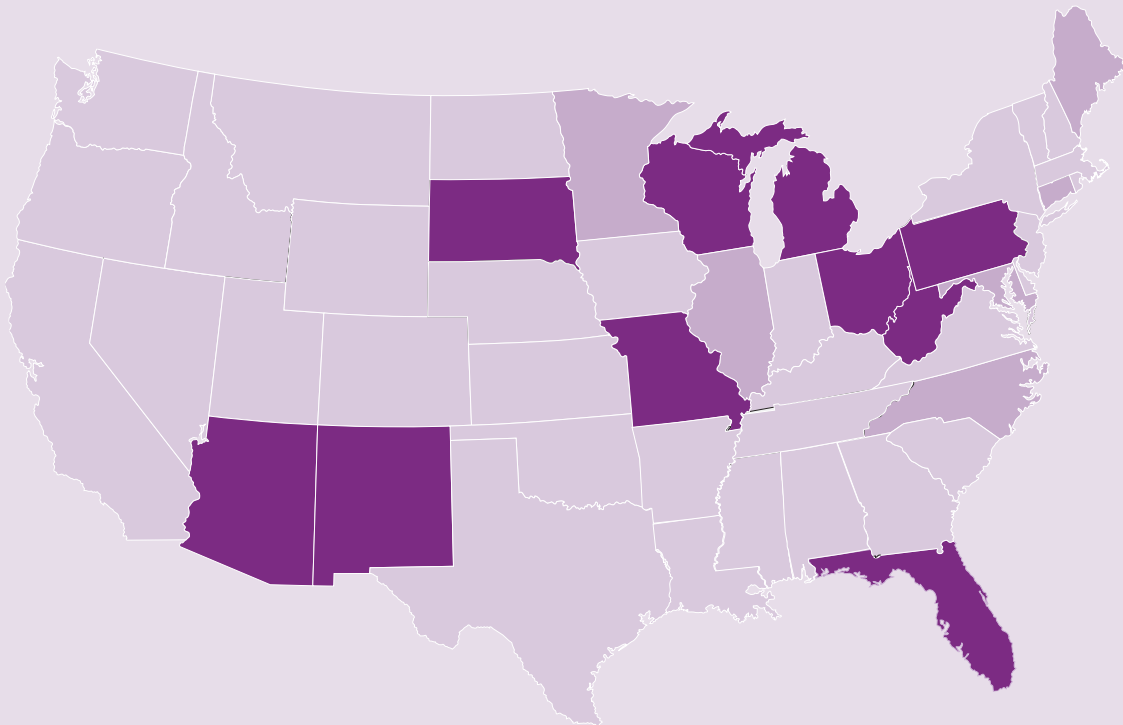


Unconventional WISDOM

Ten New State Polls Offer a Chance
to Rethink How Americans View the
Assault Weapons Ban

July 13, 2004



Survey commissioned by
the Consumer Federation of
America and The Educational
Fund to Stop Gun Violence

Consumer Federation of America (CFA) is a non-profit association of 300 pro-consumer groups, which was founded in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy and education.

The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (Ed Fund) was founded in 1978 as a nonprofit educational charity dedicated to ending firearm violence, particularly as it affects children. Our mission is to stop gun violence by fostering effective community and national action. The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV) is the Educational Fund's sister organization.

CFA Research Director Mark Cooper, Ph.D. and Firearms Project Director Susan Peschin, MHS authored this report. Ed Fund/CSGV Federal Director Jill Ward provided editorial and production assistance. Call CFA at (202) 939-1017 with any questions.

Introduction

The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) and the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (EFSGV) commissioned a series of surveys¹ among likely voters² in ten states between April and July, 2004.

The federal ban on assault weapons is set to expire on September 13, 2004—two months from now—unless Congress enacts new legislation. The original law, passed in 1994, bans certain models of semiautomatic assault weapons, as well as high-capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.

Gun violence prevention advocates argue that the ban should be renewed and strengthened to prohibit the manufacture of so-called “post-ban” assault weapons, which are firearms identical to those banned except for minor cosmetic changes. The pro-gun lobby maintains that most Americans don’t want the ban renewed, let alone strengthened, and that Congress should let the ban expire. Given the intensity on both sides of the debate, CFA and EFSGV thought it important to measure the general public’s sentiments on the assault weapons ban.

Current conventional wisdom dictates that many Americans—particularly gun owners, union members, and rural dwellers—overwhelmingly disapprove of measures commonly perceived as “gun control.” CFA and EFSGV purposefully selected states and survey questions that would provide credible evidence to support or undermine the validity of this widely held view.

The ten states surveyed include: Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. CFA and EFSGV surveyed public opinion about *renewing* and *strengthening* the ban among likely voters by gender, gun ownership, military affiliation, NRA support and union household membership. In four states (Missouri, Ohio, South Dakota, and West Virginia), a NASCAR survey question was added.³

The study includes general findings by state as well as support among key demographics. Significant findings include:

- Overall, a substantial majority of likely voters supports *renewing* and *strengthening* the federal assault weapons⁴ ban.

¹ Lake Snell Perry & Associates conducted the 10 state surveys for CFA and EFSGV.

² All respondents indicated that they were likely to vote in the 2004 election. Voters are considered the most politically aware subset of the public.

³ The exact questions are presented in Appendix B.

