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Monmouth University Poll

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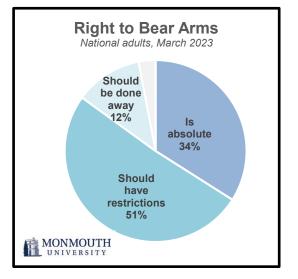
# NATIONAL: DROP IN ASSAULT WEAPON BAN SUPPORT

Support for background checks and red flag laws remains high

*West Long Branch, NJ* – Public opinion on an assault weapons ban has shifted from majority backing to a split decision. Support for background checks remains high, though not quite as strong as it was last year. The *Monmouth ("Mon-muth") University Poll* also finds that half of the country believes the frequency of mass shootings will increase over the next five years.

One in three Americans (34%) – including 59% of Republicans – say the Second Amendment right to bear arms is absolute and should not be limited. Just over half of the public (51%) – including 66% of Democrats – believes the right to bear arms is important but should have restrictions. Another 12% feel it would be better for the country if we did away with the right to bear arms entirely. These results are similar to a Monmouth poll taken in June 2022.

The public is currently divided over a ban on the future sale of assault weapons – 46% support this and 49% are opposed. Last year, a majority (55%) favored such a ban while 42% stood



in opposition. The drop in support has come mainly from independents (49% in 2022 to 37% now), but there have also been declines among Republicans (from 32% to 24%) and Democrats (from 82% to 77%).

"Despite continued incidents of mass shootings, public support for banning assault weapons has dipped. It's not clear why, since support for some other gun measures remains widespread," said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

About 8 in 10 Americans (81%) support requiring comprehensive background checks for all gun purchasers, which is similar to overall support levels last year. However, the number who *strongly support* background checks has declined from 73% in June 2022 to 64%. Moreover, just 28% of the

public feels the president should be able to order background checks by executive order, something President Joe Biden did in a limited approach last month. A majority (64%) say such a measure should only be instituted by an act of Congress.

"Support for background checks remains high, but not for the way President Biden tried to go about," said Murray.

The poll also finds that more than 7 in 10 Americans (72%) support a federal red flag law that would allow police to temporarily take away the guns of someone who poses a threat to themselves or others. This is similar to the 75% support level recorded last year, although *strong support* for red flag laws has dipped from 58% to 49%.

A majority of the public (56%) feels that individual states should be allowed to limit who can carry a concealed handgun by requiring permit applicants to demonstrate that they need the weapon for their work or for protection. Another 41% disagree, effectively siding with a U.S. Supreme Court decision last summer that curtailed states' ability to make gun laws. These findings are nearly identical to a June 2022 Monmouth poll which was taken shortly after the court's ruling.

About half of the public (49%) expects the frequency of mass shootings in the country to increase over the next five years. Just 8% believe the frequency will decrease and 39% feel it will stay about the same. Those who expect to see a rise in mass shootings include 69% of Democrats, 43% of independents, and 37% of Republicans. These results are similar to a year ago. [*Note: the poll was conducted before the recent Nashville shooting but after shootings in Michigan and California earlier this year and numerous other shootings last year that occurred subsequent to Monmouth's prior poll in June 2022.*]

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from March 16 to 20, 2023 with 805 adults in the United States. The question results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 5.8 percentage points for the full sample. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

## **QUESTIONS AND RESULTS**

(\* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

#### [Q1-10 previously released.]

11. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of the Second Amendment of the Constitution?

TREND:	March 2023	June 2022
The right to bear arms is an absolute right and should not be limited	34%	30%
The right to bear arms is important, but should have restrictions	51%	54%
It would be better for the country if we did away with the right to bear arms entirely	12%	15%
(VOL) Don't know	3%	1%
(n)	(805)	(978)

12. Do you support or oppose requiring comprehensive background checks for all gun purchasers, including private sales between two individuals? [Do you support/oppose that strongly or somewhat?]

eacingly of conne				
TREND:	March	June	Aug.	March
IREND.	2023	2022	2019	2018
Strongly support	64%	73%	68%	68%
Somewhat support	17%	10%	15%	15%
Somewhat oppose	6%	6%	4%	5%
Strongly oppose	10%	11%	9%	11%
(VOL) Don't know	3%	1%	3%	2%
(n)	(805)	(978)	(800)	(803)

13. Do you think the president should be able to order background checks for gun purchases by executive order or should this only be done by an act of Congress?

