



Lake Snell Perry Mermin Meadow Gotoff

**CELINDA C. LAKE**  
President

To: Interested Parties

**ALYSIA R. SNELL**  
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From: Celinda Lake, David Mermin, and John Norris;  
Lake Research Partners

**MICHAEL J. PERRY**  
Partner

Date: March 14, 2007

**DAVID MERMIN**  
Partner

Re: New Polling Data on Guns and Crime in Pennsylvania

**DR. ROBERT G.  
MEADOW**  
Partner

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A new poll of likely 2008 voters in Pennsylvania conducted by Lake Research Partners<sup>1</sup> shows that **Pennsylvania voters overwhelmingly support tougher laws to control the availability of guns and reduce gun crime.** Support for tougher gun laws cuts across regional and party lines—with many tough measures supported by gun owners as well.

**DANIEL R. GOTOFF**  
Partner

**JOSHUA ULIBARRI**  
Vice President

**RICK A. JOHNSON**  
Vice President

*KEY FINDINGS—GUN CONTROL MEASURES*

- **Almost eight out of ten voters (77%) support a statewide ban on assault weapons**, including 69% who strongly favor a ban, while 22% are opposed (16% strongly). Eighty-nine percent of women and 64% of men favor a statewide assault weapons ban. **Almost two-thirds of gun owners (62%) favor this ban with just 37% opposed.**
- **Over two thirds of Republicans (71%) favor a ban—especially Republican women (84%).** Democrats (84% favor) are the most intense supporters, but independents (73% favor) also favor a ban.
- **More than two-thirds of voters (71%) support a statewide limit on handgun purchases to one gun a month**, including 54% strongly. Even 61% of gun owners support this limit. This limit also has appeal across the state, with 72% of those living in urban areas, 75% of those living in the suburbs, and 66% of those living in rural communities supporting the one gun a month limit.
- **Arguments that cracking down on illegal guns would take away the rights of gun owners do not hold water with voters.** Over two thirds of these voters (70%) agree with a statement that “Cracking down on illegal guns, gun runners, and violent criminals who use stolen guns in their crimes is good for everyone in the state, including law-abiding gun owners.” Just 27% agree with an opposing

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<sup>1</sup> This telephone survey of 600 likely 2008 voters in Pennsylvania was conducted February 26-March 4, 2007, by Lake Research Partners. The margin of sampling error is +/-4.0%.

statement that “Any time a politician talks about cracking down on guns, their end goal is to take away the rights of gun owners.”

KEY FINDINGS—GUN SAFETY MEASURES

- Pennsylvania voters overwhelmingly support a number of additional gun safety measures, including:
  - ü **Requiring all police departments in Pennsylvania to trace and report any firearm recovered from a juvenile under 18** who was illegally in possession of the firearm (93% favor, 6% oppose).
  - ü **Require usage of trigger locks or locked boxes on premises where children are present** (85% favor, 14% oppose).
  - ü **Requiring gun owners to report lost or stolen** or face a fine for unintentional failure to report, or a criminal charge for intentional failure to report (81% favor, 19% oppose).
- Each of these three measures is supported by at least 70% of gun owners and over three-fourths of voters across party lines.

KEY FINDINGS—OVERALL VIEWS ON GUNS AND CRIME

- **Voters across Pennsylvania want to take action to reduce gun crime in the state’s large cities.** Almost three out of four believe (72% agree, 61% strongly)<sup>2</sup> that: “If we really want to reduce crime and gun violence in Pennsylvania’s large cities, the whole state has to work together.”
- **For these voters, crime is not just an isolated issue, but an important piece of the state’s well-being and health.** Over eight in ten voters (82%) say the problem of crime and gun violence is important to the overall health and well-being of the state.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE POLL

- § Party registration: 44% Republican, 47% Democratic, 9% Independent
- § Education: 37% college graduates, 26% some college, 36% high school or less
- § Gun ownership: 38% gun owners
- § Region: 22% Urban, 46% Suburban, 30% Rural
- § Race: 83% white, 11% African American, 6% other/refused

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Lake Research Partners is a national public opinion research firm with offices in Washington, DC and Oakland, California. For more information on this poll, contact Celinda Lake at 202-776-9066 or David Mermin at 510-286-2097.

<sup>2</sup> Sixty-one percent rated between 10 to 8 on a scale of 10 to 0, where 10 means “totally agree” and 0 means “totally disagree.”