



NRA-PVF

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2020 Connecticut Candidate Questionnaire

Name: _____
Campaign Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip Code: _____
Office Sought: _____ District: _____ Party: _____
Campaign Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Website: _____ Email: _____

For further information on Connecticut firearm laws,
please visit www.nraila.org and click on the "Gun Laws" feature located in the menu.

1. Do you agree that the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees a fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms that applies to all law-abiding Americans, regardless of where they live in the United States?

- ☐ a. Yes.
☐ b. No.

2. Considering current Connecticut firearm laws, do you support any additional restrictive state legislation regulating the sale, use or possession of firearms or ammunition?

- ☐ a. Yes, for all firearms and ammunition. Please explain: _____
☐ b. Yes, for certain firearms and/or ammunition. Please explain: _____
☐ c. No, current state firearm laws are sufficient.
☐ d. No, current state firearm laws should be improved to benefit law-abiding gun owners and sportsmen in Connecticut.

3. Do you support state legislation banning the manufacture, possession, ownership, purchase, sale and/or transfer of any firearm?

- ☐ a. Yes, for all firearms. Please specify type of restriction(s): _____
☐ b. Yes, for all handguns. Please specify type of restriction(s): _____
☐ c. Yes, for some firearms. Please specify types of firearms/restriction(s): _____
☐ d. No, I oppose banning the manufacture, possession, ownership, purchase, sale and/or transfer of any firearm.

4. Do you support legislation requiring individuals to obtain a state license* to own, possess or purchase firearms?

**Licensing, as used here, refers to state legislation requiring firearm owners to obtain a license from a governmental official or agency to own and possess a firearm; as a general rule, firearm owner licensing laws require fingerprinting, photographing and a background investigation of the applicant. Note: This is different than obtaining a concealed carry permit.*

- ☐ a. Yes, for owners of all firearms.
☐ b. Yes, but only for owners of handguns.
☐ c. Yes, but only for owners of specific firearms. Please list: _____
☐ d. No, I oppose state licensing of firearm owners.

5. Do you support state legislation requiring firearm owners to register their firearm(s) in a centralized state file or database?

- ☐ a. Yes, for all firearms.
☐ b. Yes, for all handguns.
☐ c. Yes, for some firearms. Please specify: _____
☐ d. No, I oppose state registration of firearms.

6. In 2013, legislation (Senate Bill 1160) was enacted in Connecticut banning the sale and possession of certain semi-automatic firearms and magazines holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition. In addition, this legislation required the registration of these firearms and magazines, as well as an ammunition purchaser certificate. In 1994, Congress imposed a similar ban on the manufacture, for sale to private individuals, of various semi-automatic* firearms it termed as “assault weapons,” and ammunition magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition, which primarily affected handguns designed for self-defense. Subsequently, in 2004, this federal ban expired and the numbers of these firearms and magazines have risen to an all-time high while violent crime has fallen to an all-time low. This 10-year ban was a resounding failure that only impacted law-abiding gun owners and sportsmen. **With regard to Connecticut’s law, I would:**

- ☐ a. Support repealing this law. The focus should be on easing restrictions for law-abiding gun owners and sportsmen while addressing the broken mental health system.
- ☐ b. Support expanding this law to include additional firearms. Please explain: _____
- ☐ c. Support retaining this law as it was enacted.

7. Some states have enacted legislation prohibiting the sale of more than one firearm per individual in any 30-day period (one-gun-a-month). There is no evidence that limiting the number of firearms a law-abiding citizen can purchase in an arbitrary period of time has lowered violent crime rates. **Would you support state legislation prohibiting an individual who has undergone a criminal background check from purchasing more than one firearm per month?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation. Please explain: _____
- ☐ b. Yes, I would support such legislation if it were limited to only handguns.
- ☐ c. No, I would oppose such legislation.

8. **Would you support legislation restricting the type or amount of ammunition a law-abiding citizen can purchase in any specified time period?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support legislation restricting the type of ammunition purchased in a specified time period. Please specify type and time period: _____
- ☐ b. Yes, I would support legislation restricting the amount of ammunition purchased in a specified time period. Please specify amount and time period: _____
- ☐ c. No, I would oppose such legislation.

