



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-7400

July 11, 2011

Dear Virginia Candidate:

As the 2011 Election draws near, the National Rifle Association's Political Victory Fund is beginning to receive requests for information regarding the Second Amendment and hunting positions of the candidates. In an attempt to provide our membership with accurate information, I have enclosed a questionnaire for your response. **Please bear in mind that your responses to the candidate questionnaire, in whole or part, is not released to the public.**

The information derived from the questionnaire is used to determine a candidate's NRA-PVF rating, which is then communicated to our members. **If you choose not to return a questionnaire, you may be assigned a "?" rating, which can be interpreted by our members as indifference, if not outright hostility, toward Second Amendment-related issues.**

I respectfully request that you complete and submit the 2011 candidate questionnaire, even if you have previously completed a questionnaire and/or have an established voting record.

Please return a signed copy of your questionnaire in the enclosed self-addressed envelope by **Friday, August 5**, to ensure ample time for us to compile our ratings and communicate this information to our members. Failure to respond could mean that you miss your best opportunity to have your positions communicated to our members. Feel free to include any additional campaign materials or information that you feel may clarify your position on firearm-related issues. You may also fax your signed and completed questionnaire to (703) 267-3976, however the original questionnaire must also be returned through the mail.

Should you have any questions concerning the questionnaire or the rating process, please feel free to contact me at (703) 267-1215.

Regards,

Andrew Jennison
Virginia State Liaison
NRA-ILA

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
POLITICAL VICTORY FUND
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VA 22030
FAX (703) 267-3976



NRA-PVF

2011 VIRGINIA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: _____
Campaign Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip Code: _____
Office Sought: _____ District: _____ Party: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____ Website: _____

For further information on Virginia's firearm laws,
please visit www.nraila.org and click on the "Gun Laws" feature located in the menu.

1. Do you agree that the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees an individual right to keep and bear arms that applies to all Americans, regardless of where they live in the United States?

- a. Yes.
- b. No.

2. Considering current Virginia state firearm laws, do you support any additional restrictive state legislation regulating firearms?

- a. Yes, on all firearms.
- b. Yes, on some firearms. Please specify types of firearms: _____
- c. No, current state firearms laws are sufficient.
- d. No, current state firearm laws should be improved to benefit Virginia's law-abiding gun owners and sportsmen.

3. Do you support state legislation banning the lawful manufacture, possession, ownership, purchase, sale and/or transfer of any firearms?

- a. All firearms. Please specify type of restrictions: _____
- b. All handguns. Please specify type of restrictions: _____
- c. Some firearms. Please specify types of firearms/restrictions: _____
- d. No laws banning any firearms should be enacted.

4. Would you support legislation requiring firearm owners to register all their firearms for entry into a centralized state file or computer?

- a. Yes, for all firearms.
- b. Yes, for all handguns.
- c. Yes, for some firearms. Please specify: _____
- d. No, I would oppose a state registration system.

5. Do you support requiring individuals to obtain a *license from the Commonwealth in order to own, possess or purchase firearms? * Licensing, as used here, refers to state legislation requiring firearm owners to obtain a license from a governmental official or agency to own and possess a firearm; as a general rule, firearm owner licensing laws require fingerprinting, photographing and a background investigation of the applicant.

- a. Yes, for all firearm owners.
- b. Yes, for all handgun owners.
- c. Yes, for some firearm owners. Please specify: _____
- d. No, I would oppose state licensing of firearm owners. _____

6. Federal law allows for an exemption to the federally mandated criminal background check requirement if the prospective purchaser has a firearm carry license issued by the state in which the transfer is to occur, the license was issued within five years of the date of the transfer and the licensing procedure requires a background check (including a National Instant Criminal Background Check System check), designed to exclude persons prohibited from possessing a firearm under state and federal law. **Would you support legislation to allow Virginian's licensed to carry a concealed weapon to qualify for this exemption?**

- a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- b. No, I would oppose such legislation. Please explain: _____

7. A fee of two dollars on state residents and five dollars on non-residents is imposed on purchasers of all modern firearms to conduct the state instant criminal records check. Requiring such a check is considered to be in the interest of "public safety" and the requirement of a fee for this "public service" constitutes the imposition of a "poll tax" on the Second Amendment. **Do you support legislation to repeal this gun tax, which is certainly not a "user fee" for law-abiding citizens?**

- a. Yes, I would cosponsor such legislation.
- b. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- c. No, I would oppose such legislation.

8. Most states rely on the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) at point of purchase to conduct the federally mandated background check on prospective firearm purchasers. Under this system, licensed dealers contact the FBI, via a toll-free telephone number to run a check of computerized criminal history and mental health records at the point of sale. Upon confirmation that the purchaser has no prohibiting criminal or mental health record, the purchaser may take possession of the firearm. Virginia conducts its own background check but also runs prospective purchases through NICS. **Would you support legislation to eliminate Virginia's duplicative state instant check system and instead rely on the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System?**

- a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- b. No, I would oppose such legislation. Please explain: _____

9. **Would you support legislation amending Virginia concealed handgun statutes to permit a non-resident to carry a concealed firearm in Virginia if he or she has a valid license issued from his or her state of residence and carries such license on his or her person while in Virginia?**

- a. Yes, I would cosponsor such legislation.
- b. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- c. No, I would oppose such legislation.

