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Poll Results in Swing Legislative Districts in Pennsylvania – Voters Want Tougher Handgun Safety Laws to Reduce Rising Violence Aimed at Police and the Public

To: Interested Parties

From: Ben Tulchin and Julie Lein, Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research

Voters from across the state – from Erie County to Philadelphia – are sending a clear message that handgun violence presents a crisis that our elected officials in Harrisburg must address immediately. A recent survey of 600 registered Pennsylvania voters in swing state legislative districts reveals a worried public that wants concrete action taken to reduce violence caused by handguns.

The recent spate of gun violence in Pennsylvania, including the shooting of five police officers in three weeks, has voters looking for leadership on this issue. Across counties, legislative districts, and all sides of the political spectrum, **a strong majority of voters support stricter handgun safety laws to reduce crime and violence**. Specifically, voters overwhelmingly approve of measures **to require handgun owners to immediately report lost or stolen firearms to the police** and **to limit the purchase of handguns to no more than one per month**.

Increasing Concern about Handgun Violence

Voters perceive that crime and violence has increased significantly and this serves as an impetus for strengthening and expanding handgun safety laws. Specifically, nearly three in five voters (58%) believe gun violence has increased in the past year, which is 15 times greater than the number of people who believe it has decreased (a marginal 4%). This belief of rising handgun violence is shared by voters across the state and by voters of all party affiliation.

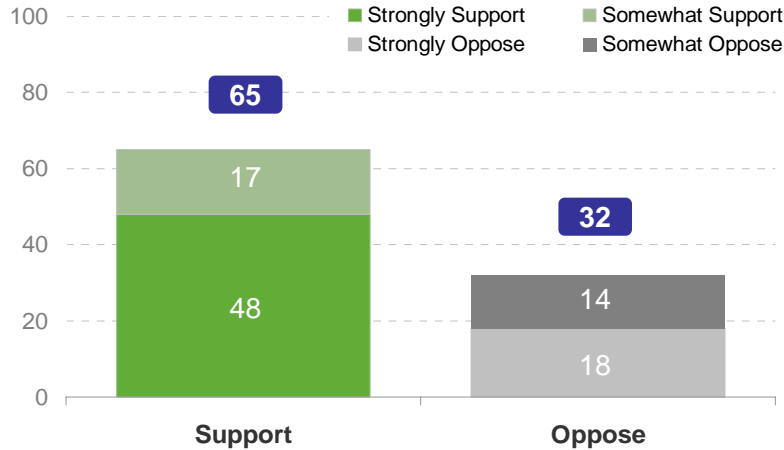
When asked whether elected officials in Harrisburg should be doing something to reduce crime and gun violence, a resounding 86% say ‘yes.’ However, by nearly a two-to-one ratio (48% to 28%), voters are unaware that public officials in the state capitol are doing *anything* to address gun violence.

Strong Support for Stricter Handgun Safety Laws

Given this heightened concern about gun violence, voters approve of measures to strengthen handgun safety laws. Specifically, **voters support stricter handgun safety laws by greater than a two-to-one margin** (65% support, 32% oppose). Intensity of opinions heavily favor supporters of tougher handgun safety laws. Nearly half of voters in these legislative districts (48%) *strongly* favor stricter handgun laws whereas less than one out of five voters (18%) stands strongly in opposition to such laws intended to reduce handgun violence. Strikingly, very few voters do not have an opinion on this issue as only three percent profess to being undecided.

Voters Support Stricter Handgun Safety Laws

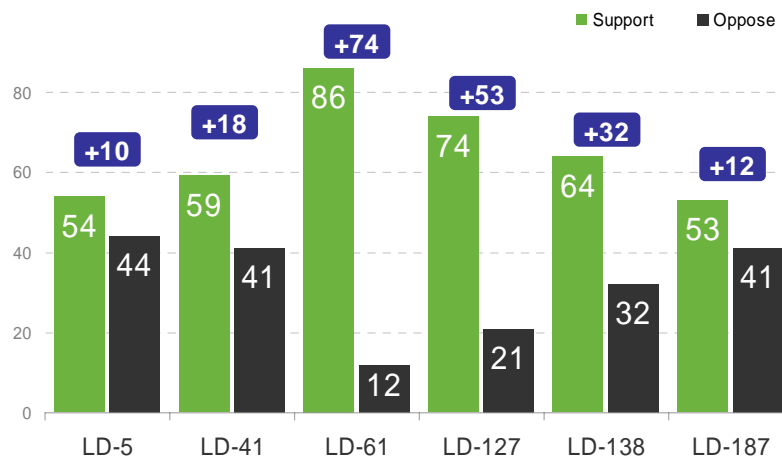
Do you favor or oppose stricter handgun safety laws to reduce crime and gun violence in Pennsylvania?



