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EPIC ▪ MRA: New Poll on Gun Safety Issues and Proposals

600 Sample Live Operator Statewide Survey conducted August 18 through August 23, 2022.

Included 70% cell phone only respondents - Margin of Error 4 points.

- ***Two-thirds of Michigan voters support enacting stricter gun safety laws and/or laws aimed at preventing gun violence in Michigan.***
- ***Of 13 specific gun safety proposals tested, 8 were supported by a majority of Democrats, Republicans, Independents, gun owners, CPL license holders and NRA members.***

Lansing, MI - In a newly released **EPIC ▪ MRA** poll of Michigan voters, 43% said current Michigan laws regarding the purchase and ownership of guns are NOT strict enough, 42% said they are about right, and only 7% said they are too strict.

When asked if it is more important to protect the rights of people to own firearms or to address gun violence, 49% said addressing gun violence was more important, with 41% saying it is more important to protect the rights of people to own firearms.

When asked how much of a priority it should be to enact stronger state laws in Michigan to place additional restrictions on gun ownership and use, 65% said it is important, including 30% who said it should be a top priority.

(MORE)

Of 13 specific gun safety proposals tested in the poll, the following 8 were supported by Democrats, Republicans, Independents, gun owners, CPL license holders and NRA members:

- Requiring background checks on all gun sales, including sales at gun shows and other private sales is supported by 90% (78% strongly), including 97% of Democrats, 90% of Independents, 87% of gun owners, 82% of Republicans, 81% of CPL holders and 69% of NRA members.
- Enacting a child access prevention law that would hold gun owners accountable for the safe storage of firearms is supported by 82% (57% strongly), including 93% of Democrats, 76% each of Independents and gun owners, 75% of Republicans, 72% of CPL holders and 63% of NRA members.
- Preventing sales of all firearms to people who have been reported to law enforcement as dangerous to themselves or others is supported by 80% (63% strongly), including 92% of Democrats, 80% of Independents, 78% of gun owners, 73% of CPL holders, 69% of Republicans, and 65% of NRA members.
- Requiring a waiting period of at least 3 days after a gun purchase before it can be taken home is supported by 79% (59% strongly), including 94% of Democrats, 76% of Independents, 75% of gun owners, 65% of Republicans, 63% of NRA members and 61% of CPL holders.
- Imposing criminal penalties or fines for those who buy firearms for another person is supported by 78% (59% strongly), including 88% of Democrats, 79% of Independents, 78% of gun owners, 75% of CPL holders, 71% of NRA members and 67% of Republicans.
- Requiring a person to be age 21 instead of 18 to be able to purchase an assault-style weapon is supported by 75% (64% strongly), including 92% of Democrats, 69% each of Independents and gun owners, 65% of NRA members and 61% each among Republicans and CPL holders.
- Establishing a court-issued protection order called an “extreme risk protection order,” is supported by 73% (44% strongly), including 88% of Democrats, 74% of Independents, 67% of gun owners, 65% of CPL holders, 61% of Republicans, and a 47% to 43% plurality of NRA members.
- Requiring a person to be age 21 instead of 18 to be able to purchase **any** firearm is supported by 67% (52% strongly), including 86% of Democrats, 59% of CPL holders, 58% of gun owners, 54% of Independents, 52% of Republicans and 51% of NRA members.

A 9th gun safety proposal, which would ban all firearms from schools and college campuses, except for those of law enforcement officers, is supported by 72% (57% strongly), including 91% of Democrats, 69% of Independents, 66% of gun owners, 57% of CPL holders, and 54% of Republicans. A narrow 51% to 45% majority of NRA members opposes the proposal.

- Banning high-capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 bullets is supported by 57% (43% strongly), including 82% of Democrats, 61% of Independents, and a narrow 47% to 46% plurality of gun owners, with Republicans, CPL holders and NRA members opposed.
- Banning all assault-style weapons, such as the AR-15 and similar semi-automatic rifles, is supported by 55% (45% strongly), including 84% of Democrats, a 50% to 47% majority of Independents, with Republicans, gun owners, CPL holders and NRA members opposed.
- Equipping teachers and school staff with concealed firearms to deter and respond to school shootings is supported by 47% of all voters, and opposed by 44%, including 67% of Democrats and 55% of Independents, with Republicans, gun owners, CPL holders and NRA members supportive.
- Allowing gun manufacturers to be sued for liability by private parties is opposed by 56%, with 65% of Democrats supportive and Republicans, Independents, gun owners, CPL holders and NRA members opposed.