⁴ Assault weapons are a discrete class of firearm. They incorporate military-style characteristics specifically designed to quickly kill large numbers of human beings. These design characteristics make it easy for a shooter to simply point—as opposed to carefully aim—the weapon to quickly spray a wide area

- Midwestern states support *renewing* the assault weapons ban only slightly more than Southwestern states. Midwestern states (OH, WI, MI, and MO) averaged 72% support for *renewing* the ban. Southwestern states (AZ and NM) averaged 67% support
- Rural states traditionally seen as very conservative on “gun control” strongly favor *renewing* the ban. 68% of both South Dakota and West Virginia voters support *renewing* the ban.
- Majorities of gun owners in all but two states favor *renewing* the ban. Only Missouri and Ohio had slightly less than 50% of support among gun owners and NRA supporters.
- In nine of ten states surveyed, union households support *renewing* the ban by at least 60% (excluding South Dakota because the sample was too small to calculate). In Pennsylvania, 80% of union households support *renewing* the ban, and 73% support *strengthening* it.
- At least 60% of current and former military and military families support *renewing* the ban in all states surveyed. In Wisconsin, more than three-fourths (77%) of current and former military and military families support *renewing* the ban.
- More than six out of 10 women support *renewing* the ban in all states surveyed. Eighty percent of women in Pennsylvania, and 78% of women in Ohio, support *renewing* the ban.
- More than 60% of NASCAR fans support *renewing* the ban in Ohio (64%), South Dakota (63%), and West Virginia (64%). Only Missouri NASCAR fans surveyed just below half (49%) in support of *renewing* the ban.

These findings are in line with two previous national polls commissioned by CFA in September 2003 and February 2004. In those surveys substantial majorities of the public supported renewing the federal assault weapons ban and even more strongly supported new measures to strengthen the ban. Two important findings of the 2003 and 2004 surveys were the high percentage of Americans who wanted President Bush to persuade Congress to renew the ban, and the growth of support for extending and strengthening the ban in the six-month period between surveys.⁵ This report’s findings

with bullets. Such design characteristics make assault weapons especially attractive to criminals and distinguish them from true hunting or sporting firearms.

⁵ “Consumers Strongly Support Renewing and Strengthening the Assault Weapons Ban,” Consumer Federation of America, February 2004.

are also consistent with an April 2004 survey by the National Annenberg Election Survey, which found that most Americans—including half of NRA households—want the ban extended.⁶

In addition, six other statewide surveys unaffiliated with this project have found similar strong support for banning assault weapons. Appendix A summarizes findings from independent surveys in Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, and North Carolina.

Combined with the new findings in this report, it is clear that public support for banning assault weapons—and the desire for President Bush to act—runs far deeper than previously thought.

The Policy Landscape

Both President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft have expressed support for the assault weapons ban. During the 2000 campaign, *The Houston Chronicle* quoted Mr. Bush as saying, "It makes no sense for assault weapons to be around our society." In October 2000, Bush campaign spokesperson Ray Sullivan told *Salon* magazine that he would expect then-candidate Bush to reauthorize the ban.

That position was reiterated by Attorney General John Ashcroft during his confirmation hearings on January 17, 2001, when he stated, "It is my understanding that the president-elect of the United States has indicated his clear support for extending the assault weapon ban, and I would be pleased to move forward that position, and to support that as a policy of this president, and as a policy of the Justice Department." The White House has repeated the President's support several times, most recently in June 2004.

However, the National Rifle Association vigorously opposes extending the assault weapons ban. In his keynote address at the organization's April 17, 2004 convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Vice President Cheney made no mention of the assault weapons ban in his remarks.

Meanwhile, Congress is considering several bills that would ban assault weapons that range from a straight reauthorization of the 1994 law to strengthening legislation that would address loopholes⁷ in current law. In March, the U.S. Senate passed a renewed

⁶ Most of Public Wants the Assault Weapons Ban Extended; So Do Half of NRA Households," National Annenberg Election Survey, April 2004.

⁷ After the 1994 law was enacted, gun manufacturers made minor changes to commercial models of military-style assault weapons, such as the AK-47, so that they can still be bought in the United States. Today, "post-ban" versions of AK-47s and AR-15s, guns banned by name by the 1994 law, are widely available. A post-ban AR-15 clone manufactured by Bushmaster was used by the Washington, DC-area snipers to kill 10 and injure three in October 2002.

ban as an amendment to a gun industry immunity bill. President Bush issued a Statement of Administration Policy calling the amendment "unacceptable." The amendment passed on a bipartisan 52-47 vote, but the underlying bill was defeated. It is unclear whether any assault weapons legislation will be voted on before Congress recesses and the ban expires. A June 24, 2004 article in *The Boston Globe* quoted a White House source who said the President is "waiting for the House" to send him a bill.

Policymakers representing the 10 surveyed states are vital in the national campaign to ban assault weapons. The following survey results by state show these policymakers that their constituents want them to ban assault weapons. With the ban's expiration looming, it's up to Congress and President Bush to heed this call to outlaw these weapons of war.

Conclusion

These findings demonstrate that support for the assault weapons ban among Americans is deeper and broader than previously thought. In addition, the results fly in the face of current conventional wisdom that Americans are wary of the gun issue. Policymakers should heed the concerns of their constituents by taking aggressive steps to ban assault weapons.