In partisan terms, support for stricter handgun safety laws is most pronounced among Democrats, with three in four (74%) in favor. Nonetheless, a solid majority of Republicans (54%) and more than three in four Independents (77%) support stricter handgun safety measures. On the ideological spectrum, support is consistent across both aisles as two-thirds of self-identifying liberals and moderates (70% and 69% respectively) and three in five conservatives (59%) favor strengthening handgun safety rules.

Tellingly, majorities in the six legislative districts across Pennsylvania want action taken to bolster handgun safety laws. While the strongest support comes from LD-61 (Rep. Kate Harper) in Montgomery County (86% favor to 12% oppose), a Philadelphia suburban district, largely rural and Republican counties like Erie still support more stringent handgun safety laws by a sizeable margin. Given these results, ***strengthening handgun safety laws is clearly a statewide concern.***

Support for Stricter Handgun Safety Laws by Legislative District

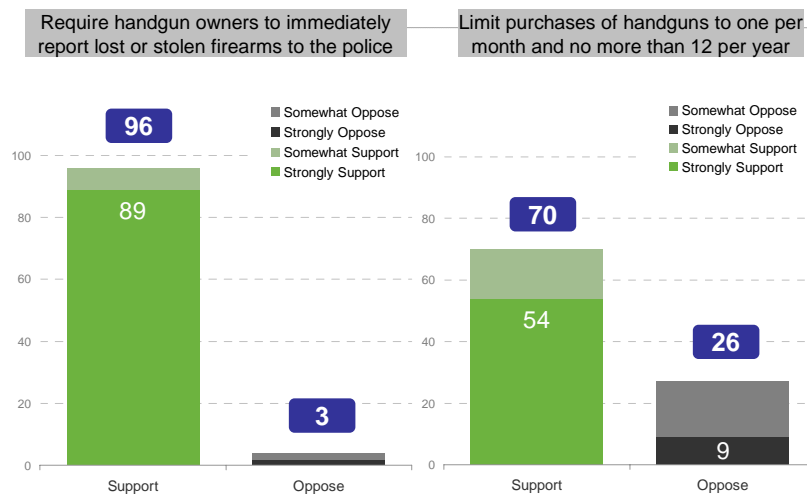


Strong Support for Laws to Reduce Handgun Violence

Requiring Handgun Owners to Immediately Report Lost or Stolen Firearms to the Police Of the proposals surveyed, the requirement to immediately report lost or stolen firearms is *the most popular*. Over nine in ten voters (96%) support this measure and nearly nine in ten (89%) strongly support this proposal. ***It is rare to find a measure with such pervasive support, with nearly unanimous and identical total support from all parties (96%) and nearly nine in ten Republicans (88%), Democrats (89%), and Independents (91%) all strongly supporting the proposal.*** Even among gun owners, an overwhelming 92% favor (84% *strongly*) this measure to enhance public safety.

Limiting the Purchase of Handguns to One per Month The proposal to limit purchases of handguns to one a month or no more than 12 a year receives a solid majority of support with seven in ten voters (70%) favoring the measure. More than half of all voters (54%) *strongly* favor its enactment. This is consistent across party lines as greater than two in three Democrats (72%), Republicans (68%), and Independents (67%) support the measure. The fact that solid majorities within each political party *strongly* support the proposal is even more indicative of its strength, with 59% of Democrats and 51% of Republicans and Independents *strongly* calling for its enactment.

Strong Support for Specific Handgun Safety Measures



Regional Support The favorability of proposals to limit handgun violence by region directly correlates with support for stricter handgun safety laws. As previously noted, the greatest support comes from LD-61 in Montgomery County. It is important to note that ***large majorities across all the regions surveyed support specific measures to limit handgun violence.***

Voter support for requiring handgun owners to immediately report lost or stolen firearms is nearly universal across the regions, with greater than nine in ten voters from each district favoring this proposal. Amazingly, in LD-61 (Rep. Harper), there is 100 percent agreement as every voter we polled supports this tougher handgun safety law with 0% opposing it and no one undecided. We have never seen or reported this before in a survey.

Regional Support

Require handgun owners to immediately report lost or stolen firearms to the police

	Strongly Support	Total Support	Total Oppose
All Voters	89%	96%	3%
LD-5 (Rep. John Evans)	82%	93%	6%
LD-41 (Rep. Katie True)	85%	95%	3%
LD-61 (Rep. Kate Harper)	95%	100%	0%
LD-127 (Rep. Thomas Caltagirone)	93%	94%	4%
LD-138 (Rep. Craig Daily)	89%	96%	4%
LD-187 (Rep. Carl Mantz)	88%	98%	1%

While the measure to limit handgun purchases does not receive quite the same unanimity, it still draws nearly two-thirds support of voters from each district. These concrete measures to reduce handgun violence are applauded by solid majorities across the region.