“When Democrats, Republicans, Independents, gun owners, CPL holders and NRA members support 8 of 13 proposals and a 9th is supported by all groups except NRA members, there is absolutely no excuse for legislators to oppose these common-sense gun safety proposals, including Democratic and Republican legislators,” said Bernie Porn, President of **EPIC** ▪ **MRA**. Porn also said, “the solid majority of voters who support almost all of these proposals should ask candidates, including their state senators, state representatives, and other candidates running for legislative offices, if they support or oppose these proposals. If candidates say they don’t, voters should tell them they will not get their vote.”

In fact, 33% of voters said they would be *less likely* to vote for candidates who oppose extreme risk protection orders, including 50% of Democrats, 35% of NRA members, 32% of Independents, 31% each of gun owners and CPL holders, and 19% of Republicans. Also, 38% said they would be less likely to vote for candidates who opposed legislation that would impose a fine or jail sentence for negligently storing a firearm which a minor is able to access, including 54% of Democrats, 39% of Independents, 35% of NRA members, 27% of gun owners, 25% of CPL holders and 24% of Republicans.

Thinking about recent mass shootings, including Oxford, Michigan, 54% of all voters said they are more likely to vote in November (43% much more likely), including 74% of Democrats, with much lower percentages for other groups, ranging from 38% of Independents to 52% of CPL holders.

“It has been nine months since the tragic gunning down of four students at Oxford High School and the legislature has done nothing to curb gun violence in Michigan,” said Molly Sweeney of 482 Forward. “I have given birth to my new son in the time since the Oxford High School murders. I don’t want my child, or any parent’s child, to face the constant threat of being gunned down in their school or in their neighborhood. The people of Michigan support stricter gun laws. Our legislature needs to act now, and it shouldn’t take another nine months and the birth of another vulnerable child.”

GUN SAFETY QUESTIONS ASKED WITH KEY BREAKOUTS

“Do you think current Michigan laws regarding the purchase and ownership of guns are too strict, not strict enough, or about right?”

ALL		DEMS	REPS	INDEP	OWN GUNS	CPL HOLD	NRA
7%	Too strict	3%	13%	4%	7%	10%	16%
42%	About right	16%	63%	50%	58%	65%	65%
43%	Not strict enough	73%	16%	39%	29%	20%	14%
8%	Undecided/Refused	9%	8%	7%	7%	5%	4%

“Generally speaking, do you think it is more important [ROTATED] to protect the rights of people to own firearms, or, to address gun violence?”

ALL		DEMS	REPS	INDEP	OWN GUNS	CPL HOLD	NRA
41%	Protect rights of people to own firearms	12%	69%	43%	48%	49%	57%
49%	Address gun violence	84%	17%	48%	39%	35%	31%
10%	Undecided/Refused	4%	14%	9%	14%	16%	12%

“Generally speaking, do you support or oppose enacting stricter gun safety laws or laws to prevent gun violence in Michigan?” [IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: “Would that be strongly or somewhat (support/oppose)?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]

ALL		DEMS	REPS	INDEP	OWN GUNS	CPL HOLD	NRA
44%	Strongly support						
22%	Somewhat support						
66%	TOTAL SUPPORT	92%	44%	66%	63%	59%	45%
27%	TOTAL OPPOSE	6%	46%	25%	29%	33%	43%
11%	Somewhat oppose						
16%	Strongly oppose						
7%	Undecided/Refused	2%	10%	9%	8%	8%	12%

“How much of a priority do you think it should be to enact stronger state laws in Michigan to place additional restrictions on gun ownership and use?”

ALL		DEMS	REPS	INDEP	OWN GUNS	CPL HOLD	NRA
30%	A top priority	52%	12%	23%	21%	24%	16%
35%	Important, not a top priority	41%	28%	39%	39%	29%	27%
65%	TOTAL IMPORTANT	93%	40%	62%	60%	53%	43%
12%	Not that important	3%	22%	13%	14%	14%	16%
20%	Not be done at all	4%	35%	20%	22%	27%	37%
3%	Undecided/Refused	1%	3%	5%	3%	6%	4%

“Now I would like to read several specific proposals relating to gun ownership and use. For each one I describe, please tell me if you support or oppose each proposal? The (first/next) one is...”

