



NRA-PVF

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
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2015 MISSISSIPPI CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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For further information on Mississippi's firearm laws,
please visit www.nraila.org and click on the "gun laws" feature located in the menu.

1. Do you agree that the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees an individual right to keep and bear arms that applies to all law-abiding Americans, regardless of where they live in the United States?

- a. Yes.
 b. No.

2. Considering current Mississippi state firearm laws, do you support any additional restrictive state legislation regulating firearms?

- a. Yes, on all firearms.
 b. Yes, on some firearms. Please specify which firearms: _____
 c. No, current state firearms laws are sufficient.
 d. No, current state firearm laws should be improved to benefit Mississippi's law-abiding gun owners and sportsmen.

3. Federal law requires federally licensed firearms dealers to keep records of the make, model, caliber, and serial number of all firearms sold. This information remains with the dealer unless a bona fide criminal investigation is taking place. Federal law actually *prohibits* the federal government from developing and maintaining a centralized registry of lawful firearm purchasers and gun owners. Would you support state legislation requiring firearm owners to register their firearms for entry into a centralized state file or database?

- a. Yes, for all firearms.
 b. Yes, for all handguns.
 c. Yes, for some firearms. Please specify which firearms: _____
 d. No, I would oppose a state registration system.

4. Do you support legislation requiring individuals to obtain a license* from the state in order to own, possess or purchase firearms? *Licensing, as used here, refers to state legislation requiring firearm owners to obtain a license from a governmental official or agency to own and possess a firearm; as a general rule, firearm owner licensing laws require fingerprinting, photographing and a background investigation of the applicant. Note: This is different from acquiring a "permit to carry" a handgun from the state.

- a. Yes, for all firearm owners.
 b. Yes, for all handgun owners.
 c. Yes, for some firearm owners. Please Specify: _____
 d. No, I would oppose state licensing of firearm owners.

5. In 1994, Congress imposed a 10-year ban on the manufacture and sale to private individuals of various semi-automatic* firearms it termed “assault weapons,” and of so-called “high capacity” ammunition magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds (many of which are standard sizes commonly used in handguns and rifles for self-defense, as well as recreational and competitive shooting). Congress’ subsequent study of this ban and law enforcement agency reports showed that the guns and magazines in question had never been used in more than about 1% of violent crimes. Since this federal ban expired in 2004, the number of these firearms and magazines owned has risen to an all-time high and violent crime has fallen to a 43-year low. **Would you support state legislation restricting the private possession, ownership, purchase, sale or transfer of semi-automatic firearms and/or limits on the capacity of magazines designed for them?** *Semi-automatic firearms have been commonly used for hunting, target shooting and self-defense since their introduction in the late 1800s. All semi-automatics fire only one shot when the trigger is pulled. They are not fully-automatic firearms, which have been strictly regulated under federal law since 1934.

- a. Yes, I would support such legislation for semi-automatic firearms only.
- b. Yes, I would support such legislation for ammunition magazines only.
- c. Yes, I would support such legislation for both semi-automatic firearms and ammunition magazines.
- d. No, I would oppose such legislation.

6. Under the guise of “crime control”, anti-gun groups are promoting legislation in different states to mandate the use of certain technologies on firearms and ammunition sold within those states. “Ballistic imaging” laws would require each gun to be test-fired prior to sale and “fingerprinted” for entry into a law enforcement database. Similarly, gun control advocates are also promoting bills requiring gun manufacturers to incorporate “microstamping” technology into each handgun sold, so that it imprints identifying information about the firearm onto a cartridge case when fired, and requiring ammunition manufacturers to encode each cartridge produced by imprinting a unique serial number on the case and base of the bullet for entry upon sale into a state database. These proposals rely on unproven technology, which would significantly drive up the cost of producing firearms and ammunition and have limited crime-fighting utility (a tiny fraction of legally-purchased firearms and ammunition are ever used in crimes). **Would you support state legislation mandating the ballistic imaging of firearms, microstamping of cartridge cases, or encoding of ammunition before sales could lawfully take place in Mississippi?**

- a. Yes, I would support mandatory ballistic imaging, microstamping and ammunition encoding.
- b. No, I would oppose legislation mandating ballistic imaging, microstamping and ammunition encoding.