Arizona⁸

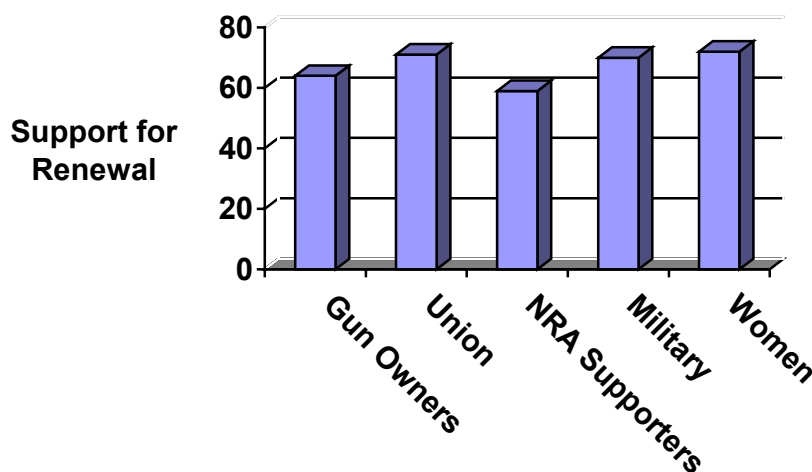


General Findings

- 71% of likely voters in Arizona favor renewing the federal assault weapons ban, with 52% strongly favoring its renewal. Only slightly more than one in five (21%) oppose renewal; 8% don't know or refused to answer.
- 65% of likely voters support strengthening the ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing commercial models of military-style assault weapons. Forty-seven percent strongly favor strengthening the ban. Twenty-four percent oppose it; 11% don't know or refused to answer.

Support among Key Demographics

- 64% of Arizona gun owners support renewing the assault weapons ban; 58% of gun owners support strengthening it.
- 71% of Arizona union households favor renewing the ban, with 56 percent strongly favoring its renewal. Six in ten union households (60%) support strengthening the ban.
- 59% of Arizona NRA supporters favor renewing the ban, with more than a third (38 %) strongly favoring its renewal. More than half of NRA supporters (52%) favor strengthening the ban.
- 70% of current and former military and military families in Arizona support renewing the ban.
- 72% of Arizona women support renewing the ban; 70% of men support the ban's renewal.



⁸ Lake Snell Perry & Associates conducted the survey. Findings are derived from a statewide survey conducted in Arizona April 26-28, 2004. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.0% and reached a base sample of 600 registered likely voters. All respondents indicated they were likely to vote in the 2004 election.

Florida⁹

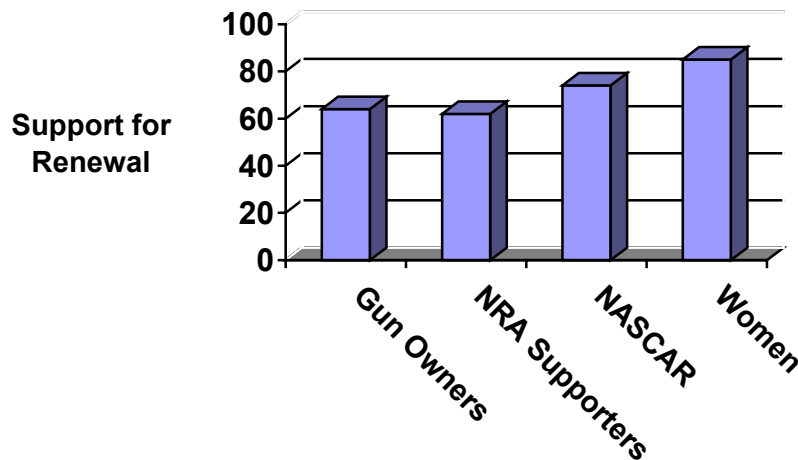


General Findings

- 81% of likely voters in Florida favor renewing the federal assault weapons ban, with 62% strongly favoring its renewal. Only 15% oppose renewal; 4% don't know or refused to answer.
- 80% of likely voters support strengthening the ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing commercial models of military-style assault weapons. Sixty-four percent strongly favor strengthening the ban. Thirteen percent oppose it; 7% don't know or refused to answer.¹⁰

Support among Key Demographics

- 64% of Florida gun owners support renewing the assault weapons ban; 65% of gun owners support strengthening it.
- 62% of Florida NRA supporters favor renewing the ban, with 43% strongly favoring its renewal. Nearly two-thirds of NRA supporters (65%) favor strengthening the ban.
- 74% of Florida NASCAR fans favor renewing the ban, with more than half (54%) strongly favoring its renewal. Seventy-four percent of NASCAR fans favor strengthening the ban.
- 85% of Florida women support renewing the ban; 76% of men support the ban's renewal.



⁹ Lake Snell Perry & Associates conducted the survey. Findings are derived from a statewide survey conducted by Lake Snell Perry & Associates in Florida July 6-11, 2004. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.5% and reached a base sample of 800 registered likely voters. All respondents indicated they were likely to vote in the 2004 election.

¹⁰ The survey question on strengthening the ban was split among the sample to compare support with and without the reference to the Washington metropolitan-area sniper attacks in 2002. The results without the reference to the sniper attacks were: 74% of likely voters support strengthening the ban; 63% strongly favor strengthening the ban; 20% oppose it; 6% don't know or refused to answer.

