# Gun Policy Remains Divisive, But Several Proposals Still Draw Bipartisan Support 

More prioritize controlling gun ownership than protecting gun rights

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# Gun Policy Remains Divisive, But Several Proposals Still Draw Bipartisan Support More prioritize controlling gun ownership than protecting gun rights 

The partisan divide that for years has defined public opinion about the nation's gun policies remains firmly in place. Yet there continue to be several specific policy proposals that draw broad support from both Republicans and Democrats.

An overwhelming share of Americans (89\%) favor preventing people with mental illnesses from purchasing guns. About as many (85\%) favor making private gun sales subject to background checks and banning people on federal no-fly or watch lists from purchasing guns (84\%).

Overwhelming majorities of Republicans and Republicanleaning independents and Democrats and Democratic leaners ( $89 \%$ each) say mentally ill people should be barred from buying guns. Nearly as many in both parties (86\% of Democrats, $83 \%$ of Republicans) favor barring gun purchases by people on

Partisans agree on several gun restrictions, but differ
widely on assault weapons ban 'concealed carry' widely on assault weapons ban, 'concealed carry’
\% who strongly or somewhat favor ...

| Preventing people with mental illnesses from purchasing guns |  | Rep/ Lean Rep $\square$ | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Barring gun purchases by people on federal no-fly or watch lists |  |  |  | $8384$ |
| Background checks for private sales and at gun shows |  |  |  | $9 \bullet \bullet \bullet$ |
| Creating a federal database to track gun sales |  | 58 | 7 | $74 \quad \bullet 88$ |
| Banning high-capacity magazines |  | 51 • | 67 | - 81 |
| Banning assault-style weapons |  | $50 \bullet$ | 67 | - 81 |
| Allowing teachers and officials to carry guns in K-12 schools | $22 \bullet$ | 43 | - | 69 |
| Allowing concealed carry in more places | 26 • | 45 | $\bullet$ | 68 |
| Shortening waiting periods for buying guns legally | $22 \cdot 31$ | -43 |  |  |
| Allowing concealed carry without a permit | $18 \cdot 27$ |  |  |  |

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 24-Oct.7, 2018.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER federal watch lists. And sizable majorities also favor making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks ( $91 \%$ of Democrats, 79\% of Republicans).

Yet there is a 30-percentage-point difference between Democrats and Republicans in support for an assault weapons ban ( $81 \%$ of Democrats, $50 \%$ of Republicans) and even wider gaps on two other proposals: arming teachers and school officials in elementary and high schools and allowing people to carry concealed weapons in more places.

Large majorities of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents favor both of these proposals ( $69 \%$ arming school officials, $68 \%$ expanded concealed carry), compared with only about a quarter of Democrats and Democratic leaners (22\% arming school officials, $26 \%$ expanded concealed carry).

Opinions on these and other gun policy proposals have changed little in the year since Pew Research Center conducted a major study of guns in the U.S. (See "America's Complex Relationship with Guns.") Still, the new survey, conducted Sept. 24-Oct. 7, finds modest changes in some public attitudes on gun policy:

A majority of Americans say gun laws should be stricter. The share of Americans who say gun laws in this country should be stricter has increased somewhat since last year. Currently, $57 \%$ say gun laws should be more strict than they are currently, compared with $31 \%$ who say they are about right, while just $11 \%$ say they should be less strict. Last year, $52 \%$ supported stricter gun laws.

Stark partisan divisions on impact of more gun limits on frequency of mass shootings. Nearly half of Americans (47\%) say there would be fewer mass shootings if it was harder for people to legally obtain guns in the U.S. Slightly more say making gun ownership more difficult either would make no difference (46\%) or this would lead to more mass shootings (6\%). Two-thirds of Democrats ( $67 \%$ ) say making it harder for people to obtain guns would result in fewer mass shootings; an identical share of Republicans say it would not make a difference.

