



Ipsos/BuzzFeed poll: Most Gun Owners Support Policies Aimed at Reducing Gun Violence

NRA members less likely to support policies, compared to non-members

Washington, DC, March 7, 2018 — Recent news media has given extraordinary amounts of coverage to the gun control debate. In reaction to this uptick in coverage, BuzzFeed and Ipsos have partnered to examine owners' views toward recent policy proposals around gun violence prevention. A majority of gun owners support a series of proposals recently discussed by President Trump and members of Congress to curb gun violence, namely allowing family members to petition courts to temporarily prevent individuals from buying or possessing a gun if they pose a threat to themselves or others (77%), raising the minimum age to buy a high-capacity semi-automatic rifle to 21 (72%), banning the sale of bump stocks (71%), training and allowing teachers to carry a gun (62%), and raising the legal gun ownership age from 18 to 21 (60%).

Despite majority support for these proposals, gun owners are wary about too many restrictions being placed upon them. A majority oppose legislation that would ban AR-15s entirely (55%) and 59% of respondents believe that doing so would be the first step toward more restrictive gun laws. In fact, should the government ban a gun model that a respondent already owns, most would not turn over their newly banned gun. Just 22% say they would do so in such a situation. Furthermore, a majority (61%) report that their views toward gun policy have not changed in light of recent mass shootings, and most gun owners (59%) agree that the way they are portrayed in the media is mostly unfair.

Among gun owners, just 16% report that they are a member of the NRA. Views of the NRA are quite different between members and non-members. 46% of all gun owners believe the NRA is an important defender of Second Amendment rights, but NRA members (77%) and non-members (40%) display a big disparity in this belief. 27% of non-members even go so far as to spurn the NRA as a reflection of their beliefs or interests as a gun owner. NRA membership also impacts support for a number of policies across the board, namely raising the legal gun ownership age from 18 to 21 and raising the minimum age to buy high-capacity semi-automatic rifles to 21. 40% of NRA members believe in raising the legal gun ownership age and 53% support raising the minimum age to 21 for buying high-capacity semi-automatic rifles. Comparatively, non-members support these proposed policies at rates of 64% and 76%, respectively. NRA members also report owning more guns compared to non-members. 17% of Americans report owning more than 5 guns, but 38% of NRA members report so compared to 13% of non-members.

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Do you, personally, currently own a gun or firearm? If so, approximately how many?

**Those who answered “No” or “Don’t know” were terminated and did not count toward the total 1,052 interviews.*

	n = 4,749 respondents
No*	76%
Yes, 1	9
Yes, 2-5	9
Yes, more than 5	4
Don’t know*	2

Among gun owners:

	Total (n=1,052)	NRA Members (n=175)	Non-NRA Members (n=877)
Yes, 1	41%	23%	45%
Yes, 2-5	42	39	42
Yes, more than 5	17	38	13

1. Do you support or oppose the following proposals?

- a. Banning the sale of bump stocks (Bump stocks are attachments that enable semi-automatic weapons to mimic fully automatic weapons).

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
Strongly support	47%	32%	50%
Somewhat support	24	23	24
Somewhat oppose	12	20	11
Strongly oppose	13	22	11
Don’t know	4	2	5
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>74%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>22</i>

- b. Raising the minimum age to 21 before someone could buy a high-capacity semi-automatic rifle like the AR-15.

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
Strongly support	51%	37%	54%
Somewhat support	21	17	22
Somewhat oppose	12	21	10
Strongly oppose	14	25	12
Don’t know	2	1	2
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>76%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>22</i>

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2. Do you support or oppose the following proposals?
 a. Raising the legal gun ownership age from 18 to 21 for all firearms.

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
Strongly support	40%	26%	43%
Somewhat support	20	14	21
Somewhat oppose	16	19	15
Strongly oppose	23	41	20
Don't know	1	*	2
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>64%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>35</i>

- b. A nationwide ban on the AR-15.

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
Strongly support	26%	14%	29%
Somewhat support	15	11	16
Somewhat oppose	18	14	19
Strongly oppose	37	61	32
Don't know	4	*	4
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>45%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>51</i>

- c. Training and allowing teachers to carry guns at school.

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
Strongly support	35%	58%	31%
Somewhat support	27	22	28
Somewhat oppose	14	9	15
Strongly oppose	22	11	25
Don't know	2	1	2
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>62%</i>	<i>79%</i>	<i>58%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>39</i>

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3. Some have proposed “gun violence restraining orders,” which would allow family members to petition courts to temporarily prevent individuals from buying or possessing a gun, because they pose a threat to themselves or others. Would you support or oppose the creation of such a policy?

