

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Jeffrey Pollock & Joe Hickerson  
**RE:** Survey Results Show Strong Veterans Support for Proposed Gun Law Changes  
**DATE:** April 10, 2013

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## METHODOLOGY

This memorandum summarizes the results of a nationwide survey of 804 registered voters who are veterans of the military. The survey was conducted online from April 2 to April 4, 2013 on behalf of CAP Action and VoteVets.

- Special care was taken to ensure that the geographic and demographic divisions of veteran voters nationwide have been properly represented.
- The margin of error associated with a sample of this size is 3.5% at the 95% confidence interval. This means that in 95 of 100 cases, the results of this survey are within plus or minus 3.5 points of the results that would have been obtained if all registered voters who have served in the military had been interviewed.

## KEY RESULTS

There is no question that veterans believe the President and Congress need to do something to address gun violence, and they believe it is possible to strengthen the country's gun laws while continuing to protect the right to bear arms.

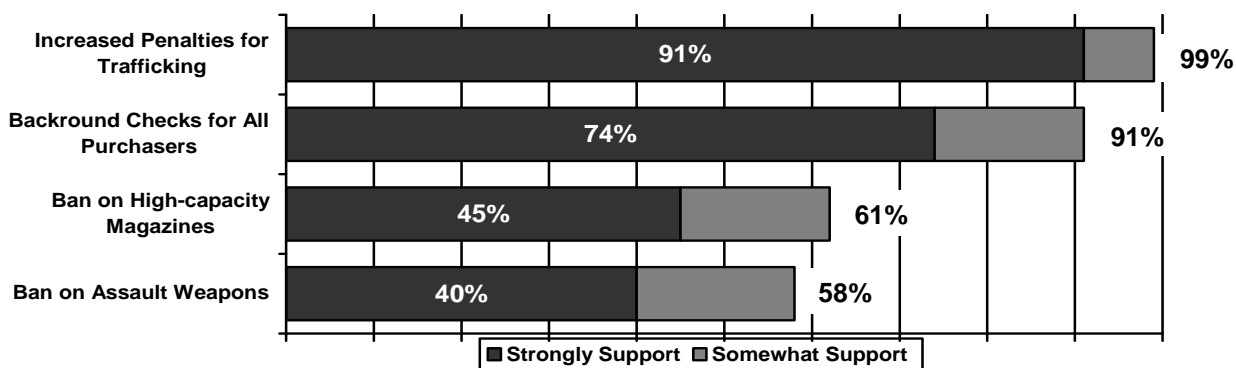
- A total 85% of veterans believe it is important for national leaders in Washington, DC to address the issue of gun violence – 39% say extremely important, 24% say very important and 22% say somewhat important.
- The vast majority of veterans (85%) agree “we can protect responsible gun owners’ Second Amendment rights while still making it more difficult for criminals and other dangerous people to obtain guns.” This includes 43% who strongly agree.
- In addition, while veterans’ opinions of the National Rifle Association are somewhat split, there are more with a favorable than unfavorable view (43% favorable/36% unfavorable).

Two of the four proposed changes to the country's gun laws that are being considered on Capitol Hill receive near unanimous support and a high level of intensity among veteran voters.

- More than nine in 10 veterans (91%) support requiring a criminal background check of every person who wants to buy a firearm, including 74% who strongly support it.
- Nearly all veterans (99%) support increasing criminal penalties for people convicted of illegally trafficking guns to criminals, including 91% who strongly support it.

The other proposed changes to the country's gun laws are also supported by a strong majority of veteran voters.

- More than six in 10 veterans (61%) support banning high-capacity ammunition magazines, including 45% who strongly support it.
- Nearly six in 20 veterans (58%) support banning assault-style weapons, including 40% who strongly support it.



The electoral impact of a legislator's support of criminal background checks among veteran voters is almost five times more likely to be positive than negative. But the electoral impact of an endorsement of a legislator by the NRA is a wash.

- Just 12% of veteran voters say a legislator supporting criminal background checks for every person who wants to buy a firearm would make them less likely to vote for them. But 58% say support for background checks would make them more likely to vote for the legislator. The remaining 29% say the issue is not important enough to them to affect their vote.
- In contrast, 31% of veteran voters say an NRA endorsement of a legislator would make them less likely to vote for the legislator, while 30% say the endorsement would make them more likely to vote for the legislator.