## Modest shift in views of gun rights vs. gun control.

Opinions about whether it is more important to control gun ownership or protect gun rights have been closely divided for several years. Today, somewhat more say it is more important to control gun ownership (52\%) than to protect the right of Americans to own guns (44\%), according to a separate national survey, conducted Sept. 18-24 among 1,754 adults.

These attitudes, like many related to gun policy, have long been deeply divided along partisan lines. But the partisan gap has widened: In 2010, Barack Obama's second year in office, Republicans were about twice as likely as Democrats to prioritize gun rights rather than gun control ( $65 \%$ vs. $33 \%$ ). Today, Republicans are four times more likely than Democrats to say gun rights are more important ( $76 \%$ vs. 19\%).

There also is a wide gender divide in these views. By close to two-to-one ( $62 \%$ to $33 \%$ ), women say it is more important to control gun ownership than to protect the right of Americans to own guns. Men, by a smaller margin ( $55 \%$ to $41 \%$ ), say it is more important to protect gun ownership.

## More now prioritize controlling gun

 ownership than protecting gun rights\% saying it is more important to ...


Protect the right of
Americans to own guns

\% who say it is more important to protect the right of Americans to own guns ...


Note: Don't know responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.
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## In views of gun policies, partisanship and gun ownership are factors

Like partisanship, gun ownership also impacts views of specific policy proposals. Overall, gun owners are more likely than non-gun owners to support measures that expand access to guns, and less likely to support restrictions on gun use and ownership.

About four-in-ten Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (41\%) say they personally own a gun, compared with $17 \%$ of Democrats and Democratic leaners.

These differences in views by gun ownership are evident among members of both parties, though they are more pronounced among Republicans than Democrats.

The roughly 50-50 split in views of Republicans overall on banning high-capacity magazines and assault-style weapons reflects sharp differences between Republicans who own guns and those who do not. Among Republicans, non-gun-owners are about 30 percentage points more likely than gun owners to favor each of these proposals.

## In both parties, divides between gun owners, non-gun owners in views of gun policies



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 24-Oct.7, 2018.
Yet Democrats also are divided

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 on the basis of gun ownership. This is particularly evident in opinions about proposals to allow people to carry concealed weapons in more places and arm teachers and other school officials. Half of Democratic gun owners favorexpanded concealed carry, compared with just 21\% of Democrats who do not own guns. And Democratic gun-owners are about twice as likely as Democrats who do not own guns to favor arming teachers and other school officials in K-12 schools (37\% vs. 19\%).

## Majority of public supports stricter gun laws

Nearly six-in-ten Americans (57\%) say gun laws should be more strict than they are today, 31\% say they are about right, and $11 \%$ say they should be less strict. Last year, $52 \%$ favored stricter laws; $30 \%$ said they were about right and $18 \%$ said should be less strict.

Democrats are more than twice as likely as Republicans to say gun laws in the U.S. should be stricter than they are today ( $80 \%$ vs. $28 \%$ ). About half of Republicans say current laws are about right (52\%), while $20 \%$ say they should be less strict.

Like attitudes on specific gun proposals, gun ownership also impacts views of the strictness of gun laws. Within each party, non-gun owners were more likely than gun owners to say laws should be more strict.

Democrats - regardless of whether they personally own a gun - overwhelmingly say stricter laws are needed, though fewer Democratic gun owners than non-gun-owners favor making laws stricter ( $64 \%$ vs. $84 \%$ ).

And while Republicans generally oppose stricter gun laws, support for tougher laws is more widespread among Republican non-gun owners (40\%) than gun owners (13\%).

## Majority of adults say gun laws should be stricter than they are today



Note: No answer not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 24-Oct.7, 2018.
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## Impact of changes in access to guns on crime, mass shootings

The public is mixed when it comes to the potential impact that more Americans owning guns would have on crime in the U.S.
Comparable shares say that if more Americans owned guns, there would be more crime ( $37 \%$ ) or there would be no impact on the amount of crime (33\%). About one-in-three say there would be less crime.