	March
	2023
Be able by executive order	28%
Only by an act of Congress	64%
(VOL) Don't know	8%
(n)	(805)

14. Do you support or oppose banning the future sale of assault weapons? [Do you support/oppose that strongly or somewhat?]

		,,	
TREND:	March	June	Aug.
ITTEND.	2023	2022	2019
Strongly support	37%	45%	44%
Somewhat support	9%	10%	12%
Somewhat oppose	16%	10%	10%
Strongly oppose	33%	32%	28%
(VOL) Don't know	6%	3%	6%
(n)	(805)	(978)	(800)

15. Do you support or oppose a federal red flag law that would allow police to temporarily take away the guns of someone who poses a threat to themselves or others? [Do you support/oppose that strongly or somewhat?]

support/oppose	that strong	iy or	somewna
TREND:	March	June	Aug.
IREND.	2023	2022	2019
Strongly support	49%	58%	53%
Somewhat support	23%	17%	22%
Somewhat oppose	8%	6%	7%
Strongly oppose	16%	18%	13%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	1%	4%
(n)	(805)	(978)	(800)

16. Do you agree or disagree that individual states should be allowed to limit who can carry a concealed handgun by requiring permit applicants to demonstrate that they need the weapon for their work or for protection?

anon work or io		-
TREND:	March	June
INLIND.	2023	2022
Agree	56%	56%
Disagree	41%	42%
(VOL) Don't know	3%	3%
(n)	(805)	(978)

17. Over the next five years, do you expect that the frequency of mass shootings in the country will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

TREND:	March	June
IREND.	2023	2022
Increase	49%	53%
Decrease	8%	9%
Stay about the same	39%	35%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	3%
(n)	(805)	(978)

[Q18-27 previously released.]

#### METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from March 16 to 20, 2023 with a probability-based national random sample of 805 adults age 18 and older. This includes 284 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 521 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone, in English. Telephone numbers were selected through a mix of random digit dialing and list-based sampling. Landline respondents were selected with a modified Troldahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Interviewing services were provided by Braun Research, with sample obtained from Dynata (RDD, n= 479), Aristotle (list, n= 133) and a panel of prior Monmouth poll participants (n= 193). Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. The full sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information (ACS 2021 one-year survey). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 5.8 percentage points adjusted for sample design effects (1.68). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)	
Self-Reported	
25% Republican	
45% Independent	
30% Democrat	
49% Male	
51% Female	
29% 18-34	
33% 35-54	
38% 55+	
61% White	
12% Black	
17% Hispanic	
10% Asian/Other	
67% No degree	
33% 4 year degree	

MARGIN OF FRROR			
WARGIN OF ERROR		unweighted	moe
		sample	(+/-)
TOTAL		805	5.8%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	748	6.0%
NEGIOTENED VOTEN	No	57	21.8%
SELF-REPORTED PARTY ID	Republican	216	11.2%
SEEF-REFORTED FARTIND	Independent	331	9.1%
	Democrat	243	9.1% 10.6%
IDEOLOGY	l iberal	243 183	12.2%
IDEOLOGY	Moderate	330	12.2% 9.1%
050050	Conservative	258	10.3%
GENDER	Male	395	8.3%
	Female	410	8.1%
AGE	18-34	124	14.8%
	35-54	291	9.7%
	55+	389	8.4%
CHILDREN IN HOME	Yes	201	11.6%
	No	600	6.7%
RACE	White, non-Hispanic	573	6.9%
	Other	216	11.2%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	394	8.3%
	4 year degree	407	8.2%
WHITE COLLEGE	White, no degree	288	9.7%
	White, 4 year degree	284	9.8%
INCOME	<\$50K	231	10.8%
	\$50 to <\$100K	232	10.8%
	\$100K+	300	9.5%
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				RED TO FE		PARTY ID		POLI	TICAL IDEOLO	DGY
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
statements comes closest to your view of the Second Amendment of the Constitution: [READ ITEMS] The right to bear arm important, but should restrictions It would be better for	The right to bear arms is an absolute right and should not be limited	34%	34%	37%	59%	38%	7%	11%	30%	59%
	The right to bear arms is important, but should have restrictions	51%	52%	45%	39%	49%	66%	64%	60%	29%
	It would be better for the country if we did away with the right to bear arms entirely	12%	12%	13%	0%	10%	27%	22%	8%	10%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	2%	5%	2%	4%	1%	3%	1%	2%
		GEN	DER		AGE 3-WAY		CHILDREN	I IN HOME	RA	CE

