulators from pressuring banks to avoid doing business with firearm and ammunition sellers.

18. As American combat veterans of the World War II and Korean War eras grow older, they and their heirs sometimes discover that they possess firearms acquired during their 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. openly and in good faith as war trophies, but were not registered under the NFA. The NRA supports legislation to provide a 90-day amnesty period during which veterans and their family members could 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 support veterans' amnesty legislation.

B. I disagree with the NRA and oppose veterans' amnesty legislation.

19. Growing numbers 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. Anti-gun activists and legislators claim these rifles are likely to be used by terrorists. In reality, no .50-caliber BMG rifle is known to have been fired in any terrorist act or homicide in the United States. The rifles that fire this cartridge are too large and heavy for criminals to readily carry or conceal, as many weigh 30 pounds or more and cost thousands of dollars. Nonetheless, antigun activists want to impose severe new restrictions on these guns.

A. I agree with the NRA and oppose 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.

20. 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 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."

C. I support the restoration of rights for certain reformed felons, those who have committed non-violent crimes and have successfully completed any post-incarceration requirements like parole. This includes the restoration of voting rights, and the Second Amendment right to own a gun.

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 NRA-supported appropriations amendments 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.

A. I agree with the NRA and believe that firearms trace data should be 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. 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 marketplace technologies should be market-driven.

A. I agree with the NRA and oppose any attempt to use taxpayer funds to develop "smart gun" technology or 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 mandated.

C. Seriously? Why is it none or both? I support the funding of a wide variety of technological developments, including "smart gun" technology. I would not, however, support a requirement that this technology be somehow "mandated" for all gun owners. I also disagree with your contention that the underlying purpose of this research is to make the technology mandatory.

23. The lawful use of sound suppressors (known in federal law as "silencers") is becoming increasingly popular among shooters and hunters. Possession and use of suppressors is lawful in 35 states, with 30 of those permitting their use in hunting. Suppressors protect the hearing of the shooter and enhance control of the firearm. The NRA supports legislation to treat suppressors as ordinary firearms under the federal Gun Control Act, instead of regulating them like machine guns under the National Firearms Act, as is the case in current law.

A. I agree with the NRA and support legislation to classify sound suppressors as ordinary firearms.

B. I disagree with the NRA and oppose such legislation.

C. Silencers. Really? This is another one of those issues where you lose credibility with rational people.

24. 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. 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 organizations and latest year of membership:

No.

Additional Comments:

I believe that the Second Amendment gives American citizens an individual right to own firearms. I agree with the Supreme Court's holding in Heller, that all rights, including those protected by the Second Amendment, are subject to reasonable restrictions.

I recognize that millions of Americans are responsible gun owners, and that they use firearms in a responsible manner every day. Therefore, I believe that there is no need to change existing gun laws to add new restrictions to the rights of law abiding gun owners. By the same token I do not support efforts to chip away at existing restrictions.