9. In 2013, Governor Malloy signed a bill to require law-abiding individuals over the age of 18 to obtain an “ammunition certificate” to purchase ammunition and magazines. **Would you support repealing the Connecticut requirement for an “ammunition certificate” to purchase ammunition and magazines as an ineffective means to reduce violent crime that nonetheless hinders the ability of law-abiding citizens to exercise their right to keep and bear arms?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support legislation repealing the Connecticut requirement for an “ammunition eligibility certificate.”
- ☐ b. No, I would oppose such legislation.

10. In the United States, the number of privately owned firearms is at an all-time high and rises by more than 10 million annually. Meanwhile, the firearm accident death rate has decreased more than 90 percent over the last century. Accidents have declined in part due to NRA firearm safety training programs used by over 100,000 NRA Certified Instructors as well as hundreds of schools, civic groups, and law enforcement agencies. Nevertheless, several states have considered legislation to require locking devices on firearms kept in the home. A lock severely limits the ability to use a firearm for self-defense purposes and potentially increases the risk of a firearm accident. **Would you support state legislation mandating the use of locking devices (safes, trigger locks, cable locks, lock boxes, etc.) or other locking procedures for firearms stored in the home?**

- ☐ a. Yes.
- ☐ b. No.
- ☐ c. No, I would oppose such legislation but would support a resolution encouraging Connecticut’s public schools to adopt NRA’s Eddie Eagle GunSafe® accident prevention program as part of its curriculum.

11. In 2007, legislation was enacted making it a crime to fail to report the loss or theft of a firearm within 72 hours from when the owner “knew or should have known” about the loss or theft. While the NRA does not oppose the voluntary reporting of lost or stolen firearms, the NRA strongly opposes this misguided law since it has not reduced illegal gun trafficking while posing a risk to law-abiding gun owners who can innocently run afoul of this poorly written law. **Would you support legislation repealing this state law?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support repealing this state law, as it provides no advantage to law enforcement and places law-abiding citizens in jeopardy of breaking the law.
- ☐ b. No, I would oppose repealing this state law, even if it were shown to be ineffective. Please explain: _____

12. Connecticut is one of 49 states that issues licenses or permits to carry handguns for self-defense. Many of these states enter into reciprocity agreements that require law enforcement to recognize permits from other states. These agreements allow permit holders to protect themselves while traveling. **Would you support state legislation authorizing the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into handgun permit reciprocity agreements with other states?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation. Citizens from other states with similar permit issuance criteria should be able to exercise the same degree of self-protection while visiting Connecticut as they can in their home state.
- ☐ b. No, I would oppose such legislation.

13. Section 29-28 of Connecticut's general statutes allows individuals to obtain a permit to carry a handgun if they fulfill the "suitable person" clause. The definition of "suitable person" is one who has completed a firearm safety course, passed a background and criminal history check, submitted fingerprints and photographs, and has no felony or misdemeanor convictions. The "suitable person" clause also gives the issuing authority power to deny a permit to carry, if the issuing authority does not find the applicant "suitable." **Which one of the following statements best describes your position regarding issuance of Connecticut handgun carry permits?**

- ☐ a. I support retaining the current law.
- ☐ b. I support changing the current law to make it easier for law-abiding citizens to obtain a permit to carry a firearm.
- ☐ c. I would support changing the law to make it more difficult to receive a carry permit.

14. Currently, there are 49 states with some form of firearms preemption, which guarantees the state sole responsibility in the field of firearms regulation. Connecticut does not currently have such a law. As a result, some cities and towns in Connecticut have passed ordinances affecting firearms sales, ownership, possession or use, resulting in a "patchwork" of confusing and conflicting laws throughout the state. **Would you support legislation providing for uniform firearms laws statewide?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☐ b. No, I would oppose such legislation. Please explain: _____

