



Support for Gun Violence Prevention in Michigan

Survey Findings

To: Interested Parties

From: Progress Michigan

Michigan voters broadly support bold action to reduce gun violence, including huge majorities who support holding gun owners responsible if their firearm is used in the commission of a crime or an accident involving a child, removing guns from domestic abusers and people at risk of harming themselves or others, closing background check loopholes, providing funding for community-based violence prevention programs, and efforts to combat depression and reduce death by suicide. These findings emerge despite the fact that nearly half the voters here own a firearm or live with someone with a gun. However, gun owners sign off on most of the policy changes tested.

Between January 20 – 25, GQR interviewed 600 likely 2022 voters in the state of Michigan, including 400 interviews collected through cell phones and land lines and 200 interviews collected online. This survey was commissioned by Progress Michigan and carries a margin of error of +/- 4.0 points at a 95 percent confidence interval. Participants were randomly selected from a registered voter list. In partisan terms of voters in this survey, 35 percent describe themselves as Democratic, 33 percent as Independent and 31 percent as Republican.

Main Findings

- **Voters support bold action.** By a 47 to 11 percent margin, Michigan voters advocate for stronger gun laws over weaker gun laws. Another 37 percent would keep the gun laws as they are. After voters hear a battery of gun violence prevention policies—effectively providing clarity and defining “stronger gun laws” -- support for stronger gun laws jumps to 56 percent. Support among gun owners jumps from 34 percent for stronger gun laws, 17 percent for weaker gun laws to 44 percent stronger, 16 percent weaker.
- **This support may reflect voters’ perceptions of what is going on around them.** Four in ten voters believe gun violence has increased over the last two years, including 57 percent of seniors and 46 percent of voters in Metro Detroit. Only 6 percent believe gun violence declined and 46 percent believe it stayed about the same.

- **Huge majorities of Michigan support strong gun violence prevention policies.** These policies include help for people struggling with depression, holding gun owners responsible for the safe storage of their weapons, closing loopholes that allow guns to be purchased without a background check, removing guns from domestic abusers, removing guns from people deemed at risk of harming themselves and others and funding community-based gun violence prevention programs in the state.

As previewed, gun owners support most of these policies, often with percentages in excess of 70 percent.

Figure 1. Support for gun violence prevention policies

Total favor	Total	Non-gun owners	Gun owners	Demo-crats	Republi-cans
Increase mental health services and treatment of depression to reduce suicides	92	93	92	96	86
Allow individuals to be prosecuted for criminal negligence if they fail to safely store their firearms and their guns are used in an accident involving a child	81	86	79	92	66
Allow individuals to be prosecuted for criminal negligence if they fail to safely store their firearms and their guns are used in the commission of a crime	81	87	75	95	68
Close the background check loophole by extending the criminal background check required at licensed dealers to all gun sales including those sold online and at gun shows	78	86	75	94	64
(SPLIT) Allow police, family, or household members to obtain court orders to temporarily prevent access to firearms by persons who may harm themselves or others, legislation sometimes called extreme risk protection orders	77	83	73	88	67
Require a 10-day waiting period for the purchase of firearms	75	90	66	95	57
Prohibit individuals convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence crimes from purchasing or possessing firearms	75	82	70	86	68
Require individuals to obtain a state license before purchasing or possessing any firearms to make sure they are qualified to own and handle a gun	74	88	65	92	59
(SPLIT) Allow police, family, or household members to obtain court orders to temporarily prevent access to firearms by persons who may harm themselves or others, legislation sometimes called red flag laws	70	81	66	90	51

Total favor	Total	Non-gun owners	Gun owners	Democrats	Republicans
Establish a Michigan Office of Neighborhood Safety that would provide funding for community-based violence prevention efforts	66	73	64	86	52
Limit the sale and possession of high-capacity magazines that can hold more than 10 rounds	64	77	55	84	40
Prohibit the open and concealed carrying of guns on the State Capitol grounds or other legislative office buildings	63	74	56	85	46
Ban the sale of assault weapons	58	77	43	84	34
Ban the sale and possession of high-capacity magazines that can hold more than 10 rounds	57	77	44	82	32

- **Voters insist these policies will make a difference.** A 64 percent believe these policies will have an impact on reducing gun violence in the state and 32 percent believe it will have a major impact. A 61 percent majority of Independent voters holds this view, as does a 57 percent majority of voters whose partners own firearms and a 64 percent majority among non-college women.

Conclusions

Michigan is a state where at least half the voters own a firearm or live with someone who does. It is also a state that has seen its share of tragedy and bloodshed over the last few years.

They are ready for something bold.