

FIREARMS

Americans Say Second Amendment Guarantees Gun Ownership for Citizens

Almost half of respondents think citizens should be granted a permit to carry a concealed weapon if they meet specific criteria laid out in the law.

[NEW YORK – Jul. 7, 2010] – Four-in-five Americans agree that the Second Amendment gives individuals the right to keep and bear arms, and more than two-thirds believe that any citizen who is eligible should have access to specific types of weapons, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative national sample of 1,001 American adults also finds that almost half of respondents consent to the "shall-issue" approach for carrying firearms in public in a concealed manner.

The Second Amendment and Regulations

The vast majority of Americans (81%) believe the Second Amendment means that individuals have the right to keep and bear arms, while only nine per cent disagree with this interpretation.

Across the country, 42 per cent of respondents say they are satisfied with existing federal regulations related to firearm ownership, while 43 per cent are dissatisfied.

Almost half of Americans (46%) say they would prefer to have stricter firearms laws—including 52 per cent of respondents in the Northeast and 65 per cent of Democrats. Three-in-ten Americans (29%) would retain the existing regulations, including a third of respondents in the Midwest and South (both at 32%) and two-in-five Republicans (40%).

KEY FINDINGS

- **81% say Second Amendment means that individuals have the right to keep and bear arms**
- **47% think citizens should be granted a permit to carry a concealed weapon if they meet specific criteria laid out in the law**
- **46% would prefer to have stricter firearm laws; 16% want looser laws**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From June 25 to June 27, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,001 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States.

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Types of Weapons and Concealed Carry

Most respondents believe that every American who is eligible to own firearms should have access to handguns (68%) and rifles or shotguns (72%). However, two-thirds of respondents think that only the police and other authorized persons should have access to semi-automatic firearms (67%).

Across the U.S, states have different regulations related to how individuals can carry a concealed weapon in public. Almost half of Americans (47%) believe citizens should be granted a permit to carry a concealed weapon if they meet specific criteria laid out in the law.

Fewer respondents would agree to banning people from carrying concealed weapons (23%), issuing permits based on the recommendation of local authorities (14%), or allowing people to carry concealed weapons without a permit (8%).

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Firearms					
The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." For you, personally, what does the Second Amendment mean?					
Region					
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
That individuals have the right to keep and bear arms	81%	78%	83%	83%	77%
That individuals do not have the right to keep and bear arms	9%	12%	9%	6%	12%
Not sure	10%	10%	8%	10%	11%

Firearms				
The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." For you, personally, what does the Second Amendment mean?				
Party ID				
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
That individuals have the right to keep and bear arms	81%	74%	88%	86%
That individuals do not have the right to keep and bear arms	9%	17%	4%	6%
Not sure	10%	9%	8%	8%

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Firearms					
At this point, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with existing federal regulations related to firearm ownership?					
Region					
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Satisfied	42%	36%	39%	46%	41%
Dissatisfied	43%	48%	45%	39%	45%
Not sure	15%	16%	16%	15%	13%

Firearms				
At this point, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with existing federal regulations related to firearm ownership?				
Party ID				
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Satisfied	42%	42%	46%	43%
Dissatisfied	43%	46%	40%	45%
Not sure	15%	12%	15%	12%

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Firearms					
If it were up to you, would you prefer to have stricter firearm laws, looser firearm laws, or would you keep existing regulations the way they are?					
	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Stricter firearm laws	46%	52%	42%	44%	47%
Looser firearm laws	16%	11%	17%	15%	19%
Keep existing regulations	29%	26%	32%	32%	24%
Not sure	10%	10%	9%	10%	9%

Firearms				
If it were up to you, would you prefer to have stricter firearm laws, looser firearm laws, or would you keep existing regulations the way they are?				
	Party ID			
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Stricter firearm laws	46%	65%	29%	40%
Looser firearm laws	16%	7%	23%	18%
Keep existing regulations	29%	20%	40%	33%
Not sure	10%	8%	8%	9%

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Firearms

Below is a list of weapons. For each one, please say whether this type of weapon should be available to every American who is eligible to own firearms, or only to the police and other authorized persons.

	Handguns	Rifles / Shotguns	Semi-automatic firearms
Every American should who is eligible to own firearms have access to these weapons	68%	72%	23%
Only the police and other authorized persons should have access to these weapons	22%	19%	67%
Not sure	10%	10%	10%

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Firearms					
Across the U.S, states have different regulations related to how individuals can carry a concealed weapon in public. Thinking about your own state, which one of these options would you prefer to implement?					
	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Citizens should not be allowed to carry a concealed weapon at all	23%	25%	21%	21%	26%
Citizens should be granted a permit to carry a concealed weapon if local authorities agree to it	14%	15%	13%	13%	15%
Citizens should be granted a permit to carry a concealed weapon if they meet specific criteria laid out in the law	47%	42%	48%	50%	46%
Citizens should be allowed to carry a concealed weapon without any permit	8%	7%	13%	7%	6%
Not sure	8%	11%	6%	8%	6%

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Firearms

Across the U.S, states have different regulations related to how individuals can carry a concealed weapon in public. Thinking about your own state, which one of these options would you prefer to implement?

	Party ID			
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Citizens should not be allowed to carry a concealed weapon at all	23%	35%	16%	17%
Citizens should be granted a permit to carry a concealed weapon if local authorities agree to it	14%	14%	15%	15%
Citizens should be granted a permit to carry a concealed weapon if they meet specific criteria laid out in the law	47%	42%	53%	52%
Citizens should be allowed to carry a concealed weapon without any permit	8%	4%	12%	9%
Not sure	8%	6%	5%	8%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record can be found at:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at

<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

Copies of this poll are available on our website:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

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