Sorted by highest to lowest total support		<u>Strng</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strng</u>	<u>DK/</u>
		<u>Supp</u>	<u>Supp</u>	<u>Opp</u>	<u>Opp</u>	<u>REF</u>
	Requiring background checks on all gun sales, including sales at gun shows and other private sales.	78%	90%	8%	5%	2%
Dem			97%	3%		1%
Rep			82%	14%		4%
Ind			90%	7%		3%
Guns			87%	10%		3%
CPL			81%	16%		3%
NRA			69%	29%		2%
	Preventing sales of all firearms to people who have been reported to law enforcement as dangerous to themselves or others.	63%	80%	13%	7%	7%
Dem			92%	6%		2%
Rep			69%	21%		10%
Ind			80%	9%		11%
Guns			78%	12%		10%
CPL			73%	13%		14%
NRA			65%	27%		8%

Sorted by highest to lowest total support		<u>Strng</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strng</u>	<u>DK/</u>
		<u>Supp</u>	<u>Supp</u>	<u>Opp</u>	<u>Opp</u>	<u>REF</u>
	Requiring a waiting period of at least 3 days after a gun is purchased before it can be taken home.	59%	79%	17%	12%	4%
Dem			94%	5%		2%
Rep			65%	29%		6%
Ind			76%	18%		6%
Guns			75%	22%		3%
CPL			61%	31%		8%
NRA			63%	37%		0%
	Imposing criminal penalties or fines for those who buy firearms for another person.	59%	78%	18%	12%	4%
Dem			88%	9%		3%
Rep			67%	25%		8%
Ind			79%	17%		4%
Guns			78%	18%		4%
CPL			75%	18%		7%
NRA			71%	24%		5%
	Requiring a person to be age 21 instead of 18 to be able to purchase an assault-style weapon.	64%	75%	20%	15%	5%
Dem			92%	5%		3%
Rep			61%	32%		7%
Ind			69%	23%		8%
Guns			69%	24%		7%
CPL			61%	28%		11%
NRA			65%	29%		6%
	Banning all firearms from schools and college campuses, except for those of law enforcement officers.	57%	72%	23%	13%	5%
Dem			91%	6%		3%
Rep			54%	37%		9%
Ind			69%	25%		6%
Guns			66%	29%		5%
CPL			57%	36%		7%
NRA			45%	51%		4%

Sorted by highest to lowest total support		<u>Strng</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strng</u>	<u>DK/</u>
		<u>Supp</u>	<u>Supp</u>	<u>Opp</u>	<u>Opp</u>	<u>REF</u>
	Requiring a person to be age 21 instead of 18 to be able to purchase <u>any</u> firearm.	52%	67%	30%	20%	4%
Dem			86%	11%		3%
Rep			52%	44%		4%
Ind			54%	39%		7%
Guns			58%	38%		4%
CPL			59%	35%		6%
NRA			51%	45%		4%
	Banning high-capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 bullets.	43%	57%	38%	28%	5%
Dem			82%	15%		3%
Rep			31%	63%		6%
Ind			61%	33%		6%
Guns			47%	46%		7%
CPL			34%	59%		7%
NRA			29%	69%		2%
	Banning all assault-style weapons, such as the AR-15 and similar semi-automatic rifles.	45%	55%	43%	32%	2%
Dem			84%	15%		1%
Rep			28%	69%		3%
Ind			50%	47%		3%
Guns			39%	59%		2%
CPL			33%	66%		1%
NRA			18%	82%		0%
	Equipping teachers and school staff with concealed firearms to deter and respond to school shootings.	31%	47%	44%	34%	9%
Dem			26%	67%		7%
Rep			72%	19%		9%
Ind			34%	55%		11%
Guns			52%	40%		8%
CPL			54%	36%		10%
NRA			61%	33%		6%

Sorted by highest to lowest total support		<u>Strng</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strng</u>	<u>DK/</u>
		<u>Supp</u>	<u>Supp</u>	<u>Opp</u>	<u>Opp</u>	<u>REF</u>
	Allowing gun manufacturers to be sued for liability by private parties.	24%	36%	56%	48%	8%
Dem			65%	27%		8%
Rep			14%	78%		8%
Ind			25%	70%		5%
Guns			26%	71%		3%
CPL			18%	77%		5%
NRA			18%	84%		6%

Please note: the following questions on two proposals, and their follow-up questions, were presented in rotated sets to respondents.

“Now I would like to describe two legislative proposals under consideration in Michigan...”