Regional Support

Limit purchases of handguns to one per month and no more than 12 per year

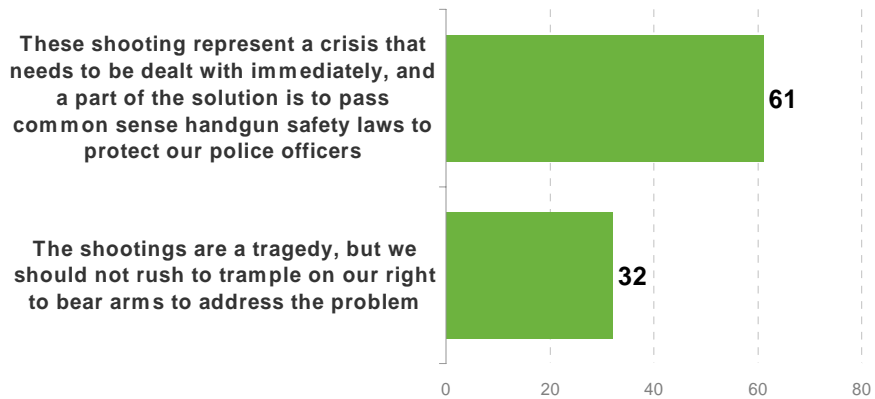
	Strongly Support	Total Support	Total Oppose
All Voters	54%	70%	26%
LD-5 (Rep. John Evans)	46%	62%	36%
LD-41 (Rep. Katie True)	57%	73%	23%
LD-61 (Rep. Kate Harper)	63%	78%	18%
LD-127 (Rep. Thomas Caltagirone)	52%	72%	21%
LD-138 (Rep. Craig Daily)	57%	67%	31%
LD-187 (Rep. Carl Mantz)	52%	68%	31%

Urgency of Action – Protect Police and the Public Now

Pennsylvania voters are sending strong signals that the time to act is now. With the shooting of several Philadelphia police officers in recent weeks, voters support passing handgun safety laws ***immediately*** by a two-to-one margin and do not want to wait any longer.

With Police Getting Shot, Voters Want the Crisis Dealt with Immediately

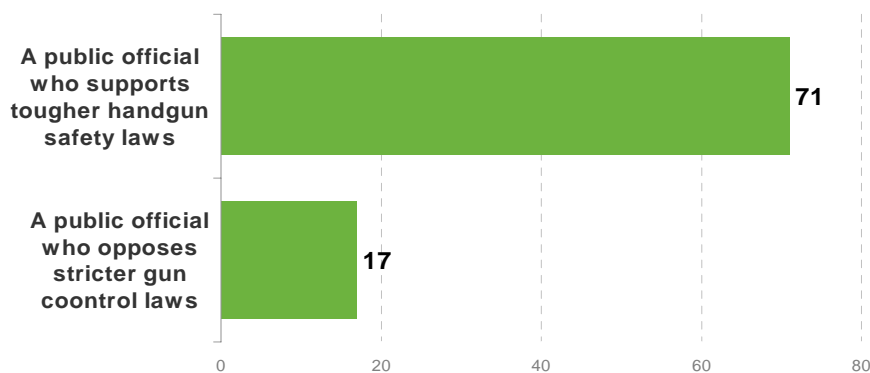
In the last week in Philadelphia, 3 police officers were shot, including one fatally. Which statement do you agree with more:



The desire to act now also translates to the voting booth. **By greater than a four-to-one margin, voters prefer candidates who support handgun safety laws** and will punish those elected officials who oppose these measures.

Support for Public Officials who Favor Tougher Handgun Safety Laws

In thinking about public officials and their positions on gun safety laws, which public official would you be more likely to support:



Public officials risk angering their constituents by not taking action. Voters clearly want their government to take the lead in providing a course of action against crime and handgun violence and voters want tougher handgun safety laws as part of the solution to protect police officers and the general public.

Survey Methodology:

Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research conducted a survey among 600 registered voters from November 4-6, 2007. The sample was divided across six legislative districts in Pennsylvania, with 100 voters surveyed in each of the following districts:

- LD 5 in Erie County of Rep. John R. Evans;
- LD 41 in Lancaster County of Rep. Katie True;
- LD 61 in Montgomery County of Rep. Kate Harper;
- LD 127 in Berks County of Rep. Thomas R. Caltagirone;
- LD 138 in Northampton County of Rep. Craig A. Dally; and
- LD 187 in Berks and Lehigh Counties of Rep. Carl W. Mantz.

The survey has a margin of error +/- 4.1 percent.