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Strong Support for Executive Action to Close Background Check Loopholes

Survey Results

To: Interested Parties

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A national survey among likely 2016 voters demonstrates overwhelming support for an executive action by President Obama to close the gun show loophole by requiring anyone who sells a large number of guns per year to become a licensed gun dealer and require background checks on all their gun sales. This support is bipartisan and reflects the majority of voters in this country who advocate for stronger gun laws.

This survey reflects the findings of a telephone survey of 850 likely 2016 voters taken November 16-19, 2015. The margin of error on this survey is +/- 3.4 percent.

Main Findings

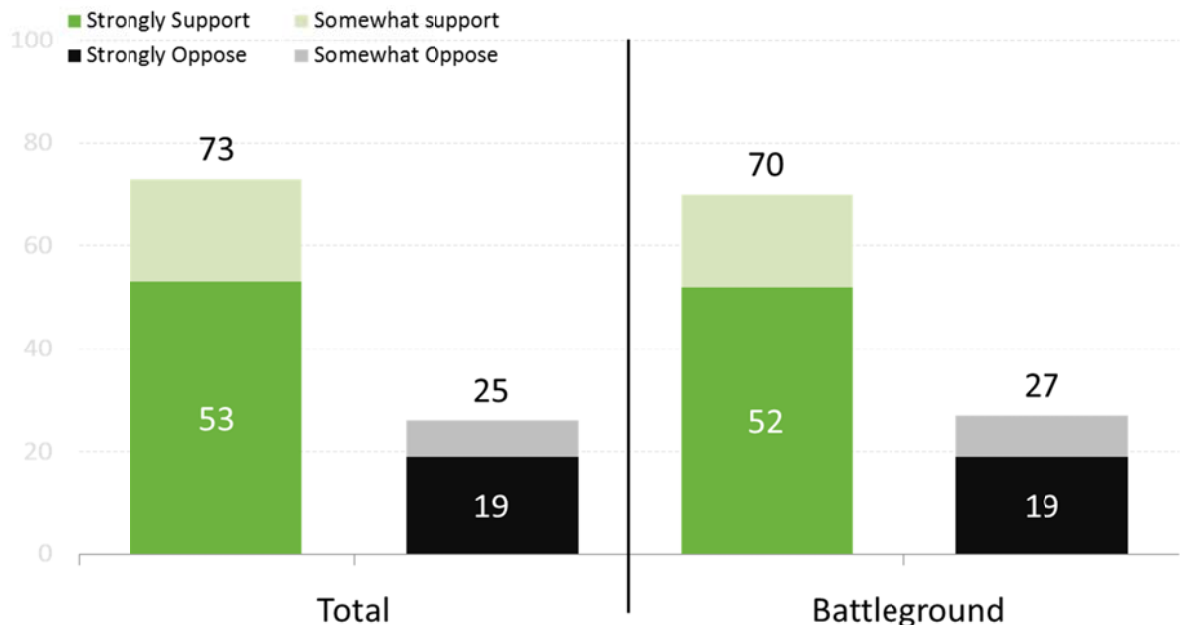
- **A super-majority of voters support this executive action.** An impressive 73 percent of voters support, “an executive action by President Obama that would require anyone who sells a large number of guns per year to become a licensed gun dealer and require background checks on all of their gun sales, including those sold online or at gun shows.”

A 53 percent majority of voters strongly support this executive action; just 25 percent oppose. In the presidential battleground states, support holds at 70 percent, and just 27 percent oppose.¹

¹ Battleground states include Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

Figure 1: Support for Executive Action in Battleground States

Would you support or oppose an executive action by President Obama that would require anyone who sells a large number of guns per year to become a licensed gun dealer and require background checks on all of their gun sales, including those sold online or at gun shows?

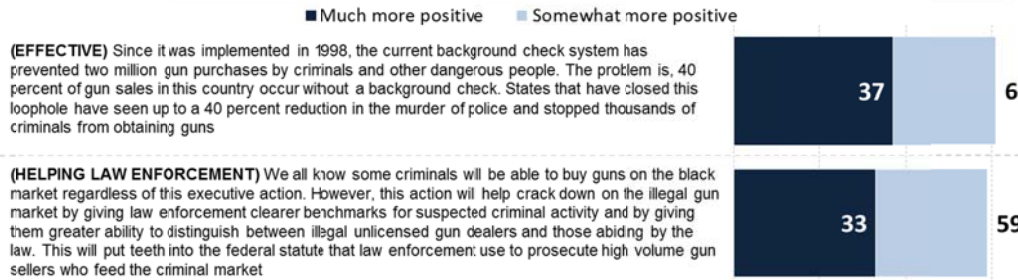


- **Support is bipartisan and includes an impressive majority of gun owners.** Despite their hostility towards Obama and disagreement with the President on other issues, a 56 percent majority of self-ascribed Republicans support this executive action. Support also includes 64 percent of gun owners and 56 percent of voters who are favorably disposed toward the NRA.
- **The voters who will decide the 2016 election support this action overwhelmingly.** As noted, 70 percent of voters in the presidential battleground support this action. Many of the swing voters that both parties are targeting embrace this action as well, including independent voters (68 percent support; 76 percent among independent women), non-college women (77 percent support), and mothers (72 percent support). Among young voters, who are so crucial to each party's future, support jumps to 90 percent.
- **Support for this executive action reflects national consensus on the need for stronger gun laws.** A 60 percent majority believes the laws covering the sale of guns should be made stronger; just 7 percent believe they should be made less strong.
- **Voters support this idea because they believe it could be effective in reducing gun violence.** The strongest argument in support of this proposal makes the point that the current background check program works and this

action will make it work better, based on the experience of states that have closed loopholes. Voters also come to see how this action can help law enforcement crack down on the gun show loophole.

Figure 2: Arguments Focused on Effectiveness and Law Enforcement Resonate

Now I am going to read you more statements about the executive action being considered by President Obama that would require anyone who sells a large number of guns per year to become a licensed gun dealer and require background checks on all of their gun sales, including those sold online or at gun shows. After each statement I read, please tell me whether it makes you feel much more positive about this executive action, somewhat more positive, neutral, or makes you feel more negative about this executive action.



Conclusion

This executive action can save lives. States that have closed the gun show loophole have seen a 40 percent reduction in the murder of police officers and stopped thousands of criminals from obtaining guns. This executive action will also help police crackdown on the black market that allows criminals to buy guns without a background check. Voters put partisanship aside to do the right thing. Washington should do the same.