Republicans and Democrats are deeply split on the possible impact of more Americans owning guns. Half of Republicans and Republicanleaning independents say there would be less crime (50\%), while a majority of Democrats say there would be more crime (56\%).

Mirroring the gap among partisans, gun-owners and non-gun owners are also deeply divided. A small majority of gun owners say more gun ownership would lead to less crime while nearly half of non-gun owners say there would be more crime.

The public also is divided over the impact of making it harder to legally own guns on mass shootings in the U.S. Nearly half of adults (47\%) say that if it was harder for people to legally obtain guns in the United States, there would be fewer mass shootings in this country. An equal share (46\%) say it would make no difference in the number of these incidents, and $6 \%$ say it would result in more mass shootings.

Overall, public views are little changed since the question was last asked in 2017. However, the share who say there would be more mass shootings if it were harder to own guns is smaller - from $13 \%$ in a year ago to $6 \%$ today.

## Gun policy activism: Modest partisan gaps, except on attending protests

Relatively few Americans say they have ever expressed their feelings about the issue of guns by either posting on social media (26\%), contributing money to an organization that takes a position on gun policy (14\%), contacting a public official to express an opinion on guns (14\%) or attending a rally or protest about the issue of guns (6\%).

## More say they express feelings about gun policy on social media than donate money or contact officials

Even smaller shares say they have done any of these activities in the past year.

On two behaviors surveyed in 2017 and today - contributing money to an organization or contacting a public official the share who report having done either is little changed. In 2017, 6\% of adults said they had contacted a public official in the previous year to express an opinion on gun policy.
$\%$ who have ever done any of the following ...

| Yes, in last 12 mos $\quad$ Yes, NOT in last 12 mos | NET <br> ever |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Publicly expressed feelings about <br> issue of guns on social media | 18 | 8 | $\mathbf{2 6}$ |
| Contributed money to an organization <br> that takes a position on gun policy | 7 | 7 | $\mathbf{1 4}$ |
| Contacted a public official to express <br> opinion on gun policy | 7 | 7 | $\mathbf{1 4}$ |
| Attended a rally or protest about the <br> issue of guns | $3 \mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ |  |

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 24-Oct.7, 2018.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Today, $7 \%$ of adults say they have contacted an official in the past 12 months.

Similarly, in 2017, 7\% of adults said they had contributed money to an organization in the past year. Today, an equal share ( $7 \%$ ) say the same.

There are no significant differences in expressions of views on gun policy by age or gender, but larger differences by gun ownership and partisanship.

Gun owners were more likely than non-gun owners to say they had publicly expressed feelings about the issue of guns on social media ( $22 \%$ vs. $16 \%$ ) or contributed money to an organization that takes a position on gun policy ( $13 \%$ vs. $5 \%$ ) in the past 12 months.

Differences between gun owners and non-gun owners are particularly pronounced among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. A quarter of Republican gun-owners said they had posted about guns on social media in the last year (25\%), contributed money to an organization (16\%) or contacted a public official (9\%). Among non-gun owning Republicans, fewer reported engaging in these activities.

In contrast, there are few differences between gun owning and non-gun owning Democrats.

And while Republicans and Democrats overall report similar levels of engagement in expressive activities on guns, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say they had attended a rally or protest about the issue of guns in the past 12 months ( $5 \%$ vs $1 \%$, respectively).

## Democrats more likely than Republicans to have attended a protest or rally on guns; slight differences on contacting public officials, donating to gun policy groups

$\%$ who say they have done the following in the last 12 months ...

|  | Publicly expressed <br> feelings about issue of <br> guns on social media <br> 18 | Contributed money <br> to an organization <br> that takes a position <br> on gun policy | Contacted a public <br> official to express <br> opinion on gun policy | Attended a rally or <br> protest about <br> the issue of guns |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| All adults | 7 | 7 | 3 |  |
| Gun owner | 22 | 13 | 8 | 2 |
| Non-gun owner | 16 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| Rep/Lean Rep | 18 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| Gun owner | 25 | 16 | 9 | 1 |
| Non-gun owner | 12 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Dem/Lean Dem | 19 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| Gun owner | 18 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| Non-gun owner | 18 | 6 | 9 | 5 |

