



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GUN RIGHTS

2021 VIRGINIA CANDIDATE SURVEY

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

Question #1- Firearm and Ammunition Restrictions

Limits or “bans” on certain rifles, shotguns, and handguns, including semi-automatic firearms, are antithetical to the Second Amendment. They’re arbitrarily based on cosmetic appearance -- color, stock type, etc. or on the subjective decision making by government bureaucrats. Likewise, limiting ammunition or magazine capacity is nothing more than a back-door attempt to ban thousands of legal firearms.

★ = No limits on firearm and ammunition.

Question #2 - Unconstitutional Federal Infringements

Supported both by historical and legal precedent, states have used the Tenth Amendment to protect citizens from federal over-reach. This ensures that individual citizens are not forced to foot the bill for standing up to patently unconstitutional laws or executive orders.

The “Firearms Protection Act” would nullify unconstitutional federal actions regarding firearms in Virginia. It would prohibit both the expenditure of state or local resources for enforcing such federal actions and impose penalties on state and federal officials who attempt to implement unconstitutional restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms.

★ = No more gun control or unconstitutional laws + orders

Question #3 - Constitutional Carry

Currently there are fifteen states in the country that have restored what is referred to as “Constitutional Carry.” This law simply allows anyone who is *legally eligible to purchase* a firearm (which does not include felons and other prohibited persons) to carry a concealed handgun without need of a government- issued permit.

★ = Always supported Constitutional Carry

Question #4 - Stand Your Ground

Commonly known as Stand Your Ground, this important law is a means of ensuring that citizens who lawfully use deadly force to protect themselves and their loved ones are protected from criminal and civil litigation. Without Stand Your Ground, citizens are left to the whims of activists and district attorneys looking to pursue cases against gun owners exercising their basic right to defense.

★ = Always supported Stand Your Ground laws and want citizens to have more protections + qualified immunity.

Question #5 - National Instant Check System and Expansion of Background Checks

Opponents of gun rights use the background check ploy to seize on the so-called “gun show loophole” to attack the private sale of firearms to law-abiding citizens by enrolling their personal information in NICS or other state registration schemes.

Pushing so-called “universal” background checks on all gun buyers is nothing more than a maneuver to severely restrict private firearms sales. The addition of new personal information of law-abiding gun owners to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), or a state equivalent, is a gun registration scheme and a prelude to confiscation. State laws to capture

and store the personal data of individuals who can legally own firearms go far beyond current federal requirements. ✱ = Against Universal Background checks and using NICS

Question #6 – Mental Health

A recent study by Harvard and the National Institute of Health found that up to half of all Americans will experience some form of mental illness in their lifetime. Anti-gun activists argue this is reason enough to single out law-abiding Americans, or entire classes of law-abiding Americans, and strip gun rights from them without trial.

The current law encourages stigmatizing those with mental health issues by denying them their gun rights and allowing law enforcement to seize firearms without the due process rights guaranteed under the 5th and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution. No Constitutional right should be taken away from any American without full due process in a court of law

✱ = No rights or freedoms will be taken away without due process of law.

Question #7 - Preemption

Law-abiding gun owners should not have to fear running afoul of an obscure local ordinance restricting the Second Amendment. Cities and counties should not be free to create a patchwork quilt of anti-gun regulations.

✱ = No local or state ordinance against #2A.

Question #8- “Red Flag” Laws

Commonly referred to as Extreme Risk Protection Orders, or Gun Violence Restraining orders, so-called “red flag” legislation allows law enforcement to confiscate firearms from law-abiding Virginians without full due process. Due process protections are afforded to American citizens by the Fourth Amendment and using *ex parte* orders issued based on unsubstantiated allegations from friends, relatives, neighbors or past acquaintances is a violation of the Fourth Amendment. Simply put, the current law is gun confiscation.

✱ = No Red Flag laws will I support.

Question #9- “Gun-Free” Zones

So-called “gun-free zones” serve only as “criminal-safe zones,” where armed thugs can be assured their victims are unarmed. Sadly, virtually all of the mass shootings in recent history have been perpetrated in such “gun-free zones.”

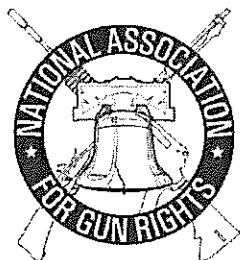
Removing these “gun-free zones” and allowing law-abiding citizens to carry their firearms to protect themselves could help prevent, or at least curb, loss of life in mass shootings.

✱ = No gun free zones. Citizens will be able to fight back at all times.

Question #10 – Gun Rationing

Virginia’s one-gun-a-month rationing scheme is an unconstitutional law and only serves to limit the law-abiding citizen’s ability to purchase firearms. It does nothing to prevent crime.

✱ = No Gun Rationing. I want citizens to buy as many guns, ammo, and be prepared at all times for criminals.



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DEFENDING THE SECOND AMENDMENT STANDING UP FOR FREEDOM

This 2021 Virginia Candidate Survey is prepared for Merle T. Rutledge Jr seeking election to the office of Governor in District 2 of the Commonwealth of Virginia as a member of the Republican Party.

Please return your completed and signed survey no later than _____.

1. Would you oppose laws that limit the sale, manufacture, importation or possession of rifles, shotguns, or handguns (including semi-automatic firearms), ammunition or magazines?
Yes No

2. Would you support laws protecting Virginia residents by prohibiting state and federal law-enforcement from enforcing unconstitutional federal infringements on the Second Amendment?
Yes No

3. Would you support legislation to implement no-permit necessary, "Constitutional Carry," which would allow law-abiding citizens to carry firearms concealed for self-defense, without a government-issued permit or training card?
Yes No

4. Would you support Stand Your Ground laws, which codify the right of all law-abiding citizens to defend themselves or their loved ones with deadly force if necessary, in any place they have the legal right to be, without being subjected to malicious criminal prosecution or civil litigation?
Yes No

5. Do you oppose laws that outlaw private gun sales and add new data on law-abiding Virginia residents to the federal firearms registry known as the National Instant Check System?
Yes No

6. Would you oppose so-called "mental health" legislation to compel the reporting of confidential patient information to federal authorities, or to funnel the names of law-abiding Virginians into the NICS federal firearms registry, without full due process and adjudication through a court of law?

Yes No

7. Would you oppose laws allowing municipalities and counties to enact restrictions on the ownership, possession, carrying, transfer, purchase or manufacture of firearms or ammunition?

Yes No

8. Would you oppose "red flag" laws which authorize the seizure of firearms from law-abiding citizens without the full due process protections afforded to American citizens by the Fourth Amendment?

Yes No

9. If elected, would you support legislation to reduce or eliminate government mandated "gun-free" zones?

Yes No

10. Would you oppose Virginia's draconian "one gun a month" law?

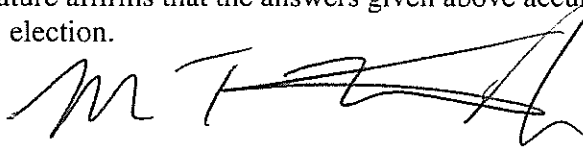
Yes No

** Please Note: Failure to answer a question will be graded as an anti-gun answer.*

-- Candidate Authorization --

My signature affirms that the answers given above accurately represent my beliefs as a candidate in the 2021 election.

Signed: _____



_____ Date

12/17/2020