		GEN	GENDER		AGE 3-WAY		CHILDREN IN HOME		RA	CE
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk- Asn-Oth
statements comes closest to your view of the Second Amendment of the Constitution: [READ ITEMS] the right to bear and the constitution: [READ ITEMS] the right to bear and the right to bear and the right to be an additional to be and the right to be an additional to be and the right to be an additional to be additiona	The right to bear arms is an absolute right and should not be limited	45%	23%	24%	45%	32%	39%	32%	37%	28%
	The right to bear arms is important, but should have restrictions	43%	59%	58%	44%	53%	45%	53%	54%	47%
	It would be better for the country if we did away with the right to bear arms entirely	10%	15%	14%	10%	13%	15%	11%	7%	20%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	3%	4%	1%	3%	0%	3%	2%	4%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE C DEGI				
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
11. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of the Second Amendment of	The right to bear arms is an absolute right and should not be limited	37%	27%	42%	28%	24%	41%	40%
the Constitution: [READ ITEMS]	The right to bear arms is important, but should have restrictions	47%	58%	52%	59%	56%	48%	51%
	It would be better for the country if we did away with the right to bear arms entirely	12%	13%	4%	12%	17%	10%	9%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%	0%

		TOTAL	AL REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
12. Do you support or oppose	Strongly support	64%	66%	49%	50%	54%	92%	86%	63%	48%
background checks for all gun	Somewhat support	17%	16%	30%	22%	23%	5%	6%	24%	19%
purchasers, including private sales between two individuals? [Do you	Somewhat oppose	6%	6%	6%	9%	8%	1%	0%	6%	10%
support\oppose that strongly or somewhat?]	Strongly oppose	10%	10%	9%	17%	13%	2%	5%	5%	22%
,	[VOL] Dont know	3%	2%	5%	0%	3%	0%	3%	2%	1%

		GEN	GENDER		AGE 3-WAY		CHILDREN IN HOME		RA	CE
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk- Asn-Oth
12. Do you support or oppose	Strongly support	55%	72%	69%	58%	65%	63%	64%	60%	71%
requiring comprehensive background checks for all gun	Somewhat support	21%	13%	16%	18%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%
purchasers, including private sales between two individuals? [Do you support\oppose that strongly or	Somewhat oppose	7%	5%	5%	6%	7%	4%	7%	9%	1%
support\oppose that strongly or somewhat?]	Strongly oppose	15%	6%	7%	16%	8%	12%	9%	12%	6%
Somewhat:	[VOL] Dont know	2%	4%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	White non-Hisp 60% 17% 9% 12% 2% 2%	4%
					OLLEGE				1	
		COLLEG	E GRAD		REE		INCOME			
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+		
12. Do you support or oppose requiring comprehensive	Strongly support	62%	68%	57%	66%	68%	56%	66%	1	
background checks for all gun	Somewhat support	19%	14%	17%	16%	17%	22%	15%		
purchasers, including private sales between two individuals? [Do you	Somewhat oppose	6%	5%	10%	6%	6%	5%	7%		
support\oppose that strongly or somewhat?]	Strongly oppose	10%	11%	13%	11%	7%	15%	11%		
•	[VOL] Dont know	3%	2%	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%	White non-Hisp           60%           17%           9%           12%           2%	
			REGISTE		1					
		TOTAL	VO			PARTY ID		POL	ITICAL IDEOL	OGY
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
13. Do you think the president should be able to order	Be able by executive order	28%	29%	27%	7%	24%	55%	57%	25%	12%
background checks for gun purchases by executive order or	Only by an act of Congress	64%	64%	64%	86%	67%	40%	39%	70%	80%
should this only be done by an act of Congress?	[VOL] Dont know	8%	7%	9%	7%	9%	5%	4%	5%	8%
		GEN			AGE 3-WAY				I RA	CE
		GLIN								Hsp-Blk-
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No		Asn-Oth
13. Do you think the president should be able to order	Be able by executive order	23%	33%	34%	21%	31%	23%	31%	26%	33%
background checks for gun purchases by executive order or	Only by an act of Congress	69%	59%	59%	72%	61%	69%	62%	67%	59%
should this only be done by an act of Congress?	[VOL] Dont know	7%	8%	7%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%	8%

