

The Buzz

Poll: 'Vast majority' of Florida voters support stricter gun laws

7 out of 10 in a FAU poll released Wednesday.

By Alex Leary February 28



A group of about 50 people gathered along the race route of Saturday's Gasparilla Distance Classic to bring attention to gun violence. (Luis Santana, Times)

Two polls released Wednesday show broad support for stricter gun laws among Florida voters, reflecting a national trend after the Parkland shooting left 17 dead.

Seven out of 10 Floridians support stricter guns laws, according to a Florida Atlantic University poll released two weeks after the massacre. Only 11 percent of Florida voters said gun restrictions should be loosened.

A Quinnipiac University poll found 65 percent of voters support "stricter gun laws." A whopping 96 percent support requiring background checks for all gun buyers.

Florida voters support 62–33 percent a nationwide ban on the sale of "assault weapons," the Q poll found.

In a separate question with different wording, voters support 53–42 percent a nationwide ban on the sale of all "semi automatic rifles."

And the idea of arming teachers is opposed 56 percent to 40 percent.

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FLORIDA VOTERS OPPOSE TEACHERS WITH GUNS, QUINNIPAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; SUPPORT FOR 'ASSAULT WEAPON' BAN ALMOST 2-1

Florida voters oppose 56 – 40 percent allowing teachers and school officials to carry guns on school grounds, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today. Voters with children under 18 years old in public schools oppose arming school personnel 53 – 43 percent.

But 51 percent of voters say "increased security at school entrances" would do more to reduce gun violence in schools, compared to 32 percent who say stricter gun laws would do more and 12 percent who say armed teachers would do more to keep schools safe, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds.

Florida voters support 62 – 33 percent a nationwide ban on the sale of "assault weapons." In a separate question with different wording, voters support 53 – 42 percent a nationwide ban on the sale of all "semi-automatic rifles."

Voters support 65 – 29 percent "stricter gun laws," with strong support for other gun control measures:

- 96 – 3 percent for requiring background checks for all gun buyers;
- 62 – 34 percent for a nationwide ban on the sale of high-capacity magazines that hold more than 10 rounds;
- 87 – 10 percent for a mandatory waiting period on all gun purchases;
- 78 – 20 percent for requiring that all gun buyers be at least 21 years old;
- 89 – 8 percent for allowing police or family members to petition a judge to remove guns from a person who may be at risk of violent behavior;
- 92 – 6 percent for banning gun ownership by anyone who has had a restraining order for stalking, domestic abuse or other reasons.

"The notion that we are bitterly divided on political matters – the case for past decades – has found an exception to that rule. Florida voters – be they young or old, white or black, man or woman – have a common enemy," said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

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And here's the Q poll:
1:02 PM - Feb 28, 2018

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In the FAU poll, a majority of voters of every party affiliation want stricter gun laws, with Democrats most in support at 84 percent, followed by Independents at 69 percent and Republicans at 55 percent, according to the poll.



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From the FAU specific issues:

Universal background checks for all gun buyers are supported by 87 percent of voters, and there is no statistical difference based on party affiliation.

Nearly 4 of 5 voters (78 percent) support **raising the minimum age to purchase a gun** from 18 to 21, while 69 percent support a **ban on assault-style rifles**, with 23 percent opposed.

A **proposal to arm teachers** is opposed by 56 percent of voters and supported by only 31 percent, with Democrats opposing by a 74 to 16 percent margin, Independents opposing 57 to 26 percent and Republicans supporting the proposal 53 to 37 percent.

"Gun control may turn out to be a pivotal issue in the midterm elections and could well be the difference in a close race for the Senate between Rick Scott and Bill Nelson," said Kevin Wagner, a political science professor involved in the poll. "While large majorities of Floridians support background checks and an increase in the age requirement, it is not at all clear that there is sufficient support for these measures in the Florida legislature. As we are already late in the session, it will take a serious push by Gov. Scott to pass any of these reforms this year."

The survey, which polled 800 Florida registered voters Feb. 23-25, was conducted using an online sample supplied by Survey Sampling International using online questionnaires and via an automated telephone platform using registered voter lists supplied by Aristotle, Inc.

The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.6 percentage points. Responses for the entire sample were weighted to reflect the statewide distribution of the Florida population. More detail [here](#).

Read more: [Here's what's missing in Florida Legislature's gun proposals](#)

Read more: [Senate panel moves to raise Florida gun age, rejects ban on semi-automatic rifles](#)



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