10. Anti-gun groups are promoting legislation that would require ammunition manufacturers to serialize each cartridge of ammunition by imprinting a unique serial number on the cartridge case and the base of the bullet. The ammunition would then be registered to the purchaser at the time of sale and information about the purchaser would be maintained by the seller or forwarded to the state for entry into a state centralized database. The possession or sale of ammunition that does not include a serial number would be prohibited. **Would you support legislation requiring ammunition manufacturers to serialize/encode ammunition before it could be sold in Virginia?**

- a. Yes, I would support such legislation for all ammunition.
- b. Yes, I would support such legislation for handgun ammunition.
- c. No, I would oppose such legislation.

11. Anti-gun groups are promoting legislation that would mandate firearm manufacturers incorporate unproven technology that would theoretically "micro-stamp" identifying information about the firearm on a cartridge case upon firing. This information would include the make, model and serial number of the firearm. Since approximately 65 million handguns are already in circulation, such a mandate would require *de facto* registration of guns, even though the technology is easily defeated by defacing the gun with common household tools. **Would you support legislation mandating "micro-stamping" in Virginia?**

- a. Yes, I would support such legislation for all handguns.
- b. Yes, I would support such legislation for all firearms.
- c. No, I would oppose such legislation.

12. Many .50 caliber firearms are used in big game hunting and target competition, and the .50 caliber BMG cartridge has been used for nearly 100 years. **Would you support legislation prohibiting the ownership and/or sale of any .50 caliber firearms or ammunition in Virginia?**

- a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- b. No, I would oppose such legislation.

13. Some law enforcement departments have been destroying confiscated sporting and self-defense arms as well as outdated department firearms because they feel it is "politically correct." These firearms are legal products that could be sold or auctioned to a federally licensed firearm dealer (FFL) dealer in order to generate revenue for law enforcement, or be provided to smaller law enforcement agencies that are in need of additional equipment. **Would you support legislation requiring law enforcement departments to auction or sell their confiscated sporting and self-defense arms to FFL dealers?**

- a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- b. No, I would oppose such legislation. Please explain: _____

14. A centuries-old doctrine in common law, known as the "Castle Doctrine," provides that a man's home is his castle. This widely accepted principle essentially declares that a homeowner may use force, including deadly force, to protect himself and other inhabitants. Over the years, some courts have eroded this principle by establishing that there is a "duty to retreat" before meeting force with force. Many other states have codified this principle and added new protections for self-defense in public places, and liability protection for defenders. **Would you support amending the Code of Virginia so that:**

- a. A person would have the right to meet force with force to protect himself or herself and family members regardless of their location .
- b. There would be no "duty to retreat" from any place a person may lawfully be.
- c. A person justified in the use of force would be protected from criminal and civil liability.
- d. All of the above.
- e. None of the above.

15. Virginia is one of forty-eight states that have some form of firearms preemption. This law guarantees that the state has sole occupation of the field of firearms regulation with regard to ownership, carry, storage, possession, manufacture, transport, transfer, and sales. However, localities still maintain the authority to enact regulations restricting firearms discharge for sporting and/or hunting purposes, thus subjecting law-abiding gun owners to a patchwork of inconsistent ordinances across the Commonwealth. **Would you support legislation that further broadens Virginia's preemption law to include the discharge of firearms?**

- a. Yes, I would cosponsor such legislation.
- b. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- c. No, I would oppose such legislation. Please explain: _____

16. Some local governments in Virginia have attempted to ban firearms in various city and county facilities. The approach would create a patchwork of confusing local ordinances. **Would you support legislation giving local units of government the power to ban the possession of firearms in city and county facilities?**

- a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- b. No, I would oppose such legislation, thus maintaining uniform firearm laws statewide.

17. Since the passage of the "one-gun-a-month" law in 1993, there has been no credible evidence that this gun-rationing statute has reduced violent crime in Virginia or any other state. In 2003, a law was enacted to exempt concealed handgun permit holders from the state law that prohibits the purchase of more than one handgun in a thirty-day period. In fact, after passing a similar law in 1976, South Carolina repealed its gun-rationing statute in 2004. Please indicate whether you would support or oppose the following proposals:

A. Virginia's gun-rationing law currently also applies to all handgun purchases, including "private transfers," even between family and friends. Would you support legislation to exempt "private transfers" from Virginia's gun-rationing law?

Yes: _____ No: _____

B. Would you support legislation to repeal the Virginia gun-rationing law outright?

Yes: _____ No: _____

18. Semi-automatic firearms (which fire only one round per trigger pull) have been owned and used by millions of law-abiding gun owners and sportsmen since the late 1800's. Would you support legislation to restrict the sale, purchase, possession and transfer of semi-automatic firearms?