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
Strongly support	43%	41%	43%
Somewhat support	34	28	35
Somewhat oppose	10	13	9
Strongly oppose	7	14	5
Don't know	7	5	8
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>77%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>78%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>14</i>

4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
 a. Banning the AR-15 rifles would be a first step toward more restrictive gun laws.

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
Strongly agree	39%	57%	35%
Somewhat agree	21	12	22
Neither agree nor disagree	15	8	16
Somewhat disagree	9	4	10
Strongly disagree	15	17	15
Don't know	2	2	2
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>58%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>25</i>

- b. I would turn over my gun(s) to the government if Congress passed a law banning a gun model that I own.

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
Strongly agree	12%	10%	13%
Somewhat agree	9	3	10
Neither agree nor disagree	10	7	11
Somewhat disagree	11	9	11
Strongly disagree	54	68	52
Don't know	3	2	3
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>62</i>

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5. Over the last two years, there have been a series of mass shootings in Orlando, Las Vegas, Texas, and most recently in Parkland, Florida. Have any of these events changed your views on gun policy in America?

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
Yes	34%	27%	35%
No	61%	71%	59%
Don't know	5%	2%	5%

6. For those who have had their gun policy opinions changed due to recent mass shootings, how have these events changed your views? Select all that apply.

	Total (n = 351)
I am now more open to restrictions on certain types of guns or accessories.	65%
I now believe there should be greater age restrictions on gun ownership.	58
I now believe more people should arm themselves.	25
Other	13
None of these	2

7. When it comes to media coverage of guns, which of the following statements most closely describes your viewpoint?

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
Media coverage of gun owners is mostly unfair.	59%	76%	55%
Media coverage of gun owners is somewhere in the middle.	20	14	21
Media coverage of gun owners is mostly fair	14	7	15
Don't know	8	2	9

8. When it comes to the NRA and proposals about gun laws, which of the following statements most closely describes your viewpoint?

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
The NRA is an important defender of Second Amendment rights.	46%	77%	40%
The NRA means well, but sometimes goes too far.	25	17	27
The NRA does not reflect my beliefs or interests as a gun owner.	24	5	27
Don't know	5	*	6

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9. Are you an NRA member?

	Total
Yes	16%
No	82
Don't know	2

10. Why do you own a gun? Select all that apply.

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
Self-defense	80%	87%	78%
Recreational shooting	54	77	50
Hunting	39	55	36
Other	8	12	8
None of these	1	*	1

11. How would you describe the area in which you live?

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
Rural	30%	31%	29%
Suburban	45	46	45
Urban	25	23	26

12. With which political party do you most identify?

	Total	NRA Members	Non-NRA Members
Strong Democrat	15%	8%	10%
Moderate Democrat	14	3	11
Lean Democrat	9	3	7
Lean Republican	8	8	9
Moderate Republican	13	17	20
Strong Republican	10	32	15
Independent	20	24	21
Other	3	3	2
Don't know/Refuse	8	2	4

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About the Study

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted March 1-6, 2018, on behalf of BuzzFeed. For the survey, a sample of roughly 1,052 gun owning adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English. The sample includes 175 NRA members and 877 non-NRA members.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos's online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online nonprobability sampling polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,052, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=5.0).

The poll also has a credibility interval plus or minus 8.4 percentage points for NRA members, plus or minus 3.8 percentage points for non-NRA members

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our [Public Opinion Polling and Communication](#) page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

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About Ipsos

Ipsos is an independent market research company controlled and managed by research professionals. Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos has grown into a worldwide research group with a strong presence in all key markets. Ipsos ranks fourth in the global research industry.

With offices in 88 countries, Ipsos delivers insightful expertise across five research specializations: brand, advertising and media; customer loyalty; marketing; public affairs research; and survey management.

Ipsos researchers assess market potential and interpret market trends. They develop and build brands. They help clients build long-term relationships with their customers. They test advertising and study audience responses to various media and they measure public opinion around the globe.

Ipsos has been listed on the Paris Stock Exchange since 1999 and generated global revenues of €1,782.7 million in 2016.

GAME CHANGERS

« Game Changers » is the Ipsos signature.

At Ipsos we are passionately curious about people, markets, brands and society.

We make our changing world easier and faster to navigate and inspire clients to make smarter decisions.

We deliver with security, speed, simplicity and substance. We are Game Changers.

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