Michigan¹¹

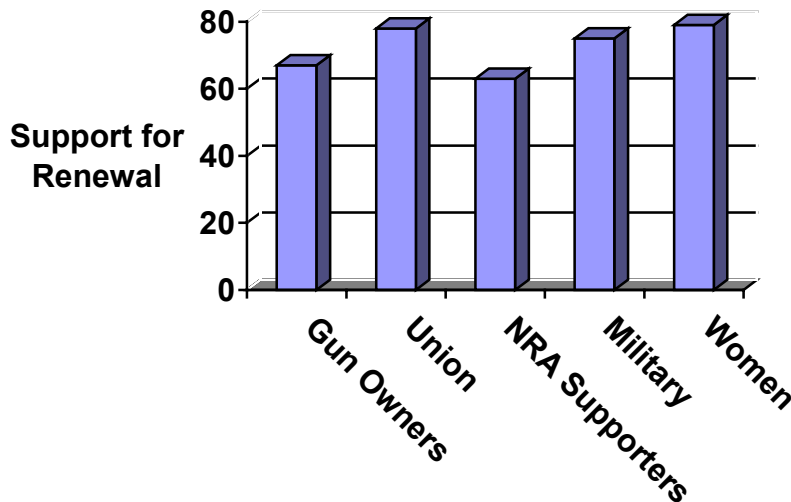


General Findings

- 76% of likely voters in Michigan favor renewing the federal assault weapons ban, with 57% strongly favoring its renewal. Only 16% oppose renewal; 8% don't know or refused to answer.
- 72% of likely voters support strengthening the ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing commercial models of military-style assault weapons. Fifty-two percent strongly favor strengthening the ban. Seventeen percent oppose it; 11% don't know or refused to answer.

Support among Key Demographics

- 67% of Michigan gun owners support renewing the assault weapons ban; 62% of gun owners support strengthening it.
- 78% of Michigan union households favor renewing the ban, with 61% strongly favoring its renewal. Nearly three-quarters of union households (72%) support strengthening the ban.
- 63% of Michigan NRA supporters favor renewing the ban, with nearly half (46%) strongly favoring its renewal. More than half of NRA supporters (58%) favor strengthening the ban.
- 75% of current and former military and military families in Michigan support renewing the ban.
- 79% of Michigan women support renewing the ban; 73% of men support the ban's renewal.



¹¹ Lake Snell Perry & Associates conducted the survey. Findings are from a demographic time series based on a statewide survey of Michigan conducted between April 25-28, 2004 and an earlier survey conducted March 3-8, 2004. Both surveys have a margin of error of +/- 4.0% and reached a base sample of 600 registered likely voters in Michigan. All respondents indicated they were likely to vote in the 2004 election.

Missouri¹²

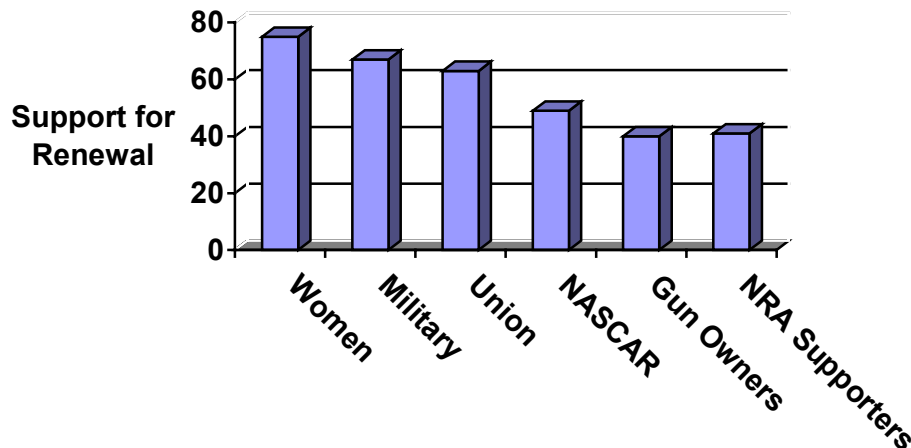


General Findings

- 67% of likely voters in Missouri favor renewing the federal assault weapons ban, with 53% strongly favoring its renewal. Only 27% oppose renewal; 6% don't know or refused to answer.
- 67% of likely voters support strengthening the ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing commercial models of military-style assault weapons. Fifty-three percent strongly favor strengthening the ban. Twenty-six percent oppose it; 7% don't know or refused to answer.

Support among Key Demographics

- 75% of Missouri women support renewing the ban; 58% of men support the ban's renewal.
- 67% of current and former military and military families in Missouri support renewing the ban.
- 63% of Missouri union households favor renewing the ban, with 52% strongly favoring its renewal. Nearly two-thirds of union households (63%) support strengthening the ban.
- 49% of Missouri NASCAR fans favor renewing the ban, with more than a third (34%) strongly favoring its renewal. Forty-seven percent of NASCAR fans favor strengthening the ban.
- 40% of Missouri gun owners support renewing the assault weapons ban; 41% of gun owners support strengthening it.
- 41% of Missouri NRA supporters favor renewing the ban, with more than one in four (28%) strongly favoring its renewal. More than four in ten NRA supporters (43%) favors strengthening the ban.



¹² Lake Snell Perry & Associates conducted the survey. Findings are derived from a statewide survey conducted in Missouri June 28 - July 1, 2004. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.9% and reached a base sample of 400 registered likely voters. All respondents indicated they were likely to vote in the 2004 election.

