

To: Interested Parties

From: Global Strategy Group

Date: December 6, 2022

Re: New survey shows strong opposition to permitless carry; passage could hurt GOP in 2024

Miami-Dade County voters might have supported DeSantis in his bid for re-election, but a new survey of 2022 general election voters show they overwhelmingly reject the governor’s proposed permitless carry legislation. In fact, voters of all ideologies, ages, and races want leadership to strengthen gun laws, not tear them down. Politicians who pass permitless carry could pay a price at the ballot box.

Miami-Dade voters are worried about gun violence and want stronger gun laws

Gun violence and public safety weigh heavily on Miami-Dade voters. Miami-Dade experienced [a spike in gun violence last year](#) that has left [the community searching for answers](#). Over three quarters of Miami-Dade voters say gun violence (77%) was very important to their vote this November—more than inflation (75%), immigration (66%), or abortion (62%).

And they overwhelmingly support stronger gun laws. Miami-Dade voters support stronger gun laws by a 20:1 margin (65% stronger/3% less strong). Even DeSantis’ voters support stronger gun laws by a 15:1 margin (46% stronger/3% less strong). Two-thirds of key voting groups—registered nonpartisan voters (66%) and ticket splitters (70%)—feel the same. There is also no difference in race; white voters (61%) and Hispanic voters (63%) agree Florida’s gun laws should be stronger.

In fact, these voters blame crime on lax gun laws more than lack of police funding. Around-two thirds of Miami-Dade voters cite loopholes in the law that make it easy for criminals to get guns as a major factor contributing to the amount of crime in their area, while only a small majority point to not enough funding for law enforcement as a major factor. Among key voters like NPA voters, ticket splitters, non-Cuban Hispanics, and Spanish speaking voters, more voters point to loopholes in the law than funding for law enforcement.

Figure 1: Factors contributing to crime in Miami-Dade County

<i>%Major factor</i>	Miami-Dade voters	Registered non-partisans (NPA)	Ticket-splitters	Non-Cuban Hispanics	Spanish speaking voters
Loopholes in the law that make it easy for criminals to get guns	69	63	79	69	80
Lack of educational and economic opportunity	63	68	61	69	70
Not enough funding for law enforcement	53	50	71	47	77

Miami-Dade voters strongly oppose permitless carry

This opposition crosses race and party lines. Over two thirds of Miami-Dade voters oppose permitless carry (68%) with 60% of voters strongly opposing the policy. This opposition spans party registration and race. A majority of Republicans, DeSantis voters, gun owners (59%), and white voters (55%) oppose permitless carry.

Figure 2: Initial opposition to permitless carry by registration and vote choice

%Oppose	Overall	Registered Democrat	Registered NPA	Registered Republican	Crist 2022 voter	DeSantis 2022 voter
Strongly oppose	60	65	57	57	68	53
Total oppose	68	71	65	65	77	60
Total support	21	14	28	24	11	29

The more voters learn about permitless carry, the more they oppose it. After hearing the policy would allow anyone who can legally purchase a firearm to carry a loaded gun publicly, along with examples of who those people could be, voters' opposition grows by 12 points (68% to 80%) and strong opposition by 13 points (60% to 73%). Key voters—vital to both DeSantis' 2022 win and to the 2024 election—show strong opposition to permitless carry after learning more information. These blocs include Hispanic voters (81% oppose), NPA voters (76%), ticket splitters (76%), low turnout voters (72%), and even DeSantis' voters (69%).

Voters' opposition to permitless carry stems from resistance to allowing dangerous and untrained people to carry a gun in public. Voters are particularly concerned about people who have been convicted of a violent crime (87% very concerned) and someone who makes frequent racist and violent threats online (87%). Likely stemming from that same fear, nearly all voters (88%) are very concerned about someone carrying a loaded gun publicly who purchased their gun without a background check.

Figure 3: Concerns about people carrying loaded guns in public by key demographics

%Very concerning Someone who...	Overall	Low Turnout Voter	Registered NPA	DeSantis 2022 Voter	Hispanic Voter
Purchased their firearm without a background check	88	88	89	86	90
Has recently been convicted of a violent crime	87	86	86	86	89
Frequently makes racist and violent threats	87	89	91	81	88
Has been accused of domestic violence	80	80	87	75	84
Has never been held, let alone, shot a firearm	76	72	81	67	75
Is under 21 years old	76	75	75	64	73
Law enforcement officers say should not have access to firearms	76	75	75	69	76

Miami-Dade voters are less likely to vote for a candidate that supports permitless carry. Over half of voters (53%) say they are less likely to vote for a candidate in the 2024 election who supports permitless carry and wants to make it law. Persuadable voters say the same: a majority of NPA voters (59%), ticket splitters (56%), and Hispanic voters (53%) say they are less likely to vote for a candidate who backs permitless carry.

ABOUT THE POLL

Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 500 actual voters in Miami-Dade County between November 3 and November 10, 2022. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 4.4%. The margin of error on sub-samples is greater. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the population of likely general election voters are properly represented.