[One/Another] proposal would establish a new type of court-issued protection order called an “extreme risk protection order.” The proposal would allow a family member or law enforcement official to petition a court requesting an order to prohibit a named person from purchasing or possessing a firearm for a period of one year, and upon petition to the court, could be renewed. To grant such an order, the court would have to be presented with clear evidence that the person named poses a significant risk of injury to oneself, or others, by possessing a firearm. If a court order is issued, the person considered a risk would be entered into databases maintained by state, federal and local law enforcement agencies, and any firearms owned by that person would be taken and kept by law enforcement. Anyone subject to such an order would have the right to ask the court to rescind or modify the court order. Violation of the court order or knowingly filing false evidence could result in a fine and/or criminal penalty. Do you support or oppose this proposal?” **[IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: “Would that be strongly or somewhat (*support/oppose*)?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

ALL		DEMS	REPS	INDEP	OWN GUNS	CPL HOLD	NRA
44%	Strongly support						
29%	Somewhat support						
73%	TOTAL SUPPORT	88%	61%	74%	67%	65%	47%
20%	TOTAL OPPOSE	8%	31%	18%	26%	27%	43%
8%	Somewhat oppose						
12%	Strongly oppose						
7%	Undecided/Refused	4%	8%	8%	7%	8%	10%

“If your state legislator opposed legislation that would establish an extreme risk protection order for an individual about possessing a firearm, would you be more likely to support that legislator in the next election, less likely to support him or her, or would you say that this one issue wouldn’t influence you one way or the other?” **[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK: “Would that be much or somewhat (*more/less*) likely?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

ALL		DEMS	REPS	INDEP	OWN GUNS	CPL HOLD	NRA
11%	Much more likely						
6%	Somewhat more likely						
17%	TOTAL MORE LIKELY	12%	22%	18%	14%	18%	27%
43%	No influence on vote	32%	53%	42%	48%	41%	33%
33%	TOTAL LESS LIKELY	50%	19%	32%	31%	31%	35%
12%	Somewhat less likely						
21%	Much less likely						
7%	Undecided/Refused	6%	6%	8%	7%	8%	6%

“[One/Another] proposal would bring Michigan in line with a majority of other states that have child access prevention laws which hold gun owners accountable for the safe storage of firearms. This legislation would impose a criminal penalty for any adult gun owner if a minor age 18 or younger is able to gain access to a firearm that was negligently stored in the home. Penalties for violating this law would include a fine or criminal penalty. Do you support or oppose this proposal?” **[IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK: “Would that be strongly or somewhat (*support/oppose*)?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

ALL		DEMS	REPS	INDEP	OWN GUNS	CPL HOLD	NRA
57%	Strongly support						
25%	Somewhat support						
82%	TOTAL SUPPORT	93%	75%	76%	76%	72%	63%
13%	TOTAL OPPOSE	6%	18%	19%	19%	22%	29%
5%	Somewhat oppose						
8%	Strongly oppose						
5%	Undecided/Refused	1%	7%	5%	5%	6%	8%

“ If your state legislator opposed legislation that would impose a fine and/or jail sentence for negligently storing a firearm which a minor is able to access, would you be more likely to support that legislator in the next election, less likely to support him or her, or would you say that this one issue wouldn’t influence you one way or the other?” **[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK: “Would that be much or somewhat (*more/less*) likely?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

ALL		DEMS	REPS	INDEP	OWN GUNS	CPL HOLD	NRA
11%	Much more likely						
7%	Somewhat more likely						
18%	TOTAL MORE LIKELY	18%	20%	18%	20%	19%	16%
39%	No influence on vote	26%	47%	38%	46%	48%	39%
38%	TOTAL LESS LIKELY	54%	24%	39%	27%	25%	35%
10%	Somewhat less likely						
28%	Much less likely						
5%	Undecided/Refused	2%	9%	5%	7%	8%	10%

“Thinking about recent mass shootings in Uvalde Texas, Buffalo New York, Oxford, Michigan, and Highland Park, Illinois, will you be more likely to vote in the upcoming November election to support candidates who share your position on gun control issues, will you be less likely to vote in the November election because of this issue, or would you say that this one issue wouldn’t influence you one way or the other?” **[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK: “Would that be much or somewhat (*more/less*) likely?” AND CODE BEST RESPONSE]**

ALL		DEMS	REPS	INDEP	OWN GUNS	CPL HOLD	NRA
43%	Much more likely						
11%	Somewhat more likely						
54%	TOTAL MORE LIKELY	74%	44%	38%	48%	52%	49%
41%	No influence on vote	23%	51%	50%	46%	40%	39%
2%	TOTAL LESS LIKELY	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%	4%
1%	Somewhat less likely						
1%	Much less likely						
3%	Undecided/Refused	2%	3%	9%	5%	7%	8%

This survey was commissioned by a coalition of stakeholders concerned about crime and gun violence in our communities and schools, including AFT, MEA, MDE, and Progress Michigan.