New Mexico¹³

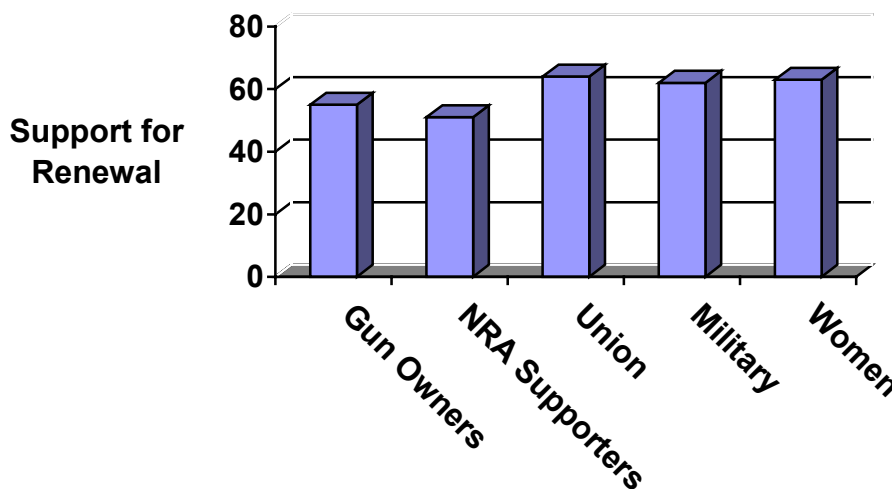


General Findings

- 62% of likely voters in New Mexico favor renewing the federal assault weapons ban, with 48% strongly favoring its renewal. Less than a third (30%) opposes renewal; 8% don't know or refused to answer.
- 54% of likely voters support strengthening the ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing commercial models of military-style assault weapons. Forty-five percent strongly favor strengthening the ban. A little more than a third (37%) opposes it; 9% don't know or refused to answer.

Support among Key Demographics

- 55% of New Mexico gun owners support renewing the assault weapons ban; 45% of gun owners support strengthening it.
- 51% of New Mexico NRA supporters favor renewing the ban, with 35% strongly favoring its renewal. Forty-two percent of NRA supporters favor strengthening the ban.
- 64% of New Mexico union households favor renewing the ban, with 56% strongly favoring its renewal. Fifty-six percent of union households favor strengthening the ban.
- 62% of current and former military and military families in New Mexico support renewing the ban.
- 63% of New Mexico women support renewing the ban; 62% of men support the ban's renewal.



¹³ Lake Snell Perry & Associates conducted the survey. Findings are derived from a statewide survey conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates in New Mexico April 26-29, 2004. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.0% and reached a base sample of 600 registered likely voters. All respondents indicated they were likely to vote in the 2004 election.

Ohio¹⁴

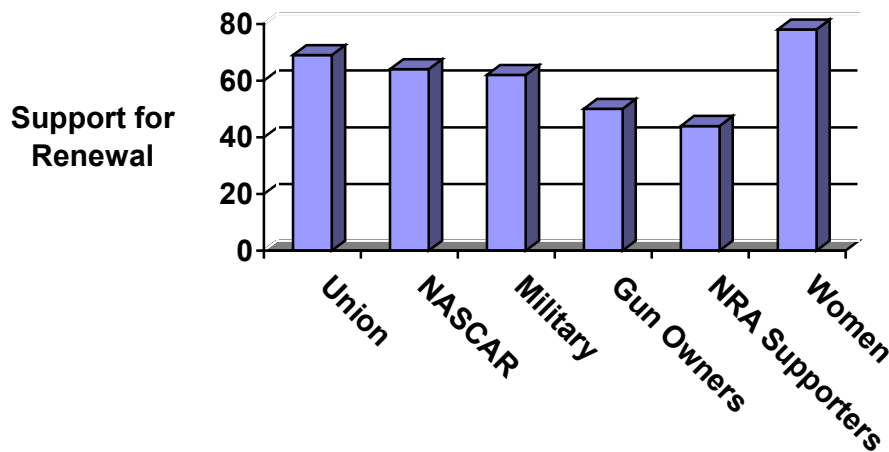


General Findings

- 71% of likely voters in Ohio favor renewing the federal assault weapons ban, with 54% strongly favoring its renewal. Only slightly more than one in five (22%) oppose renewal; 7% don't know or refused to answer.
- 69% of likely voters support strengthening the ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing commercial models of military-style assault weapons. Fifty-four percent strongly favor strengthening the ban. Twenty-four percent oppose it; 7% don't know or refused to answer.

Support among Key Demographics

- 69% of Ohio union households favor renewing the ban, with 55% strongly favoring its renewal. Nearly three-fourths of union households (72%) support strengthening the ban.
- 64% of Ohio NASCAR fans favor renewing the ban, with 42% strongly favoring its renewal. Sixty-one percent of NASCAR fans favor strengthening the ban.
- 62% of current and former military and military families in Ohio support renewing the ban.
- 50% of Ohio gun owners support renewing the assault weapons ban; 44% of gun owners support strengthening it.
- 44% of Ohio NRA supporters favor renewing the ban; 41% favor strengthening the ban.
- 78% of Ohio women support renewing the ban; 64% of men support the ban's renewal.



¹⁴ Lake Snell Perry & Associates conducted the survey. Findings are derived from a statewide survey conducted in Ohio June 28 - July 1, 2004. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.9% and reached a base sample of 400 registered likely voters. All respondents indicated they were likely to vote in the 2004 election.

