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State Senate and House of Representatives 2004 New Hampshire Candidate Questionnaire

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1. Based upon current New Hampshire firearms laws, do you oppose further restricting the sale, use, ownership, possession or transfer of firearms or ammunition?

- A) Yes, I oppose any further restrictions on firearms and ammunition.
 B) No, I seek further restrictions on some firearms and ammunition. Specify:
-

2. Do you support reforming or repealing state laws, in order to benefit law-abiding gun-owners and sportsmen in New Hampshire?

- A) Yes
 B) No

3. Semi-automatic firearms (which discharge only one shot with each pull of the trigger) have been owned and used by law-abiding citizens since the late 1800s. Fully-automatic firearms (which discharge more than one shot with each pull of the trigger) are Federally registered and taxed. Would you support state legislation to require a special license for, or other restrictions on, the private possession of semi-automatic firearms?

- A) Yes. Please specify _____
 B) No, Licensing or other restrictions on semi-automatic firearms will only affect law-abiding citizens, and will have no effect on criminal abuse of firearms.

★ 4. Pistol and rifle ammunition magazines are plastic or metal boxes with a spring inside. These devices feed cartridges into the semi-automatic firearms discussed above. Some want to ban the sale and possession of magazines, which hold more than a certain number of cartridges. Would you oppose legislation that bans the sale and possession of ammunition magazines?

A) Yes

B) No

5. Local courts and law enforcement agencies -- often relying on unsubstantiated accusations -- have abused statutes dealing with domestic violence to seize firearms without due process, i.e., without issuance of a warrant, holding a hearing or obtaining a conviction. Would you support legislation to end these violations of our right to due process, and stop this abuse of the legal system?

A) Yes, I would co-sponsor such legislation.

B) Yes, I would support such legislation.

C) No, I would oppose such legislation. Why? _____

★ 6. If a firearm is stolen - or taken without the owner's permission or knowledge - and the firearm is used to commit a crime, should the owner be civilly or criminally liable?

A) Yes

B) No - *Except in cases of gross negligence. (Civil only, not criminal and only in few circumstances)*

★ 7. Section 159:6 of Title XII of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated, (NH - R.S.A.) provides for a license to carry a loaded pistol or revolver "for not less than four years from the date of issue." The New Hampshire State Senate recently approved a bill making this license voluntary, so that those state residents who desired reciprocity with other states had the option of obtaining a license. However, the requirement to obtain a license to carry a concealed and loaded handgun in New Hampshire would have been repealed. Would you support such legislation?

A) Yes, I support making all New Hampshire state handgun licenses optional.

B) No, I support the current law.

8. Do you oppose government mandated use of trigger locks or other such hazardous "safety" devices, which have the effect of making it difficult, if not impossible, to have a firearm available to defend one's home and family?

A) Yes

B) No

★ 9. Would you support Vermont-style legislation, which would eliminate requirements to pay fees and register firearm(s) owners and would allow law-abiding citizens to carry firearms openly or concealed (at the individuals discretion) for any reason except the commission of a crime?

A) Yes

B) No

10. Which of the following choices best describes your attitude towards hunting? Please indicate or choose to all that apply.

- A) Hunting should be eliminated.
- B) Hunting is an essential tool for wildlife management.
- C) Hunting should include the creation of more hunting seasons for certain game.
- D) Do you think that there should be additional restrictions on hunting? If yes please specify: _____
- E) Other: _____

11. Do you participate in any sport or activity involving a firearm? Or do you possess the license described in question 7?

- A) Yes, Specify: skeet/trap-shooting, hunting (grouse/pheasant)
- B) No

12. Are you (or have you ever been) a member of the New Hampshire Firearms Coalition, National Rifle Association or any other sportsmen's or firearm's owners association?

A) Yes, please list the organizations and most recent year of membership.

B) No. - Not yet, I just started shooting this year.

13. Do you support allowing state employees, (who are not law enforcement) and who possess the license described in question seven, to carry firearms in state offices?

- A) Yes
- B) No

14. Certain gun control advocates promote licensing and registration schemes that treat the law abiding as presumed criminals. These schemes include high fees, fingerprinting, photographs and mandatory training for firearms owners. Do you oppose these hurdles to firearms ownership by the law abiding?

- A) Yes
- B) No

15. For which of the following reasons do you support firearms ownership for law-abiding New Hampshire citizens? (Please circle all that apply)

- A) Constitutional right (Title I, Article 2-a, NH Constitution; Second Amendment, US Constitution).
- B) Hunting;
- C) Competitive Shooting;
- D) Informal Target Shooting;
- E) Collecting;
- F) Defense of self, family, and home;
- G) Defense of state and nation;
- H) All of the above;
- I) None of the above.

16. Are you now or have you ever been a member of an organization that promotes "gun control," or increased regulation and/or restrictions on the ownership of firearms?

- A) Yes. (please specify): _____
- B) No


17. Section 159:8 of Title XII of the NH RSA requires a Federally-licensed firearms dealer, to get a State handgun seller's license valid for not more than 3 years. This law enabled police chiefs to know, who in their town, was legally selling handguns. A revised Federal dealer license application now requires notification to the local police chief. The State license - invalid if the Federal license lapses - now is useless. Would you back repeal of the now-useless State handgun seller's license, or making its validity "not less than three years" (similar to the term of validity of the Federal license)?

- A) Yes, I support repealing the now-useless New Hampshire state handgun seller's license.
- B) Yes, I want the NH state handgun seller's license to be valid for not less than three years.
- C) No, I support the current law.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE.

--AUTHORIZATION--

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


Candidate's Signature


Date

Jason Bedrick
July 23, 2004

Dear New Hampshire Firearms Coalition,

I agree that the right to keep and bear arms is one of our most important constitutional freedoms. It is through the exercise of the Second Amendment that we enjoy the protections and freedoms of the others. I also believe that the government should be as least intrusive as possible, but I do support some common-sense regulations on the ownership and use of guns. Gun ownership is an issue that is close to me since I also enjoy shooting trap and skeet and there are avid hunters in my family.

I answered no to Question #4 because I have friends in the police force who have seen how and why large-capacity magazines are most often used. I support the rights of gun collectors to own these weapons after registering with the government and I would vote against any bill that further reduced the capacity of magazines, but I am not in favor of increasing the legal capacity of magazines.

I answered no to Question #6 but, in limited circumstances, I believe that a person who has been grossly negligent with the care of their firearm should be held civilly (though not criminally) liable for their actions. However, I would not support legislation that would unduly burden gun owners by requiring any sort of locks or other measures.

I answered no to Question #7 because I support having concealed-carry permits. This measure makes it easier for police officers and gun owning citizens. For example, if a police officer pulls over a person with a gun, if that person does not have a license proving that he or she may legally carry a gun, the officer must confiscate the weapon until a background check verifies that the person is not a felon. This process wastes the time of the police officer and the private citizen. Carrying a permit would make this process easier for everyone.

I had to answer no to Questions #7 and #9 because I believe that guns should be registered with local (not federal) authorities so that it is easier for the police officers to identify stolen weapons. However, I do not want the government having fingerprints, photographs, or any other intrusive information, so I would vote against any bill requiring this information as a part of the registration. I would also vigorously oppose any confiscation efforts. The first act of the Holocaust was Hitler's order that Jews could not own guns. Confiscation of weapons from law-abiding citizens cannot be allowed to happen, ever.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my views with you.

Sincerely,

Jason Bedrick
(603) 759-2035