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		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE				
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
13. Do you think the president should be able to order	Be able by executive order	27%	33%	23%	30%	33%	27%	28%
background checks for gun purchases by executive order or	Only by an act of Congress	65%	61%	69%	65%	58%	68%	68%
should this only be done by an act of Congress?	[VOL] Dont know	9%	6%	8%	6%	9%	5%	3%

		TOTAL	TOTAL REGISTERED TO VOTE PARTY ID		POL	ITICAL IDEOL	OGY			
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
14. Do you support or oppose	Strongly support	37%	39%	22%	16%	27%	69%	66%	30%	22%
banning the future sale of assault weapons? [Do you	Somewhat support	9%	8%	14%	8%	10%	8%	8%	10%	8%
support\oppose that strongly or somewhat?]	Somewhat oppose	16%	14%	25%	19%	20%	7%	8%	22%	14%
	Strongly oppose	33%	33%	29%	55%	35%	13%	15%	32%	51%
	[VOL] Dont know	6%	5%	10%	3%	8%	3%	3%	6%	6%
		GEN	DER		AGE 3-WAY		CHILDREN	I IN HOME	RA	CE
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk- Asn-Oth
14. Do you support or oppose	Strongly support	26%	48%	31%	34%	44%	37%	37%	35%	40%
banning the future sale of assault weapons? [Do you	Somewhat support	9%	8%	11%	7%	8%	8%	9%	8%	10%
support\oppose that strongly or somewhat?]	Somewhat oppose	15%	16%	24%	12%	13%	14%	16%	17%	14%
	Strongly oppose	43%	23%	25%	42%	31%	37%	32%	35%	29%
	Strongly oppose [VOL] Dont know	8%	4%	9%	4%	5%	4%	6%	5%	7%
		COLLEG	E GRAD	WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		E INCOME				
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+		
14. Do you support or oppose banning the future sale of assault	Strongly support	34%	45%	30%	45%	39%	35%	36%		
weapons? [Do you	Somewhat support	7%	10%	7%	10%	10%	7%	9%		
support\oppose that strongly or somewhat?]	Somewhat oppose	16%	15%	18%	15%	16%	16%	16%		
	Strongly oppose	36%	27%	39%	29%	29%	37%	36%		
	[VOL] Dont know	7%	4%	7%	1%	5%	5%	3%	White non-Hisp 35% 8% 17% 35% 5%	
		TOTAL	REGISTE	ERED TO TE		PARTY ID		POL	LITICAL IDEOLOGY	
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
15. Do you support or oppose a	Strongly support	49%	51%	28%	39%	41%	70%	63%	49%	37%
federal red flag law that would allow police to temporarily take	Somewhat support	23%	21%	39%	20%	27%	16%	22%	29%	19%
away the guns of someone who poses a threat to themselves or	Somewhat oppose	8%	8%	11%	14%	6%	6%	7%	8%	10%
others? [Do you support\oppose that strongly or somewhat?]	Strongly oppose	16%	16%	19%	23%	21%	5%	5%	12%	29%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	2%	2%	5%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 4/24/23