7. Many .50 caliber firearms are used in big game hunting and target competition, and the .50 caliber BMG cartridge has been used for nearly 100 years. **Would you support legislation prohibiting the ownership and/or sale of any .50 caliber firearms or cartridges in Mississippi?**

- a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- b. No, I would oppose such legislation.

8. Federal law requires all federally licensed firearm dealers (FFLs) to conduct a criminal records check prior to the transfer of any firearm to an unlicensed person, whether it occurs at the dealer’s business premises or at a gun show. Access to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) is limited to FFLs. Under federal law, private individuals who only occasionally sell firearms from their personal collections and not for livelihood and profit are not “engaged in the business” of selling firearms, and are therefore (1) not required to be licensed; (2) not required to conduct records checks prior to transferring firearms; and (3) not permitted direct access to the records check system used by licensed dealers. A 2012 report to the U.S. Department of Justice documented that just .06% of individuals denied a firearm purchase by NICS were prosecuted for illegally attempting to buy a gun, and a 2013 study by Syracuse University showed gun prosecutions hit a decade low – down 40 percent from 2004. According to a 2013 PoliceOne survey of law enforcement officers, 80 percent believed that a prohibition on private firearms transfers would not reduce violent crime. Despite these facts, gun control advocates are pushing for so-called “universal background check” legislation*. **Would you support state legislation to require a background check on every sale or transfer of a firearm, even between private individuals or family members?** *According to an internal U.S. Department of Justice memorandum, the effectiveness of “universal” background checks depends on requiring gun registration.

- a. Yes, I would support requiring background checks on all private sales, including those to family members.
- b. Yes, I would support requiring background checks on private sales, excluding immediate family members.
- c. Yes, I would support requiring background checks on private sales at gun shows only.
- d. No, I would oppose requiring background checks on all private sales.

9. In the United States, the number of privately owned firearms has risen by more than 10 million annually, while the firearm accident death rate has decreased more than 90 percent over the last century. This trend is due in part to an increasing use of NRA firearm safety training programs by tens of thousands of NRA-certified instructors, schools, civic groups, and law enforcement agencies. Nevertheless, bills have been introduced in Louisiana in previous legislative sessions to mandate that firearms kept in the home be stored in a locked container or equipped with a locking device. These storage methods greatly restrict access to firearms for self-defense purposes and potentially increase the risk of firearms accidents. **Would you support legislation mandating the use of locking devices or other locking procedures for firearms stored in the home?**

a. Yes.

b. No.

c. No, I would not support such legislation and would instead support a bill encouraging Mississippi public schools to adopt NRA's Eddie Eagle GunSafe® accident prevention program as part of its curriculum.

d. No, I would not support such legislation and would instead support a bill requiring Mississippi public schools to adopt NRA's Eddie Eagle GunSafe® accident prevention program as part of its curriculum.

10. Section 45-9-55 of the Mississippi Code prohibits employers from having policies in place which ban employees from storing firearms in their private motor vehicles if their parking area is not secured by the use of a gate, security station or other means of restricting public access onto it. The law provides immunity to business owners for complying with the Act. The Legislature struck a balance between the personal protection rights of law-abiding Mississippians, who may legally carry guns in their cars and trucks under state law, and the private property rights of employers, by allowing them to continue adopting and enforcing "No Firearms" policies inside the physical workplace.