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 24-Oct.7, 2018.
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## Acknowledgements

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Research team<br>Carroll Doherty, Director, Political Research<br>Jocelyn Kiley, Associate Director, Political Research<br>Alec Tyson, Senior Researcher<br>Bradley Jones, Research Associate<br>Baxter Oliphant, Research Associate<br>Hannah Hartig, Research Analyst<br>Amina Dunn, Research Assistant<br>John LaLoggia, Research Assistant<br>Seth Cohen, Intern<br>\section*{Communications and editorial}<br>Bridget Johnson, Communications Manager<br>Graphic design and web publishing<br>Alissa Scheller, Information Graphics Designer

## Methodology

## The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Most of the analysis in this report is based on surveys conducted online with Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (ATP). The ATP, created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. The panel is being managed by GfK.

One question was asked on a telephone survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018. For more, see "Voter Enthusiasm at Record High in

Nationalized Midterm Environment."

Data in this report are drawn from the panel wave conducted September 24October 7, 2018. A total of 10,683 panelists responded out of 13,492 who were sampled, for a response rate of $79 \%$. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and minus 1.5 percentage points. The module of questions about gun attitudes was asked of half of respondents $(5,307)$ with a margin of sampling error of 2.1 percentage points.

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of which 9,942 agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to mail recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample (ABS) of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's

Delivery Sequence File. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. For a random halfsample of invitations, households without internet access were instructed to return a postcard. These households were contacted by telephone and sent a tablet if they agreed to participate. As of Sept. 17, 2018, a total of 8,611 had been invited to join the panel, and 8,023 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey.

Of the 17,965 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 13,493 remain active panelists and continue to receive survey invitations.

## Weighting

The ATP data were weighted in a multistep process that begins with a base weight incorporating the respondents' original survey selection probability and the fact that in 2014 and 2017 some panelists were subsampled for invitation to the panel. For panelists recruited prior to 2018, an adjustment was made for the fact that the propensity to join the panel and remain an active panelist varied across different groups in the sample. No adjustment was made for new panelists from the 2018 recruitment. The final step in the weighting uses an iterative technique that aligns the sample to population benchmarks on the dimensions listed in the accompanying table.

Sampling errors and statistical-significance tests take into account the effect of weighting. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish, but the American Trends Panel's Hispanic sample is predominantly native born and English speaking.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

| Weighting dimensions |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Variable | Benchmark source |
| Gender | 2016 American |
| Age | Community |
| Education |  |
| Race/Hispanic origin |  |
| Region x Metropolitan status | 2017 CPS March Supplement |
| Volunteerism | 2015 CPS Volunteer Supplement |
| Voter registration | 2016 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement |
| Party affiliation | Average of the three most recent Pew Research Center telephone surveys. |
| Internet access | 2018 Pew Research Center internet core trends telephone survey |
| Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total US adult population. |  |
| PEW ReSEARCH CEN |  |

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the $95 \%$ level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

| Group | Unweighted <br> sample size <br> 10,683 | Plus or minus ... <br> Total sample |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  5,507 2.1 percentage points |  |  |
| Half sample | 2,142 | 3.3 percentage points points |
| Half sample Rep/Lean Rep | 2,965 | 2.9 percentage points |
| Half sample Dem/Lean Dem | 1,536 | 3.9 percentage points |
| Half sample gun owners | 3,598 | 2.6 percentage points |

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.
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# 2018 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL <br> WAVE 38 <br> September 24-October 7, 2018 <br> FINAL TOPLINE <br> $\mathrm{N}=\mathbf{1 0 , 6 8 3}$ 

