



NRA-PVF

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2020 Massachusetts Candidate Questionnaire

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

For further information on Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts firearm laws, would you support any additional restrictive state legislation regulating 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 reformed to benefit law-abiding gun owners and sportsmen in Massachusetts.

3. Would 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 laws banning any firearm.

4. In 1994, Congress imposed a 10-year ban on the manufacture, for sale to private individuals, of various semi-automatic* firearms it termed "assault weapons," and of ammunition magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition, which primarily affected handguns designed for self-defense. In 1998, Massachusetts also enacted its state "semi-automatic weapons" and "high capacity" ammunition magazine ban. Congress' subsequent study of the ban, as well as state and local law enforcement agency reports, showed that contrary to the ban's supporters' claims, these firearms and magazines are misused in less than one percent of violent crime. Since the federal semi-auto ban expired in 2004, the numbers of these firearms and magazines owned have risen to all-time highs while violent crime has fallen to an all-time low. Massachusetts' "semi-automatic weapons" ban is still in place even with the federal ban no longer in existence. **Would you support legislation repealing Massachusetts' "semi-automatic weapons" and "high capacity" ammunition magazine ban?** *Semi-automatic firearms have been commonly used for hunting, target shooting, and self-defense since their introduction in the late 1800s. All semi-automatics fire only one shot when the trigger is pulled. They are not fully-automatic machine guns, which have been strictly regulated under federal law since 1934.

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation for semi-automatic firearms only.
☐ b. Yes, I would support such legislation for ammunition magazines only. Please specify magazine capacity limit: _____
☐ c. Yes, I would support such legislation for semi-automatic firearms and ammunition magazines.
☐ d. No, I would oppose such legislation.

5. In 2016, the Attorney General's Office issued an "enforcement notice," which greatly expanded the Commonwealth's definition of "assault weapon" to further restrict the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners in Massachusetts. In the notice, Attorney General Healey alleged that the statutory ban's definition of "copy" or "duplicate" "assault weapons" has been misinterpreted for the last 18 years and she asserts that her interpretation is the first time it has been correctly applied. For nearly two decades, firearm retailers had been operating under an interpretation of the law that was supported by all state regulatory agencies; however, the Attorney General's Office unilaterally decided that these retailers have been illegally selling firearms that are "copies or duplicates" of "assault weapons." In response, scores of legislators signed a joint letter to AG Healey voicing their strong opposition to her notice and legislation was ultimately introduced challenging the Attorney General's decision making. **Would you support legislation restoring the intent and operating practices for firearm retailers prior to the "enforcement notice" of June 19, 2016?**

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

6. Many .50 caliber firearms are used in big game hunting and target competition, and the .50 caliber BMG cartridge has been used for nearly a century. **Would you support state legislation prohibiting the ownership and/or sale of any .50 caliber firearms or ammunition in Massachusetts?**

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

7. **Would you support repealing the Commonwealth's current handgun/long gun licensing* system for individuals who own and possess firearms?**

**Licensing, as used here, refers to requiring firearm owners to obtain a license from a governmental official or agency to own and possess a firearm. As a general rule, firearm licensing laws require fingerprinting, photographing, and a background investigation of the applicant. Note: This is different from acquiring a "permit to carry" a handgun.*

- ☐ a. Yes, I support repealing the firearm identification licensing system for **all firearm owners**.
☐ b. Yes, I support repealing the firearm identification licensing system for **handgun owners only**.
☐ c. Yes, I support repealing the firearm identification licensing system for **long gun (rifles/shotguns) owners only**.
☐ d. No, I support state licensing of all firearms and oppose its repeal.

8. In addition to the federal and state systems of licensed dealer recordkeeping of all firearm sales, Massachusetts law requires firearm dealers to report the sale or transfer of all firearms including the name of the purchaser and make, model and serial number of the firearm for entry into a centralized state file or database. **Would you support legislation repealing this state law?**

- ☐ a. Yes, for all firearms.
☐ b. Yes, for some firearms. Please specify: _____
☐ c. No, I support the current state registration system.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. A doctrine in common law, known as the "Castle Doctrine," provides that a man's home is his castle, and that he may use any manner of force, including deadly force, to protect it 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 Massachusetts' 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: _____

12. In the United States, the number of privately owned firearms has risen by more than 10 million annually to an all-time high. 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. Currently, Massachusetts requires firearms to be stored in a specific manner. This “mandatory storage” law requires all firearms, when not in use, with the exception of primitive firearms, to be stored or kept “secured in a locked container or equipped with a tamper-resistant mechanical lock or other safety device,” to prevent unauthorized use. A lock severely limits the ability to use a firearm for self-defense purposes and potentially increases the risk of firearm accident. **Would you support state legislation eliminating the mandatory 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 not support such legislation and would instead support a resolution encouraging Massachusetts public schools to adopt NRA’s Eddie Eagle GunSafe® accident prevention program as part of its curriculum.