In the last year, there have been a number of cases where employees were terminated for possessing firearms in their cars and trucks parked in employer lots that are open to the public. The very policies these workers were fired for violating appear to violate the above-mentioned statute itself. Recently, a federal court refused to enforce the law against the company in one of these cases, leaving the matter to state courts. In 2015, the Tennessee legislature amended their "employee parking lot protection" statute to establish a cause of action for employees who are wrongfully terminated under their law. **Would you support amending Mississippi's parking lot statute to allow employees to pursue legal remedies if they are terminated under corporate policies which violate this law?**

a. Yes, I would support such legislation.

b. No. Please explain: _____

11. The National Firearms Act of 1934 classified firearm sound suppressors, short-barreled rifles and shotguns, and fully-automatic firearms as "restricted": you can still legally own them, but you must go through a rigorous application process that can average anywhere from three to nine months. Applicants are required to pay a \$200 federal tax, submit a set of fingerprints along with two passport-sized photos to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (BATFE) for an FBI background check, and obtain certification from a chief local law enforcement officer (CLEO) that receipt of the firearm or device would not be contrary to law and that the CLEO has no information that the applicant intends to use the firearm for an unlawful purpose. CLEOs in some areas refuse to sign off on any NFA paperwork, citing philosophical objection to civilian ownership of NFA items and unfounded safety concerns (legally-owned NFA devices are very rarely used in crime, with the total number of cases documented in the single digits). This effectively creates a ban on NFA items for individuals residing in or business located in those areas. **Would you support state legislation that would require a state or local CLEO to certify such forms if the applicant is not otherwise prohibited from obtaining an NFA item and immunity provisions are included for the CLEO?**

a. Yes, I would support such legislation.

b. No. Please explain: _____

12. Under Mississippi statutes, law-abiding citizens may legally carry handguns in a variety of manners for personal protection: openly and holstered without a permit, in a purse or briefcase concealed without a permit, or on their person concealed by obtaining a permit issued by the Department of Public Safety after paying an application fee and a clearing a criminal records check. Permit holders may also obtain an enhanced endorsement on their license by completing classroom and range training, which allows them to carry in a number of locations that are off-limits to those without the endorsement (courthouses and meetings of governmental entities, for instance.) **Would you support legislation to repeal these laws or impose additional restrictions on law-abiding citizens' ability to carry firearms for self-defense?**

a. Yes. Please explain: _____

b. No, I support these personal protection laws.

13. Mississippi is one of 49 states that have some form of firearms preemption. Preemption guarantees that the state occupies the field of firearms regulation and prevents a "patchwork" of confusing and conflicting local ordinances across the state. The Mississippi Legislature passed HB 314 in 2014 to clarify that the authority of municipalities and counties to restrict the carrying of firearms is extremely limited. The bill also established a legal remedy for citizens who are adversely impacted by local gun ordinances enacted outside the scope of this authority. **Would you support legislation to repeal the firearm preemption law?**

- a. Yes, I believe Mississippi's firearms preemption law should be repealed.
- b. No, I oppose any attempt to repeal Mississippi's firearms preemption law.

14. **Which of the following best describes your attitude toward hunting?**

- a. Hunting is a valuable tool for wildlife management, a positive use of natural resources and an American tradition that teaches young people responsibility and respect for the outdoors.
- b. Hunting should be made illegal.
- c. Other. Please explain: _____

15. Many states provide civil liability protection to private property owners who allow the public to hunt on their property. This protection eliminates a significant concern for property owners and encourages them to open their land to hunting. This enhances public hunting opportunities and assists the state in effectively managing its wildlife populations. **Would you support passing or strengthening liability protections for private landowners who allow hunting on their property?**

- a. Yes, I would support this legislation
- b. No, I would oppose this legislation. Please explain: _____

16. **Are you a member of the National Rifle Association or any other gun owner advocacy organization?**

- a. Yes – NRA Membership #: 000196293866
- b. Yes – other organization(s): _____
- c. No.

17. **Do you have a concealed carry permit?**

- a. Yes.
- b. No.

18. **(For non-incumbents only) Have you ever run for or held state or local elective office?**

- a. Yes. Please specify: MS House of Representatives, District 66 (2007)
- b. No.

Please feel free to submit additional comments.
If your campaign has released a position paper on firearms issues, please feel free to include it as well.
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 *Cam Caldwell* Date 5-21-15