- a. Yes. Please explain: _____
 b. No, restrictions on semi-automatic firearms would only impact law-abiding citizens and have no effect on the criminal misuse of firearms.

19. Would you support legislation to permit law-abiding citizens to keep lawfully transported firearms locked in their personal vehicles while parked on publicly-accessible property controlled by a business?

- a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
 b. No, I would oppose such legislation. Please explain: _____

20. Federal and Virginia law require all federally licensed firearms dealers to conduct background checks at gun shows for all firearm transactions. Individuals who attend gun shows and are not "engaged in the business" of selling firearms are: (1) not required to be licensed; (2) not required to conduct records checks prior to transferring firearms; and (3) not permitted to access the records check system used by licensed dealers. Would you support legislation further restricting firearms sales by individuals at gun shows?

- a. Yes, I would support such legislation. Please explain: _____
 b. No, I would oppose such legislation.

21. Would you support legislation restricting or regulating the sale or transfer of firearms between individuals and family members?

- a. Yes, I would support such legislation. Please explain: _____
 b. No, I would oppose such legislation.

22. In the United States, the number of privately owned firearms has doubled in the last 35 years, and reached an all-time high. Meanwhile, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, the firearm accident death rate has decreased 88 percent, to an all-time low. This trend is due in part to NRA firearm safety training programs used by tens of thousands of NRA Certified Instructors, schools, civic groups, and law enforcement agencies. Nevertheless, several states have recently considered legislation to require that locking devices be placed on firearms kept in the home. A lock severely limits the ability to use a firearm for self-defense purposes and potentially increases the risk of a firearm accident. Would you support legislation requiring locking devices (safes, trigger locks, cable locks, lock boxes, etc.) or other locking procedures for firearms stored in the home?

- a. Yes.
 b. No.
 c. No, I would not support such legislation and would instead support a resolution encouraging Virginia public schools to adopt NRA's Eddie Eagle GunSafe® accident prevention program as part of its curriculum.

23. The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages its members to ask many intrusive questions of their patients under the ruse of preventing "gun violence." In doing so, doctors - particularly pediatricians - have been questioning patients about the presence of firearms in one's home. **Do you believe firearm ownership is your personal matter and doctors should stop questioning patients about firearm ownership?**

- a. Yes, firearm ownership is a personal matter and I would support legislation to stop doctors from asking about firearm ownership.
- b. Yes, firearm ownership is a personal matter, but I would oppose legislation to stop doctors from asking about firearm ownership. Please explain: _____
- c. No, I believe firearm ownership is information that a doctor should be made aware of to help prevent "gun violence."

24. Virginia is one of only six states that have a complete ban on Sunday hunting. Thirty-nine states currently have no restrictions whatsoever regarding Sunday hunting. The prohibition on Sunday hunting is an old blue law left on the books in just a handful of states. This inhibits biologists, wildlife managers, and sportsmen from making conservation decisions based on science. Opportunity and access remain the biggest obstacles to continuing our hunting heritage. Many hunters cannot introduce their children or friends to hunting because Saturday is their only opportunity, and they are competing with numerous organized sports and activities. Comprehensive research from the National Shooting Sports Foundation shows that allowing hunting on Sundays would generate a total annual economic impact estimated at \$296 million and create 3,927 jobs. All of this would be spurred by simply eliminating words from state statute books (the current prohibition), not spending taxpayer dollars on some pie-in-the-sky scheme. The Virginia Board of Game and Inland Fishery recently passed a resolution endorsing Sunday hunting. **Would you support legislation that would:**

- a. Permit Sunday hunting on public land only.
- b. Permit Sunday hunting on private land only.
- c. Permit Sunday hunting on both private and public land.
- d. None of the above. The current prohibition of Sunday hunting should remain in place.

25. Many states provide civil liability protection to private property owners who allow the public to hunt on their property. This protection eliminates a significant concern for property owners and encourages them to open their land to hunting. This enhances public hunting opportunities and assists the state in effectively managing its wildlife populations. **Would you support passing or strengthening liability protections for private landowners who allow hunting on their property?**

- a. Yes. I would support this legislation
- b. No. I would oppose this legislation. Please explain: _____

26. **Are you a member of the National Rifle Association or any other gun owner advocacy organization?**

- a. Yes - NRA. Membership #: _____
- b. Yes - other organization(s): _____
- c. No.

27. **(For non-incumbents only) Have you ever run for or held state or local elective office?**

- a. Yes. Please specify: _____
- b. No.

Please use the space below or the reverse of this page for additional comments. If your campaign has released a position paper on firearms issues, please feel free to include it as well. Thank you for your time and consideration.

--AUTHORIZATION--

This signature attests that the above information accurately represents the views of the candidate.

Candidate's Signature _____ Date _____