



TO: Interested Parties

FR: John Del Cecato (D) and Kim Alfano (R), RABA Research

DA: February 8, 2019

RE: Iowa Survey on Gun Laws

From January 30th to 31st of this year, RABA Research conducted a statewide survey of 939 likely 2020 voters in Iowa on behalf of Giffords using a combination of automated calls and online surveys of cell phone-only households.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Iowa voters overwhelmingly support background checks on gun purchases.

86% of voters support a background check on all gun buyers, with only 7% opposing it. This support crosses party and geographic lines, with 89% of Democrats and 83% of Republicans agreeing, as well as 83% of voters living in rural areas.

Voters oppose allowing non-law enforcement officials to carry concealed firearms into schools.

Overall, 50% oppose this idea, with only 31% saying they support it. Another 19% were unsure. Among rural voters, 47% opposed the idea, with 35% supporting it.

Weakening Iowa's current gun laws is a losing proposition for state lawmakers.

Overall, 54% of voters say they'd be less likely to support a legislator who voted to weaken Iowa's gun laws, with only 15% saying more likely. This includes 61% of Democrats, 46% of Republicans, and 54% of independents saying they're less likely to support such a candidate.

There is little appetite for changing the Iowa Constitution to help weaken current gun laws in court.

Iowans oppose this idea by a margin of 2:1 (39% oppose, 18% support). Among Republicans, the margin is even greater than 2:1, with 35% opposing and only 14% supporting it.

Voters are poised to reward candidates who pledge to strengthen background checks.

Overall, 72% of Iowans say they're more likely to back a candidate who takes this position, with only 10% saying less likely. 64% of Republicans and 69% of rural voters would be more likely to vote for a candidate supporting stronger background checks.

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