		GENDER			AGE 3-WAY		CHILDREN IN HOME		RA	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk- Asn-Oth
15. Do you support or oppose a	Strongly support	38%	59%	44%	43%	57%	51%	48%	46%	53%
federal red flag law that would allow police to temporarily take	Somewhat support	25%	21%	31%	23%	17%	21%	24%	24%	22%
away the guns of someone who poses a threat to themselves or	Somewhat oppose	9%	7%	12%	6%	6%	5%	9%	10%	5%
others? [Do you support\oppose that strongly or somewhat?]	Strongly oppose	23%	10%	11%	25%	14%	21%	15%	17%	15%
	[VOL] Dont know	5%	3%	3%	3%	5%	2%	5%	3%	5%
		-			OLLEGE				1	
		COLLEG	E GRAD		REE		INCOME			
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+		
15. Do you support or oppose a federal red flag law that would	Strongly support	46%	53%	42%	54%	54%	41%	49%		
allow police to temporarily take	Somewhat support	24%	21%	25%	21%	24%	25%	21%		
away the guns of someone who poses a threat to themselves or others? [Do you support/oppose that strongly or somewhat?]	Somewhat oppose	9%	6%	12%	7%	7%	9%	7%		
others? [Do you support\oppose that strongly or somewhat?]	Strongly oppose	17%	16%	18%	15%	11%	23%	19%		
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%		
			REGIST	ERED TO						
		TOTAL	VO	TE		PARTY ID			TICAL IDEOL	1
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
<ol> <li>Do you agree or disagree that individual states should be allowed</li> </ol>	Agree	56%	55%	69%	44%	49%	79%	75%	56%	44%
to limit who can carry a concealed handgun by requiring permit	Disagree	41%	43%	28%	55%	50%	17%	24%	42%	54%
applicants to demonstrate that they need the weapon for their work or for protection?	[VOL] Dont know	3%	3%	3%	1%	1%	4%	1%	2%	2%
		GEN	DER	1	AGE 3-WAY		CHILDREN		RA	<u>CE</u>
		GEN					CHILDREN		White	Hsp-Blk-
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	non-Hisp	Asn-Oth
<ol> <li>Do you agree or disagree that individual states should be allowed</li> </ol>	Agree	51%	61%	65%	43%	61%	53%	57%	54%	61%
to limit who can carry a concealed handgun by requiring permit	Disagree	47%	35%	32%	55%	36%	43%	40%	43%	37%
applicants to demonstrate that they need the weapon for their work or for protection?	[VOL] Dont know	2%	4%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%
		COLLEG	E GRAD		OLLEGE	INCOME				
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+		
16. Do you agree or disagree that individual states should be allowed	Agree	55%	58%	50%	60%	66%	50%	50%		
to limit who can carry a concealed handgun by requiring permit	Disagree	43%	39%	47%	37%	31%	48%	48%		
applicants to demonstrate that they need the weapon for their work or for protection?	[VOL] Dont know	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%		

## Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 4/24/23

		TOTAL	REGISTE VO	ERED TO TE		PARTY ID		POL	ITICAL IDEOL	OGY
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
17. Over the next five years, do	Increase	49%	50%	42%	37%	43%	69%	71%	45%	38%
you expect that the frequency of mass shootings in the country will	Decrease	8%	8%	5%	8%	8%	7%	1%	8%	11%
increase, decrease, or stay about the same?	Stay about the same	39%	38%	47%	50%	44%	23%	28%	43%	47%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	4%	6%	5%	5%	1%	1%	3%	4%
		GENDER AG		AGE 3-WAY		CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk- Asn-Oth
17. Over the next five years, do	Increase	46%	53%	49%	43%	55%	40%	53%	47%	53%
you expect that the frequency of mass shootings in the country will	Decrease	7%	9%	9%	9%	7%	8%	8%	7%	10%
increase, decrease, or stay about the same?	Stay about the same	42%	36%	42%	41%	34%	47%	36%	43%	33%
	[VOL] Dont know	5%	3%	1%	7%	4%	5%	4%	Mod 45% 8% 43% 3% RAC White non-Hisp 47% 7%	5%
				1					1	
		COLLEG	E GRAD		OLLEGE REE		INCOME			
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+		
17. Over the next five years, do you expect that the frequency of mass shootings in the country will	Increase	48%	51%	47%	47%	53%	44%	48%		
	Decrease	8%	8%	6%	9%	8%	10%	7%		
increase, decrease, or stay about the same?	Stay about the same	40%	37%	44%	40%	34%	43%	41%		

4%

3%

3%

4%

3%

3%

4%

[VOL] Dont know

# Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 4/24/23