



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

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ARIZONA: 37% HAVE OPERATIONAL GUNS IN THEIR HOMES.
MIXED VIEWS TOWARD NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION;
PLURALITY FAVOR STRICTER LAWS ON SALE OF FIREARMS

Phoenix, Arizona, April 29, 2013. Half of Arizonans keep no operative firearm in their home and while 37 percent do own such guns, a surprisingly large 13 percent are not sure whether there is an operational gun in their home, including eleven percent of men and 15 percent of women.

Further, it may be a myth that people who live in rural areas of the state are the most likely to have guns in their homes - gun ownership in the home totals only 38 percent in Arizona's rural counties, only one point above the average. Ownership is actually highest in Maricopa County (40%) and falls off to 28 percent in Pima County.

Gun ownership is more likely to be found among people who are registered Republicans (48%) but whether one is a liberal or a conservative is not a predictor of whether one's family keeps an operational gun in the home. Thus 37 percent of liberals, 38 percent of moderates and 39 percent of conservatives keep firearms in their home.

Gun ownership aside, it also appears that Arizonans are of mixed opinion on the issue of whether they think sales of guns should be subject to greater restrictions and whether they would put gun-owning rights ahead of putting more controls on guns. Similarly, their attitudes toward the National Rifle Association (NRA) are also mixed.

Looking first at public regard for the NRA, for example, the survey finds that positive attitudes toward the organization total 52 percent, but 20 percent dislike it and another 28 percent are unsure about how they regard the NRA. While the NRA might fairly conclude that opinion toward them is five to two positive, the fact remains that only half of Arizonans view the

organization favorably. In some ways the gun control movement is reminiscent of the pro-life movement whose hard core opposes all abortion and contraception, and which although representing a minority view within the American public, has nonetheless had major impact on public law because of the cohesiveness of its effort. Whether gun-control legislation advocates will develop the same cohesiveness as have the pro-life folks is yet to be seen, but it seems clear that the NRA faces a gun laws advocacy constituency that is larger and more intense on the issue than it has been in the past.

What is also clear in the survey is the emergence of a strong partisan polarity of attitudes toward the NRA. Thus, the biggest anchor of support for the NRA is found among Republicans (78% favorable) and political conservatives (67% positive). But within other constituent groups, opinion is much more divided and tentative. For example, positive opinion toward the NRA is found among only 44 percent of Independent voters, 46 percent of women, then drops to around 40 percent among Latinos and other minorities and sinks to its lowest level among Democrats - just 28 percent. The recent defeat in the U.S. Senate of efforts to pass measures that would strengthen background checks for the purchase of guns may prove to be a tipping point for some voters who believe in gun rights but simultaneously favor stricter laws controlling gun sales and perhaps other aspects of gun trafficking in this country.

Simultaneously, it is obvious that the public in Arizona is of a divided mind on whether gun ownership rights should be left untouched or whether gun laws should be made stricter. For example, while a plurality (49%) believe it is more important to protect gun ownership rights, including military style semi-automatic rifles, 38 percent believe it is more important to impose additional controls on gun ownership and 13 percent are unsure. Similarly, an even closer split is seen in public sentiment as regards whether the sale of guns should be subject to stricter laws; 42 percent say "yes" while the balance say the laws should be left unmodified (38%) or made less strict (16%). How these conflicting opinions will play out in the years to come if there are more acts of violence with guns is impossible to predict, but it seems unlikely that the public will be satisfied with the defeat of efforts to do what can be done to make it as difficult as possible for guns to get into the hands of dangerous or unstable people.

For this and other polls, see www.brcpolls.com/results.

RMP (2013-II-04)

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2013-II-04), is based on 700 interviews with heads of household statewide including 438 registered voters statewide, conducted between April 3 and 16, 2013. Interviewing was conducted in both English or Spanish by professional interviewers of the Behavior Research Center on both landlines and cell phones. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, race and political party were weighted to bring them into line with their actual proportion in the population. In a sample of this size, one can say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.8 percent of what they would have been had the entire population been surveyed and 4.8 percent had the entire voter population been surveyed. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program sponsored by the Center.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

ENCLOSED: Statistical tables.