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK FORMS 2 AND 3 ONLY [N=5,307]:
GUNSTRIC
Which of the following statements comes closest to your overall view of gun laws in this country? [REVERSE ORDER OF PUNCHES FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE]

| Sep 24- | Mar 13- |  |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |
| Oct 7 |  |  |
| $\frac{2018}{57}$ | Gun laws should be MORE strict than they are today | Mar 27 |
| 31 | Gun laws are about right | 2017 |
| 31 | Gun laws should be LESS strict than they are today | 52 |
| 11 | No answer | 30 |
| 1 |  | 18 |

## RANDOMIZE ORDER OF GUNPRIORITY1 AND GUNPRIORITY2 <br> ASK FORMS 2 AND 3 ONLY [N=5,307]:

GUNPRIORITY1 Please indicate whether you would [MATCH ORDER WITH PUNCHES: favor or oppose] the following proposals about gun policy. [RANDOMIZE ITEMS; REVERSE ORDER OF PUNCHES FOR RANDOM HALF-SAMPLE, USE SAME ORDER AS GUNPRIORITY2]
a. Barring gun purchases by people on the federal no-fly or watch lists

$$
\text { Sep 24-Oct 7, } 2018
$$

Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017
Strongly
favor
Somewhat
favor

Somewhat | Strongly |
| :---: |
| oppose |
| oppose | No answer

b. Preventing people with mental illnesses from purchasing guns

$$
\text { Sep } 24 \text {-Oct 7, } 2018
$$

Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017
74
$67 \quad 17$
$17 \quad 7 \quad 8$

$$
1
$$

$66 \quad 17$

| 17 | 9 | 7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 17 | 9 | 7 |

g assault-style weapons
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018 Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017

5
$74 \quad 15$

15
15
$\begin{array}{ll}5 & 6 \\ 5 & 6\end{array}$
1
73
1
c. Banning assault-style weapons

$$
\text { Mar 13-Mar 27, } 2017
$$

53 五
d. Creating a federal government database to track all gun sales

Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017
54
20
11
14
1
$*$
e. Banning high-capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds

Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018
50
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017
47
17
14
18
1
17
14
20
1

GUNPRIORITY1 CONTINUED...
f. Making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks

| Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018 | 69 | 16 | 7 | 7 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |


| Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017 | 65 | 20 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## RANDOMIZE ORDER OF GUNPRIORITY1 AND GUNPRIORITY2

## ASK FORMS 2 AND 3 ONLY [N=5,307]:

GUNPRIORITY2 Please indicate whether you would [MATCH ORDER WITH PUNCHES: favor or oppose] the following proposals about gun policy. [RANDOMIZE ITEMS; REVERSE ORDER OF PUNCHES FOR RANDOM HALF-SAMPLE, USE SAME ORDER AS GUNPRIORITY1]

|  |  | Strongly favor | Somewhat favor | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | No answer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| g. | Allowing people to carry concealed guns in more places |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018 | 20 | 25 | 18 | 37 | 1 |
|  | Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017 | 19 | 28 | 23 | 30 | * |
| h. | Allowing people to carry concealed guns without a permit |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 69 | 1 |
|  | Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017 | 9 | 9 | 15 | 66 | 1 |
| i. | Allowing teachers and school officials to carry guns in K-12 schools |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018 | 20 | 23 | 15 | 42 | 1 |
|  | Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017 | 18 | 26 | 19 | 36 | * |
| j. | Shortening waiting periods for people who want to buy guns legally |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018 | 13 | 18 | 23 | 45 | 1 |
|  | Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017 | 14 | 22 | 25 | 38 | 1 |

ASK FORMS 2 AND 3 ONLY [ $N=5,307$ ]:
GUNACTIVISM Have you ever done any of the following? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]
Yes, in the
last 12
months
a. Contacted a public official to express your opinion on gun policy

Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017
7

Yes, but not in the last 12 months No No answer

7
$86 \quad 1$
9
85
*
b. Contributed money to an organization that takes a position on gun policy

| Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018 | 7 | 7 | 85 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017 | 7 | 8 | 84 | $*$ |

