

To: Interested Parties

From: GBA Strategies and Chesapeake Beach Consulting

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## Millennials Say Gun Culture Has Gotten Out of Control

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A new bi-partisan survey by GBA Strategies (D) and Chesapeake Beach Consulting (R) illustrates that young Americans have very serious concerns about the culture of gun violence in America. As a result, millennials support several common sense measures to reduce gun violence, especially in areas that affect young people directly such as in schools or on college campuses.

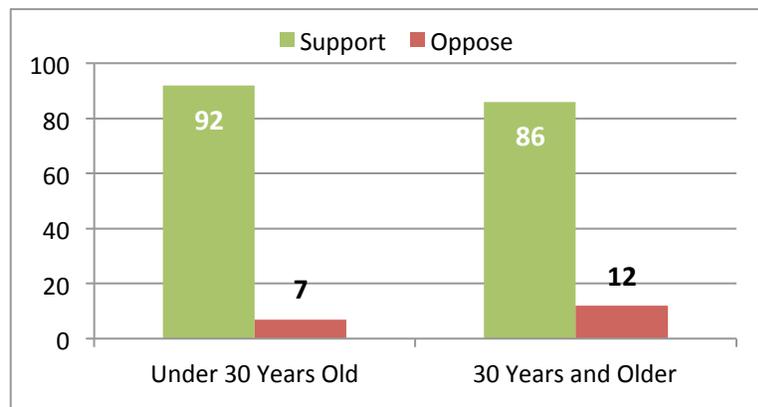
In many ways, younger Americans share the views of all Americans in supporting tougher legislation to reduce gun violence. But the new survey reveals the particular perspective young voters have about gun culture, classrooms and college campuses.

The following are key findings from a nationwide survey of 1000 registered voters. Interviews were conducted between April 11-14, 2013 and respondents were reached on both landlines and cell phones. The survey included an oversample of voters under 30 years old, 335 in total, which was weighted down to reflect their proportion of the overall electorate. Results for the survey carry a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points at the 95% confidence interval.

### Key Findings

- **More than nine in ten support criminal background checks.** Young voters join the vast majority of Americans who support criminal background checks for everyone who wants to buy a firearm. 92% of voters under 30 and 86% of voters 30+ support this proposal.

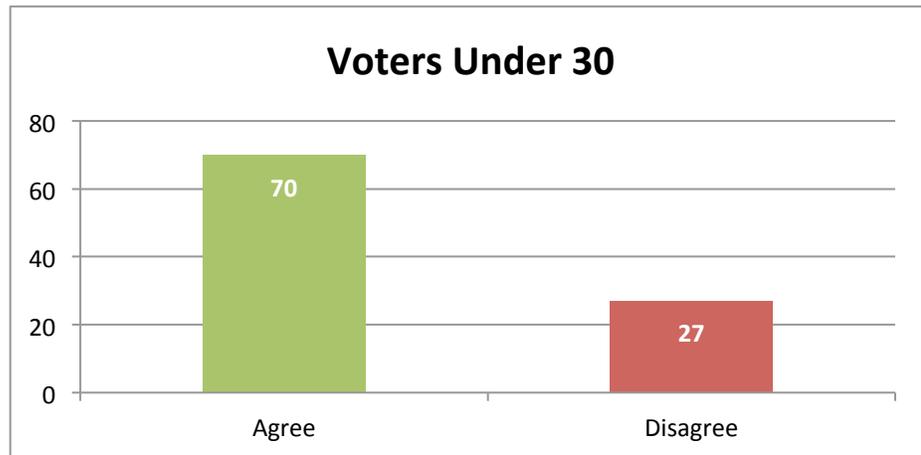
**A proposal to require criminal background checks for everyone who wants to buy a firearm**



- ❖ *Could make a difference at the ballot box.* A large share of younger voters (50%) say that they are more likely to cast a ballot for a Senator or member of Congress who voted for criminal background checks (only 8% less likely). 46% of Independents and Republicans under the age of 30 would be more likely to support a legislator who voted for criminal background checks.
- ❖ *Young voters also support a ban on assault weapons and prohibiting stalkers from buying firearms.* Young voters support a ban on the sale and possession of military-style semi-automatic assault weapons to everyone except the police and military by a 53 – 42% margin. A proposal to prohibit anyone convicted of stalking or under restraining orders for stalking from buying guns by an even more convincing 77 – 19% margin.

➤ **Younger voters more likely to see gun culture as out of control.** While Americans of all stripes agree that our gun control is getting out of control, younger voters are especially likely to feel this way. 70% of registered voters under the age of 30 agree with the statement that “*After the mass killings at colleges, high schools, movie theaters, and now elementary schools, the gun culture in our society has gotten out of control.*” Among voters age 30 and above, 59% agreed.

**After the mass killings at colleges, high schools, movie theaters, and now elementary schools, the gun culture in our society has gotten out of control**



- ❖ *Newtown shootings made many more likely to support stricter laws.* While 48% of younger voters say they support stricter gun laws in America (compared to 11% less strict), 42% say that the incident in Newtown made them more supportive of stricter laws (only 8% less likely)
- **Younger Americans feel safer in communities with fewer guns.** A majority of young Americans (52%) say that they feel safer in communities with fewer guns than they do in communities with more guns (just 32% say more guns make them feel safer). Older Americans also feel safer around fewer guns, but by a more narrow margin (46 – 38%).
- ❖ *Majority concerned they could be affected by gun violence.* 30% of voters under 30 say they already have been personally affected or know someone who has been affected by gun violence, but twice as many (60%) say they are concerned by the

possibility that it may affect them or people in their community. Among African Americans, 87% are concerned at this possibility.

- **Millennials oppose guns on college campuses and in classrooms.** By a 64 – 31% margin, younger voters do not think that teachers in public school classrooms should be allowed to carry firearms (58-36% among voters 30+). But they are even more adamant that they don't want to be on college campuses where students are carrying firearms. Just 19% of voters under 30 said they would feel safer on a college campus where students were allowed to carry firearms. An overwhelming 75% said that they would feel safer on a college campus where students were not allowed to carry firearms. Voters 30+ share this attitude.
- **Trust police chiefs and ER docs, but also Obama.** Voters under the age of 30 see police chiefs and emergency room doctors as the most trustworthy messengers on the issue of gun violence. 83% say they trust ER doctors either 'a lot' or 'somewhat' and 84% say the same thing about police chiefs. Mayors are also a trusted source for young voters (67%), as is President Obama. Overall, 56% of Americans say they trust the President on this issue, but that number rises to 66% with voters under 30 years old.