15. Connecticut law requires that a prospective handgun owner possess a permit to carry a handgun, a permit to sell a handgun, or a handgun eligibility certificate in order to purchase or receive a handgun. A prospective long gun owner must possess a long gun eligibility certificate in order to purchase any rifle or long gun (excluding the holder of a state Permit to Carry a Pistol or Revolver, a pistol or revolver retail sales permit, or a pistol or revolver eligibility certificate). However, most states rely on the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) at point of purchase. Under this system, licensed dealers contact the FBI via a toll-free telephone number to run a check of computerized criminal history and mental health records at the point of sale. Upon confirmation that the purchaser has no prohibiting criminal or mental health record, the purchaser may take possession of the firearm. **Would you support legislation to repeal Connecticut's current system and instead rely on the FBI's NICS for all firearm transfers?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☐ b. No, I would oppose such legislation. Please explain: _____

16. A doctrine in common law, known as the "Castle Doctrine," is based on the concept that "a man's home is his castle" and that a person may therefore use any manner of force, including deadly force, to protect the home and its inhabitants. Over the years, some courts have eroded this principle by ruling that there is a "duty to retreat" before meeting force with force. **Would you support reforming Connecticut's "Castle Doctrine" laws so that: (1) a person would have the right to meet force with force to protect himself/herself and family members regardless of their location, (2) a "duty to retreat" would no longer exist in any place a person may lawfully be and (3) a person justified in the use of force would be protected from criminal and civil liability?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☐ b. No, I would oppose such legislation. Please explain: _____

17. In some states, gun control supporters have promoted legislation that would require all new firearms to be equipped with "smart" gun features supposedly designed to prevent a firearm from being fired by someone other than its owner. Their proposals range from utilizing fingerprint technology designed to limit functionality to only one authorized user, to placing tracking and disabling devices in the firearm, which functionally allow the government to track and remotely disable any "smart" gun which could be used to the gun owner's disadvantage. "Smart" gun technologies are still in the developmental stage and studies have found that they are not technically reliable. Even law enforcement has expressed concerns about its reliability. Gun control advocates never mention the fact that these technologies completely disregard the practicalities of defensive firearm use, are commercially unavailable, are proven unreliable, would constitute a significant invasion of privacy, and will substantially increase the cost of new firearms. **Would you support legislation mandating the sale of "smart" guns?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☐ b. No, I would oppose such legislation.

18. **Would you support legislation that would allow petitioners of domestic violence protective orders to carry a concealed handgun without a permit (if not otherwise prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a firearm) while they go through the process of applying for their handgun carry permit?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would co-sponsor such legislation.
- ☐ b. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☐ c. No, I would oppose such legislation.

19. Under current state law (Conn. Gen. Stat. §29-35), a police officer must have a “reasonable suspicion” that a crime is being committed before requesting proof of a concealed carry permit from an individual when the officer observes the carrying of a firearm by the individual. The “reasonable suspicion” standard has been articulated numerous times by the U.S. Supreme Court as an essential requirement of the 4th Amendment and remains one of the central tenants of American democracy. However, legislation has been introduced in the Connecticut legislature to strip the “reasonable suspicion” standard and allow police officers to demand the production of a permit whenever the officer has a reason to believe an individual is carrying a firearm, irrespective of whether the officer suspects criminal activity is occurring or will take place. **Would you support such legislation?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I support removal of the “reasonable suspicion” standard from §29-35 and would support allowing police officers to demand a concealed carry permit even where the officer has no reasonable suspicion that a crime or criminal activity is underway.
- ☐ b. No, I believe protections against unreasonable searches and seizures – as codified in §29-35 – are a central tenant of our democracy and I would vote against any legislation to remove such protections from current law.

20. Under current federal law, handgun purchases from a federally licensed dealer are restricted to individuals who have reached the age of 21. Some have argued this purchase restriction should be extended to all firearms, including rifles and shotguns, effectively denying them their Second Amendment rights. In addition, some lawmakers want to go even further and prohibit the possession and ownership of firearms by anyone under the age of 21. The NRA believes that 18-20 year old adults have the same constitutional rights as all Americans, and such restrictions would only limit the right of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves against violent attack while doing nothing to combat crime. **Do you believe law abiding adults 18-20 years of age should be prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms?**

- ☐ a. I support extending the current handgun purchase prohibition by those under 21 to include all firearms.
- ☐ b. I support extending the current handgun purchase prohibition by those under 21 to also prohibit possession and ownership of handguns only.
- ☐ c. I support extending the current handgun purchase prohibition by those under 21 to also prohibit the purchase, possession, or ownership of any firearm.
- ☐ d. I support extending the current handgun purchase prohibition by those under 21 to also prohibit the purchase, possession, or ownership of semi-automatic rifles and shotguns.
- ☐ e. I oppose any effort to extend the current handgun purchase prohibition in any way. I believe 18-20 year olds have the same constitutional rights as all citizens.