Pennsylvania¹⁵

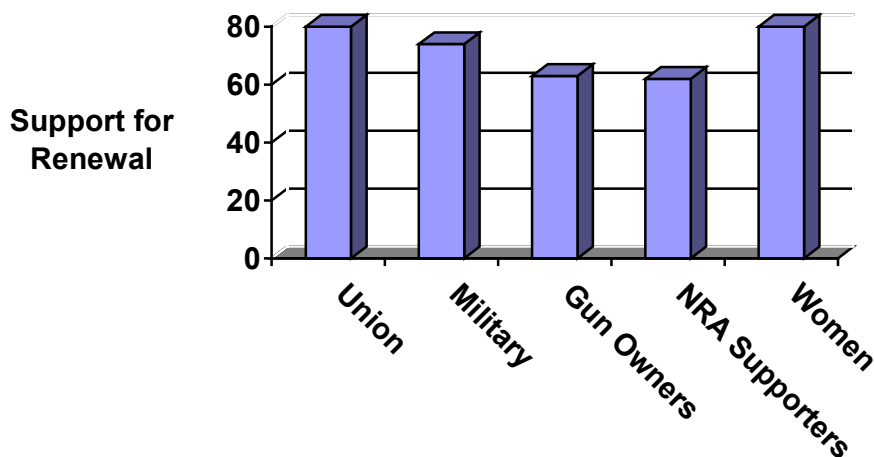


General Findings

- 76% of likely voters in Pennsylvania favor renewing the federal assault weapons ban, with 54% strongly favoring its renewal. Only 16% oppose renewal; 8% don't know or refused to answer.
- 71% of likely voters support strengthening the ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing commercial models of military-style assault weapons. Fifty-one percent strongly favor strengthening the ban. Only 17% oppose it; 12% don't know or refused to answer.

Support among Key Demographics

- 80% of Pennsylvania union households favor renewing the ban, with 60% strongly favoring its renewal. Nearly three-fourths of union households (73%) support strengthening the ban.
- 74% of current and former military and military families in Pennsylvania support renewing the ban.
- 63% of Pennsylvania gun owners support renewing the assault weapons ban; 60% of gun owners support strengthening it.
- 62% of Pennsylvania NRA supporters favor renewing the ban, with 42% strongly favoring its renewal. Fifty-seven percent of NRA supporters favor strengthening the ban.
- 80% of Pennsylvania women support renewing the ban; 71% of men support the ban's renewal.



¹⁵ Lake Snell Perry & Associates conducted the survey. Findings are derived from a statewide survey conducted in Pennsylvania April 26-28, 2004. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.0% and reached a base sample of 600 registered likely voters and an over sample of 75 voters in the Wilkes Barre/Scranton media market that were weighted down to reflect their proportion in the base sample. All respondents indicated they were likely to vote in the 2004 election.

South Dakota¹⁶

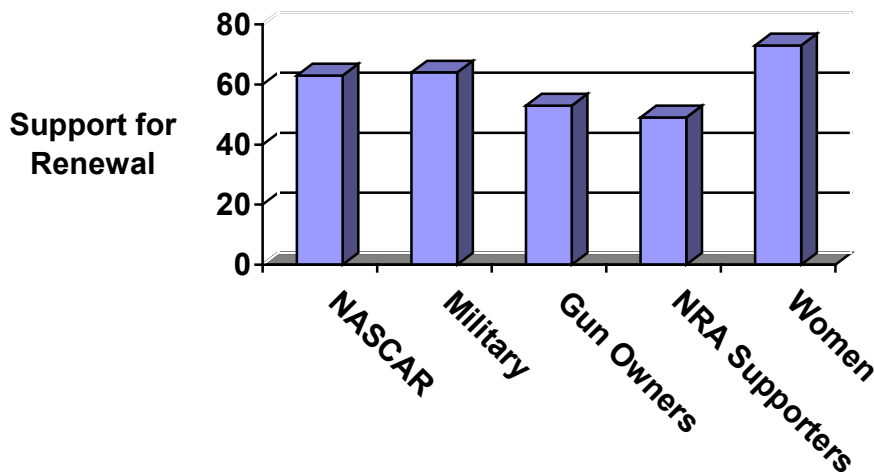


General Findings

- 68% of likely voters in South Dakota favor renewing the federal assault weapons ban, with 55% strongly favoring its renewal. Only 24% oppose renewal; 8% don't know or refused to answer.
- 65% of likely voters support strengthening the ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing commercial models of military-style assault weapons. Fifty-three percent strongly favor strengthening the ban. Twenty-five percent oppose it; 10% don't know or refused to answer.

Support among Key Demographics

- 63% of South Dakota NASCAR fans favor renewing the ban, with 48% strongly favoring its renewal. Fifty-six percent of NASCAR fans favor strengthening the ban.
- 64% of current and former military and military families in South Dakota support renewing the ban.
- 53% of South Dakota gun owners support renewing the assault weapons ban; 49% of gun owners support strengthening it.
- 49% of South Dakota NRA supporters favor renewing the ban, with 38% strongly favoring its renewal. Forty-eight percent of NRA supporters favor strengthening the ban.
- 73% of South Dakota women support renewing the ban; 62% of men support the ban's renewal.



¹⁶ Lake Snell Perry & Associates conducted the survey. Findings are derived from a statewide survey conducted in South Dakota June 28 - July 1, 2004. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.9% and reached a base sample of 400 registered likely voters. All respondents indicated they were likely to vote in the 2004 election.

