

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Kevin Ingham, Strategies 360

DATE: March 2015

RE: New survey finds strong opposition to concealed carry without a permit



Strategies 360 recently conducted a national survey of likely 2016 voters on behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety to better understand public attitudes towards carrying concealed weapons.ⁱ

Our survey findings indicate that 88% of voters oppose allowing concealed carry without a permit.

Opposition is both broad and intense with every major demographic group opposed. Further, when asked whether this issue would impact how they vote, **nearly 60% of voters say they would be less likely to support a candidate who voted to allow concealed carry without a permit.**

Key findings

A majority (57%) of voters support allowing citizens to carry concealed handguns in public, including 40% who strongly feel this way. However, there are some divisions on this issue, with 40% saying concealed carry ought to be illegal (including 32% who feel strongly).ⁱⁱ

- The strongest backers of concealed carry include gun owners (81% believe carrying a concealed handgun ought to be legal), Republicans (76%), conservatives (71%), and voters in rural areas (70%).
- Most areas of the country support concealed carry, with the strongest support in the South (63%). The Northeast is the only region in which more voters oppose (49%) than support (46%).
- This issue breaks down along partisan lines. More than three quarters (76%) of Republicans believe concealed weapons ought to be legal, compared to just 39% of Democrats. Meanwhile, a majority (58%) of independents believe concealed weapons should be legal.
- White voters show strong support (62%). In contrast, a majority of African Americans and Latinos oppose (54% and 53%, respectively).

In contrast, voters almost unanimously oppose concealed carry without a permit (11% support, 88% oppose). This opposition extends across all demographic groups.ⁱⁱⁱ

- Intensity of opposition is very high. 79% of voters are ***strongly*** opposed.
- Every region of the country expresses opposition, including the West (88% opposed), Midwest (89%), South (85%) and Northeast (90%).
- Even gun owners (80% oppose) and those with a concealed carry permit (78% oppose) take a strong stand in opposition.
- Bipartisan opposition reaches rare levels, including 95% of Democrats, 88% of independents, and 80% of Republicans.

Public officials who vote to allow concealed carry without a permit could pay a steep price at the ballot box.^{iv}

- 57% of voters say they would be less likely to vote for a political candidate if that candidate voted to allow concealed carry without a permit. This includes 43% who say they would be “*much* less likely” or “definitely wouldn’t” vote for such a candidate.
- In contrast, just 9% say they would be more likely to support a candidate who cast such a vote.

ⁱ Strategies 360 conducted a live telephone survey of 1,508 likely 2016 voters nationwide. Interviews were conducted February 23 - 28, 2015. A combination of landline and mobile phones were called to ensure greater coverage of the population sampled. The margin of error for a survey of 1508 interviews is $\pm 2.5\%$ at the 95% confidence level.

ⁱⁱ “In general, do you think it should be legal or illegal to carry a concealed handgun in public places?”

ⁱⁱⁱ “Currently, most states require a permit to carry a concealed handgun in a public place. Typically, to obtain a permit, a person must pay a processing fee, complete a basic gun safety course and have a clean criminal record. Some have proposed removing the permit requirement and making it legal for gun owners to carry a concealed handgun without needing to go through a permitting process. Do you support or oppose allowing citizens to carry concealed handguns in public places if they don’t have a permit?”

^{iv} “Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a political candidate if they voted to allow concealed carry without a permit? Or would it not make a difference to you?”