

Policy Issues Important to Canvassing

By Jeanne Miranda

Gun Legislation

Are gun safety laws effective for lowering gun violence?

1. *International comparisons:*
 - a. U.S. least restrictive gun laws:
 - i. 120 guns per 100 people and 4 homicides per 100,000 people per year
 - ii. These are all homicides, not just gun violence, taking into account that other means could be used if guns are banned.
 - b. UK bans many guns, including that only special police carry guns
 - i. 5 guns per 100 people and the US has 100 times the rate of homicides as compared to the UK
 - c. Japan most guns are banned
 - i. 0.3 guns per 100 people; the homicide rate in the US is 200 times the rate of homicides in Japan
2. *Within the United States* – small study over 36 years (Shell et al., Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, June 2020).
 - a. Looked at changes in 3 laws: right to carry, stand your ground, child access
 - i. Following legislation increasing right to carry and stand your ground, 3% increase in gun deaths
 - ii. Following legislation restricting child access, making it illegal to carry in public, and no stand your ground laws, 11% reduction in gun deaths.

Conclusion: Gun legislation is highly effective for lowering gun violence.

Are those we canvass likely to be worried about gun violence and want stricter gun laws? (Pew Research Center, June 2023, “Gun Violence Widely Viewed as a Major – and Growing – National Problem”)

1. 60% of Americans say gun violence is a very big national problem
 - a. 81% of Democrats or those who lean Democrat
 - b. 38% of Republicans or those who lean Republican
2. More than 60% of Latino voters are concerned about gun safety, particularly parents after the Uvalde school shootings.

3. About 51% of the U.S. population wants stricter gun safety laws
 - a. 80% of Democrats favor stricter gun safety laws
 - b. 53% of Independents favor stricter gun safety laws
 - c. 22% of Republicans favor stricter gun safety laws

Conclusion: Those we canvass are likely to be interested in supporting gun safety laws.

Where do our candidates stand on gun safety?

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- **George Whitesides:**

- *Commitment to vote for gun safety:*

He will push for meaningful solutions to gun violence, including expanding background checks to all guns, disarming domestic abusers and those who pose a threat to themselves and others, and funding community violence intervention programs.

- *Endorsed:*

Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

- **Mike Garcia:**

- *Votes*

- Voted against HR 8 "Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021"
- Voted against HR 1808 "Assault Weapons Ban of 2022"
- Voted against HR 7910 "Protecting our Kids Act"
- Voted against S 2938 "Bipartisan Safer Communities Act"

- *Endorsed*

- National Rifle Association gives him a 92% or A rating

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- **Dave Min**

- *Commitment to vote for gun safety laws*

- Assault weapons ban
- Expanded background checks
- Red flag laws
- Ban ghost guns
- Push for gun storage safety
- Expand liability for gun manufacturers

- *Endorsed*

- National Rifle Association gives him an F rating

- **Scott Baugh**

- *Commitment from funding*

- Has accepted funding from the National Rifle Association Victory Fund and the National Shooting Sports Foundation PAC, two organizations *known for relentless opposition to gun control measures.*
- *Endorsed*
 - National Rifle Association gives him a solid A

Conclusion: A vote for George Whitesides or Dave Min will increase our chances of enacting important legislation to lower gun violence in the U.S. A vote for Mike Garcia or Scott Baugh will ensure that gun violence will continue unchecked in the U.S.

How do we talk about gun safety as we canvass?

Do they relate to having personal concerns about guns violence?

1. Fearing for your children/grandchildren at school
2. Checking out exits when in public spaces
3. Not walking neighbors misdirected mail to their door mailbox unless you know them.

Do they want to know how their vote could influence gun safety in the future?