West Virginia¹⁷

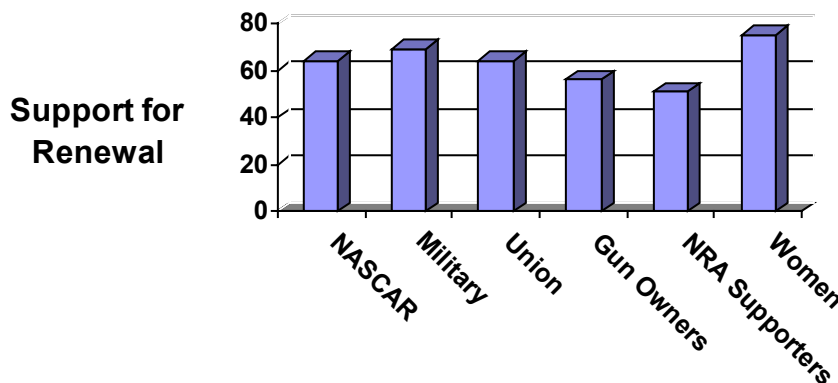


General Findings

- 68% of likely voters in West Virginia favor renewing the federal assault weapons ban, with 55% strongly favoring its renewal. Twenty-seven percent oppose renewal; 5% don't know or refused to answer.
- 65% of likely voters support strengthening the ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing commercial models of military-style assault weapons. Fifty-three percent strongly favor strengthening the ban. Twenty-eight percent oppose it; 7% don't know or refused to answer.

Support among Key Demographics

- 64% of West Virginia NASCAR fans favor renewing the ban, with 52% strongly favoring its renewal. Fifty-nine percent of NASCAR fans favor strengthening the ban.
- 69% of current and former military and military families in West Virginia support renewing the ban.
- 64% of West Virginia union households favor renewing the ban, with 56% strongly favoring its renewal. Nearly two-thirds of union households (64%) support strengthening the ban.
- 56% of West Virginia gun owners support renewing the assault weapons ban; 51% of gun owners support strengthening it.
- 51% of West Virginia NRA supporters favor renewing the ban, with 39% strongly favoring its renewal. Forty-nine percent of NRA supporters favor strengthening the ban.
- 75% of West Virginia women support renewing the ban; 61% of men support the ban's renewal.



¹⁷ Lake Snell Perry & Associates conducted the survey. Findings are derived from a statewide survey conducted in West Virginia June 28 - July 1, 2004. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.9% and reached a base sample of 400 registered likely voters. All respondents indicated they were likely to vote in the 2004 election.

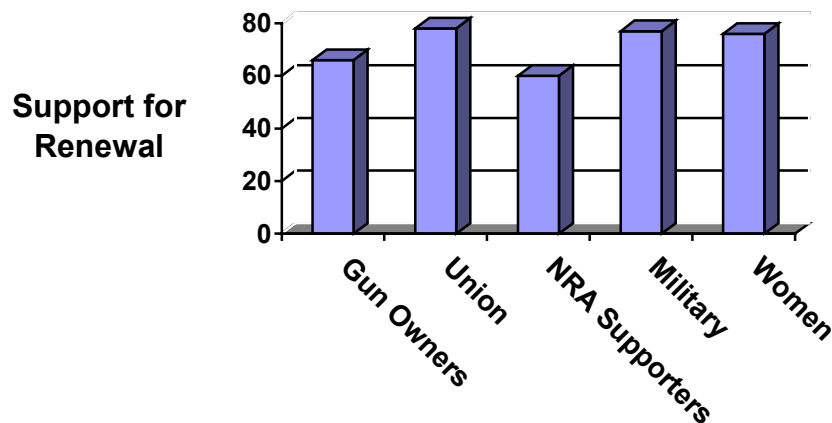


General Findings

- 73% of likely voters in Wisconsin favor renewing the federal assault weapons ban, with 52% strongly favoring its renewal. Only one in five (20%) oppose renewal; 7% don't know or refused to answer.
- 69% of likely voters support strengthening the ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing commercial models of military-style assault weapons. Forty-seven percent strongly favor strengthening the ban. Twenty-one percent oppose it; 10% don't know or refused to answer.

Support among Key Demographics

- 66% of Wisconsin gun owners support renewing the assault weapons ban; 60% of gun owners support strengthening it.
- 78% of Wisconsin union households favor renewing the ban, with 61% strongly favoring its renewal. Nearly three-fourths of union households (72%) support strengthening the ban.
- 60% of Wisconsin NRA supporters favor renewing the ban, with slightly more than a third (36%) strongly favoring its renewal. More than half of NRA supporters (53%) favor strengthening the ban.
- 77% of current and former military and military families in Wisconsin support renewing the ban, with 55% strongly favoring its renewal.
- 76% of Wisconsin women support renewing the ban; 70% of men support the ban's renewal.



¹⁸ Lake Snell Perry & Associates conducted the survey. Findings are derived from a statewide survey conducted in Wisconsin April 25-27, 2004. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.0% and reached a base sample of 600 registered likely voters. The base sample was supplemented by an over sample of 100 in La Crosse/Eau Claire and an over sample of 75 African Americans.

Appendix A

Connecticut

A survey commissioned by the Connecticut Collaborative for Education Against Gun Violence and conducted by the Center for Research & Public Policy found that 84% of Connecticut residents support banning all assault weapons.¹⁹

The survey was conducted from May 13-17, 2003, with a +/- 5 margin of error.

Illinois

The Coalition for Consumer Rights²⁰ conducted a survey of 821 registered Illinois voters from September 15-29, 2003, with a +/-3.5 percent margin of error. Major findings include:

- 68.5% of Illinois voters support renewing the current assault weapons ban; 58% strongly favor renewal.
- 70% of Illinois voters support strengthening the current federal assault weapons ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing these kinds of weapons for civilian use; 61% strongly favor strengthening the ban.
- 65% of Illinois women strongly support renewing the ban; 52% of men support the ban's renewal.

