



Lake Snell Perry Mermin Meadow Gotoff

CELINDA C. LAKE
President

To: Interested Parties

ALYSIA R. SNELL
Partner

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

A new poll of likely 2008 voters in Pennsylvania conducted by Lake Research Partners¹ 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

¹ 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)² 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

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.

² 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.”