21. **Which of the following best describes your attitude toward hunting?**

- ☐ a. Hunting is a valuable tool for wildlife management, a positive use of natural resources and an American tradition that teaches young people responsibility and respect for the outdoors.
- ☐ b. Hunting should be banned.
- ☐ c. Other. Please explain: _____

22. Youth/mentored hunting programs have been implemented in 40 states to help promote our hunting heritage by removing barriers to participation. This enormous case study has proven safe beyond anyone’s expectations. Mentored hunting allows novice hunters - young and old - to hunt prior to completing hunter education requirements if they hunt under the close supervision of a licensed, adult hunter who meets hunter education requirements. This is the “try it before you buy it” concept. The “youth” component of the program eliminates or significantly decreases the minimum hunter age, allowing parents to decide when it’s appropriate to introduce their children to hunting. **Would you support a youth/mentored hunting law to help promote Connecticut’s hunting heritage?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support implementing a youth/mentored hunting law.
- ☐ b. No, I oppose implementing a mentored hunting law.
- ☐ c. Other. Please explain: _____

23. Residents of 40 states can legally use firearm suppressors while hunting. Contrary to Hollywood portrayals, suppressors are virtually never used in crime or poaching and criminal misuse carries severe penalties. Suppressors can improve shooting accuracy, protect against hearing loss, reduce noise complaints from the public and make shooting and hunting more enjoyable. The current prohibition on the use of a suppressor while hunting, in effect, requires firearms to be as loud as they can possibly be, contrary to the manner in which virtually all other noise-emitting objects are treated. **Would you support legislation that allows the use of suppressors while hunting and allow law-abiding Connecticut sportsmen the freedom to protect against hearing loss, improve accuracy and reduce noise complaints?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☐ b. No, I would oppose such legislation. Please explain: _____

24. Several states have recently considered measures to restrict the sale of lawfully possessed ivory and ivory products, including firearms that have ivory grips, sight beads, or other accents. These measures generally do not differentiate between legally acquired and illegal ivory, and many go so far as to regulate products made from mammoth or mastodon ivory. NRA supports effective measures that reduce illegal elephant poaching, but restricting the sale of legally acquired ivory products will not further that goal. **Would you support legislation to restrict the sale or transfer of legally acquired ivory products?**

- ☐ a. Yes. Please explain: _____
- ☐ b. No.

25. Connecticut is one of only a few states that restrict traditional hunting on Sunday. These prohibitions are the last vestiges of so-called “blue laws,” and have no scientific or biological justification. Other “blue law” prohibitions have been repealed over the years, because policy makers have concluded that citizens should be free to determine for themselves what is appropriate or not for their particular circumstances. The prohibition against Sunday hunting is the last, and only, “blue law” still on the books in Connecticut. Sunday hunting prohibitions detrimentally affect critical hunter recruitment efforts and participation at a time when hunter numbers are declining across the country. Research shows that allowing hunting on Sundays in Connecticut would generate a total annual economic impact estimated at **\$38 million** and create approximately **500 jobs**. **Would you support legislation repealing the Sunday hunting ban in Connecticut?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support this legislation.
☐ b. No, I would oppose this legislation. Please explain: _____
☐ c. Other. Please explain: _____

26. **Are you a member of the National Rifle Association or any other firearm/shooting sports/sportsmen’s organization?**

- ☐ a. Yes. NRA Membership #: _____ Other Organization(s): _____
☐ b. No.

27. **Have you ever run for or held an elected office?**

- ☐ a. Yes. Please specify: _____
☐ b. No.

Please use the space below or a separate sheet of paper for any additional comments.
If your campaign has released a position paper on firearms issues, please feel free to include it.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

--AUTHORIZATION--

This signature attests that the above information accurately represents the views of the candidate.

Candidate’s Signature: _____ **Date:** _____