13. Forty-nine states have some form of a concealed carry permit system (Vermont does not require a permit) for its citizens, enabling law-abiding citizens to carry a concealed firearm for defense of themselves and others. **Would you support legislation placing any additional restrictions on license applicants or where license holders may lawfully carry?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation. Please specify restriction(s): _____
- ☐ b. Yes, I would support such legislation and also believe concealed carry should be repealed.
- ☐ c. No, I believe Massachusetts concealed carry laws are adequate.
- ☐ d. No, I would oppose such legislation and would support making it easier for law-abiding citizens to obtain a concealed carry permit and to lawfully carry.

14. Forty-nine states have some form of firearms preemption, which guarantees that the state has sole occupation of the field of firearm regulations. This prevents a "patchwork" of local regulations that could easily entrap law-abiding firearm owners who travel from one jurisdiction to another. Unfortunately, Massachusetts' firearm preemption is based solely on judicial ruling. **Would you support state firearm preemption legislation that prohibits local governments from enacting and enforcing laws relating to the purchase, sale, transfer, ownership, possession, use, carrying or transportation of firearms or ammunition?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support firearm preemption legislation.
- ☐ b. No, I would oppose state firearms preemption legislation. Please explain: _____

15. Following Hurricane Katrina, various law enforcement agencies and military units confiscated firearms from law-abiding residents of New Orleans. Those citizens were effectively denied their basic right of self-defense, at a critical time when law enforcement was unable to provide public safety. **Would you support state legislation prohibiting state and local officials from confiscating lawfully owned firearms and ammunition or prohibiting the transport, sale, carrying and use of firearms, during declared states of emergencies, except in the course of enforcing existing laws against criminal possession or use of firearms?**

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

16. Some jurisdictions deprive responsible, law-abiding persons of their right to keep and bear arms within their homes for self-defense merely because they reside in public housing. **Would you support state legislation to ensure that persons are not denied their Second Amendment rights merely because of their income by prohibiting public housing authorities from banning the otherwise lawful possession of firearms by residents?**

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

17. Suppressors may be legally obtained in 42 states, and they are lawful for hunting in 40. Suppressors are mechanical devices which reduce the noise and recoil experienced when firing a handgun, shotgun or rifle. They do not completely silence the report of the firearm, but reduce the sound that reaches the shooter by about the same degree as a pair of earplugs or earmuffs. Current Massachusetts law bans all possession of these devices in the state. **Would you support state legislation allowing private ownership of suppressors in Massachusetts, in compliance with all applicable federal law?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☐ b. Yes, but only for persons holding a federally-issued collector’s license.
- ☐ c. No, I believe that private ownership of suppressors should be prohibited.

18. **Do you agree that an individual should be entitled to judicial due process – including notice of the relevant accusations, opportunity to appear at a hearing before a neutral judge and to present evidence in his or her favor, and access to legal representation – before the individual is declared legally ineligible to possess firearms or forced to surrender any firearms the individual owns?**

- ☐ a. Yes, the Second Amendment is an important liberty interest for all Americans, and it should not be denied without stringent due process.
- ☐ b. No, it's always better to err on the side of safety where firearms are concerned, even if that results in a person being denied Second Amendment rights without due process.
- ☐ c. Other. Please explain: _____

19. 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, which would effectively deny law-abiding adults aged 18-20 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.

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

- ☐ a. Hunting is an essential tool for wildlife management and conservation as well as a great American tradition that teaches young people responsibility and deep respect for the outdoors.
- ☐ b. Hunting should be made illegal.
- ☐ c. Other. Please explain: _____

21. Massachusetts is one of only a few states that strictly prohibits 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. 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 Massachusetts would generate a total annual economic impact estimated at \$51 million and create approximately 530 jobs. **Would you support legislation repealing the ban on Sunday hunting in Massachusetts?**

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

22. Massachusetts has thousands of acres of public hunting lands that provide a valuable resource to Massachusetts hunters by providing them an affordable place to hunt, as well as to pass on the heritage of hunting to future generations. In recent years, several states have protected public hunting lands with “No-Net-Loss” legislation. This legislation requires that if an area currently open to public hunting is closed to hunting, the same number of acres of public land must be opened to hunting elsewhere. In other words, it guarantees that there will never be fewer acres of public land open to public hunting than exists today. **Would you support “No-Net-Loss” legislation in Massachusetts?**

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

23. 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 Massachusetts' hunting heritage?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support implementing a youth/mentored hunting law.
- ☐ b. No, I oppose implementing a mentored hunting law. Massachusetts will prove to be the exception to the rule of extraordinary safety established by the citizens of the 40 states that have implemented this program.
- ☐ c. Other. Please explain: _____

24. **Are you a member of the National Rifle Association, Gun Owners Action League or any other firearm/shooting sports/sportsmen's organization?**

___ a. Yes. NRA Membership #: _____ Other organization(s): _____
___ b. No.

25. **Are you a participant in any activities involving the use of a firearm?**

___ a. Yes. Please specify: _____
___ b. No.

26. **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 additional comments.
If your campaign has released a position paper on firearms issues, please feel free to include it as well.
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:** _____