GUNACTIVISM CONTINUED...
c. Attended a rally or protest about the

| Yes, in the | Yes, but <br> not in the |
| :---: | :---: |
| last 12 | last 12 |


| last 12 <br> months | last 12 <br> months$\quad$ No $\quad$ No answer |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018
d. Publicly expressed your feelings about the issue of guns on Facebook, Twitter or other social media

Sep 24-Oct 7, $2018 \quad 18$
18

8
73

No answer

3
93
1

1

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,657]:

## MOREGUNIMPACT If more Americans owned guns, do you think there would be... [RANDOMIZE PUNCHES 1 AND 2 FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE; ALWAYS DISPLAY THIRD OPTION LAST]

| Sep 24- |  | Mar 13- |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |
| Oct 7 |  | Mar 27 |
| $\frac{2018}{37}$ | More crime | $\frac{2017}{35}$ |
| 29 | Less crime | 33 |
| 33 | Not make a difference | 32 |
| 1 | No answer | 1 |

ASK FORM 3 ONLY [ $\mathbf{N}=2,650$ ]:
If it was harder for people to legally obtain guns in the United States, do you think there would be ... [RANDOMIZE PUNCHES 1 AND 2 FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE; ALWAYS DISPLAY THIRD OPTION LAST] \{W25, mod not make a difference\}

Sep 24-
Oct 7
$\underline{2018}$
47
Fewer mass shootings
More mass shootings
No difference
No answer

Mar 13-
Mar 27
$\underline{2017}$
47
13
39
1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

## PEW RESEARCH CENTER SEPTEMBER 2018 POLITICAL SURVEY <br> FINAL TOPLINE <br> SEPTEMBER 18-24, 2018 <br> $\mathbf{N}=1,754$

QUESTIONS 1-2, 7-8, 11-13, 28, 33, 44-46, 50-51, 58-59, 64-66 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 3-6, 9-10, 14-27, 29-32, 34-43, 47-49, 52-57, 60-63, 67-72
Next,
ASK ALL:
Q. 73 What do you think is more important - to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR to control gun ownership?

|  | Protect right of Americans <br> to own guns | Control <br> gun ownership | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sep 18-24, 2018 | 44 | 52 | 4 |
| Apr 5-11, 2017 | 47 | 51 | 2 |
| Aug 9-16, 2016 | 52 | 46 | 3 |
| Jul 14-20, 2015 | 47 | 50 | 3 |
| Dec 3-7, 2014 | 52 | 46 | 3 |
| Jan 23-Feb 9, 2014 | 49 | 48 | 3 |
| May 1-5, 2013 | 48 | 50 | 2 |
| Feb 13-18, 2013 (U) | 46 | 50 | 4 |
| Jan 9-13,2013 | 45 | 51 | 5 |
| Dec 17-19, 2012 | 42 | 49 | 9 |
| July 26-29, 2012 | 46 | 47 | 6 |
| Apr 4-15,2012 | 49 | 45 | 6 |
| Sep 22-Oct 4,2011 | 47 | 49 | 5 |
| Feb 22-Mar 1,2011 | 48 | 47 | 6 |
| Jan 13-16, 2011 | 49 | 46 | 6 |
| Aug 25-Sep 6,2010 | 46 | 50 | 4 |
| Mar 10-14, 2010 | 46 | 46 | 7 |
| Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009 | 45 | 49 | 6 |
| April, 2008 | 37 | 58 | 5 |
| November, 2007 | 42 | 55 | 3 |
| April, 2007 | 32 | 60 | 8 |
| February, 2004 | 37 | 58 | 5 |
| June, 2003 | 42 | 54 | 4 |
| May, 2000 | 38 | 57 | 5 |
| April, 2000 | 37 | 55 | 8 |
| March, 2000 | 29 | 66 | 5 |
| June, 1999 | 33 | 62 | 5 |
| May, 1999 | 30 | 65 | 5 |
| December, 1993 | 34 | 57 | 9 |

## QUESTIONS 74-79, 83-84, 93, 96-101 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 80-82, 85-92, 94-95

ASK ALL:
PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?
ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):
PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?


Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:
(U)

Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