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the National Rifle Association?	The 2 nd amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees Americans the right to own firearms. As far as you know, do you have any operational firearms in your home other than for decoration?
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	Favorable	Unfavorable	Not Sure	Yes	No	Not Sure
Statewide	52%	20%	28%	37%	50%	13%
County						
Maricopa	52	19	29	40	50	10
Pima	53	26	21	28	54	18
Rural	52	19	29	38	47	15
Party						
Republican	78	10	12	48	34	18
Independent	44	26	30	42	44	14
Democrat	28	38	34	33	63	4
Gender						
Men	58	20	22	41	48	11
Women	46	20	34	34	51	15
Ethnicity						
Caucasian	57	22	21	39	46	15
Latino	38	19	43	36	58	6
Other	41	17	42	34	63	3
Political Philosophy						
Liberal	39	30	31	37	55	8
Moderate	50	21	29	38	53	9
Conservative	67	12	21	39	45	16
Age						
Under 35	45	16	39	44	50	6
35 to 54	60	18	22	36	49	15
55 or Older	48	27	25	33	50	17

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| Do you think the laws governing the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict or kept as they are now? | The U.S. Congress appears unlikely to pass stricter laws controlling the sale of semi-automatic military style weapons to the public. Which do you think is more important - to protect the rights of Americans to own semi-automatic military style firearms or to impose greater control on the ownership of such firearms? |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                      | More Strict | Less Strict | No Change | Not Sure | Protect Right to Own Semi-automatic Firearms | Impose Greater Control on Such Ownership | Not Sure |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------|
| Statewide            | 42%         | 16%         | 38%       | 4%       | 49%                                          | 38%                                      | 13%      |
| County               |             |             |           |          |                                              |                                          |          |
| Maricopa             | 43          | 21          | 31        | 5        | 55                                           | 38                                       | 7        |
| Pima                 | 46          | 3           | 49        | 2        | 46                                           | 39                                       | 15       |
| Rural                | 35          | 10          | 50        | 5        | 41                                           | 35                                       | 24       |
| Party                |             |             |           |          |                                              |                                          |          |
| Republican           | 22          | 17          | 57        | 4        | 81                                           | 16                                       | 3        |
| Independent          | 33          | 15          | 45        | 7        | 44                                           | 44                                       | 12       |
| Democrat             | 59          | 8           | 25        | 8        | 19                                           | 69                                       | 12       |
| Gender               |             |             |           |          |                                              |                                          |          |
| Men                  | 31          | 20          | 46        | 3        | 45                                           | 39                                       | 16       |
| Women                | 50          | 12          | 32        | 6        | 54                                           | 36                                       | 10       |
| Ethnicity            |             |             |           |          |                                              |                                          |          |
| Caucasian            | 42          | 14          | 38        | 6        | 55                                           | 34                                       | 11       |
| Latino               | 55          | 25          | 18        | 2        | 31                                           | 46                                       | 23       |
| Other                | 37          | 10          | 51        | 2        | 37                                           | 54                                       | 9        |
| Political Philosophy |             |             |           |          |                                              |                                          |          |
| Liberal              | 52          | 12          | 32        | 4        | 34                                           | 61                                       | 5        |
| Moderate             | 51          | 9           | 37        | 3        | 43                                           | 43                                       | 14       |
| Conservative         | 34          | 18          | 45        | 3        | 70                                           | 19                                       | 11       |
| Age                  |             |             |           |          |                                              |                                          |          |
| Under 35             | 35          | 14          | 45        | 6        | 54                                           | 35                                       | 11       |
| 35 to 54             | 42          | 23          | 32        | 3        | 53                                           | 28                                       | 19       |
| 55 or Older          | 51          | 7           | 38        | 4        | 40                                           | 50                                       | 10       |