Voices for Illinois Children commissioned a survey of 501 registered Illinois voters in early 2004.²¹ Overbrook Research conducted the survey from January 12-13, with a +/- 4.4 percent margin of error. Major findings include:

- 72% of Illinois voters support making the federal assault weapons ban permanent; 65% strongly support this action.
- 75% of Illinois voters support strengthening the law to prevent manufacturers from producing and selling guns that are essentially the same as banned weapons, but have some cosmetic changes.

¹⁹ *Connecticut Gun Safety Study*. Prepared by the Center for Research & Public Policy (CRPP) for the Connecticut Collaborative for Education Against Gun Violence, May 2003. Download the study at <http://cagved.org>

²⁰ *The 2003 Annual Survey of Illinois Voters*. Prepared by the Coalition for Consumer Rights (CCR), September 2003. Download survey at <http://www.coalitionforconsumerrights.org/reports.htm>.

²¹ *Illinois Statewide Survey for Voices for Illinois Children*, January 2004. Download survey at http://www.voices4kids.org/child_safe_frame.htm.

Maine

Maine Citizens Against Handgun Violence commissioned a survey of 400 Maine residents in early 2004.²² The Strategic Marketing Services (SMS) Omnibus Poll was conducted between February 28 and March 3, 2004 and has a +/-4.9 percent margin of error. Major findings include:

- 72.5% of Maine citizens support renewing the assault weapons ban.
- 71.5% of Maine citizens support the idea of the Maine legislature passing its own ban if Congress fails to act.

Maryland

Ceasefire Maryland commissioned a survey of 818 registered voters in early 2004.²³ Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies conducted the survey from February 3-8, 2004, with a +/-3.5 percent margin or error. Major findings include:

- 74% of Maryland voters favor legislators passing a law banning assault weapons in Maryland.
- 77% of Maryland voters favor strengthening legislation to ban copycat assault weapons that are built by gun manufacturers to evade the assault weapons ban.
- 78% of Maryland women favor banning assault weapons and 79% favor strengthening current law to ban copycat weapons; 70% of Maryland men support a ban, with 75% favoring strengthening.

Minnesota

The University of Minnesota's Center for Survey Research randomly polled 800 Minnesota citizens from September to December 2003 and found that 75% favor strengthening the federal assault weapons ban in order to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing so-called "copy-cat" weapons.²⁴

²² Maine Citizens Against Handgun Violence, Strategic Marketing Services Omnibus Poll, March 2004.

²³ Ceasefire Maryland. Prepared by Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies, February 2004. Download survey at <http://www.ceasefiremd.org/>

²⁴ University of Minnesota Center for Survey Research. Download at www.endgunviolence.com

North Carolina

The North Carolina Consumers Council commissioned a poll of 625 registered voters in the spring of 2004.²⁵ Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. conducted the survey from May 14-17, 2004, with a +/-4 percent margin of error. Major findings include:

- 65% of North Carolina voters favor renewing the federal assault weapons ban, with 50% strongly favoring its renewal.
- 53% of North Carolina voters favor strengthening the ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing commercial models of military-style assault weapons. Forty-four percent strongly favor strengthening the ban.

²⁵ The North Carolina Consumer Council. Prepared by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. May 2004.

Appendix B

Survey Questions

In 1994 Congress banned certain models of semi-automatic assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines. The ban will expire September 13, 2004 unless Congress and the President pass new legislation to renew the ban. Do you favor or oppose RENEWING the assault weapons ban? Would you say you . . . **[READ LIST]**

- Strongly favor1
- Somewhat favor.....2
- Somewhat oppose.....3
- Strongly oppose.....4
- (Don't know/Refused).....5

After the ban was passed, manufacturers made minor changes to commercial models of assault weapons so that they can still be bought in the U.S. One example is the Bushmaster rifle used in the Washington metropolitan-area sniper attacks in 2002. Do you favor or oppose STRENGTHENING the assault weapons ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing these kinds of weapons for civilians? Would you say . . . **[READ LIST]**

- Strongly favor1
- Somewhat favor.....2
- Somewhat oppose.....3
- Strongly oppose.....4
- (Don't know/Refused).....5

Do you personally own a firearm?

- Yes1
- No2
- (Don't know/refused)3

Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the National Rifle Association or NRA?

- Yes,1
- No2
- (Not sure/refused)3

Are you a current or retired member of a labor union? **(IF "YES," ASK:)** Are you a current member or a retired member? **(IF NOT CURRENT OR RETIRED UNION MEMBER, ASK:)** Is anyone in your household a current or retired member of a union?

- Yes, current member of a labor union1
- Yes, retired member of a labor union2
- Yes, current member in household3
- Yes, retired member in household4
- No, no one in household is union member5
- (Not sure).....6

Are you a veteran of the armed services, or is any member of your family a member of the armed services?

- Yes, current military1
- Yes, former military (veteran)2
- Yes, family member3
- No, not myself nor a family member4

In the last year, have you watched or listened to a NASCAR race?

- Yes..... 1
- No..... 2
- UNSURE (**DNR**)..... 3

Gender is not asked as a question. The interviewer notes it after the survey has been complete.
Sex of respondent

- Male..... 1
- Female..... 2