Ohio Gun Owners

2026 OGO State Legislative Candidate Survey

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Question 1

Emergency Risk Protection Order or ‘Red Flag’ laws would allow judges to order the confiscation of a citizen’s firearm(s) based on hearsay evidence, in court hearings where the accused may not even be allowed to testify on their behalf. In practice, these laws create a process to strip away a citizens’ firearms and rights who have not been convicted of any crime with no due process and no ability for them to defend themselves in court of law - as we have seen in states like Indiana, Florida and scores of other states.

If elected, would you oppose any Emergency Risk Protection Order or ‘Red Flag’ gun law that violates civil rights, strips gun owners of their Second Amendment freedoms, and does nothing to stop violent criminals?

Question 1 Answer

Yes

Question 2

The Ohio Self Defense Act (HB498), which contains provisions that are already on the books in dozens of states, simply provides an enactment clause, establishes a threatened use of force to allow for tactical retreat from a deadly situation, and states that you can’t be civilly sued or criminally charged if a burden of proof cannot be met for self-defense. Ohio removed the duty to retreat during the 132nd General Assembly under HB228, but more work needs to be done to shore up Ohio’s self-defense law.

Would you support the Ohio Self Defense Act (HB498), or similar legislation, so that Ohioans may defend themselves with threatened use of force while ensuring that they can’t be bankrupted by expensive or frivolous lawsuits from anti-gun prosecutors?

Question 2 Answer

- Sponsor
- Co-Sponsor

Question 3

Our Permitless Carry law leaves much to be desired. For example, the law fails to allow lawful Ohioans the ability to conceal and carry any legally possessed weapon for self-defense, rather than only handguns under the current law. By creating a Concealed Weapons License (CWL), it would restore Ohioans’ ability to carry shotguns and rifles in their vehicles, the same way current CHL or ‘qualifying adults’ may carry handguns in their vehicles presently.

If elected, would you support the Ohio Freedom to Carry Act (HB495) that strengthens Ohio’s Constitutional Carry law so that gun owners in Ohio have the freedom to carry whatever legal self-defense tool that they choose, and allow Ohio citizens the ability to carry shotguns and rifles in their vehicle?

Question 3 Answer

- Sponsor
- Co-Sponsor

Question 4

Almost every legislative candidate will say "I support the Second Amendment" but not all will stand firmly against new and invasive forms of gun control, especially when “compromises” are offered.

Will you publicly oppose all methods of gun control, including those that the media calls "reasonable," including but not limited to laws that disallow those with simple misdemeanor convictions from owning and carrying guns, increasing the minimum age of those who carry guns for self-defense, new taxes on ammunition, and new ways to track guns and gun owners?

Question 4 Answer

Yes

Question 5

Gun control advocates hype the false idea that certain cosmetic features make some semi-automatic firearms or high-capacity magazines "different" than others. Media hysteria has led to the misperception that semi-automatic firearms are so-called "assault weapons." All semi-automatic firearms function essentially the same, as do all magazines. The federal ban on “assault weapons” expired in September 2004, and Ohio has eliminated its own restrictions on magazine capacity, but some in Ohio are trying to make these tools illegal here by state law.

Do you oppose legislation banning the manufacture, sale or possession of semi-automatic firearms and/or large-capacity magazines, recognizing that these restrictions do nothing to stop crime but only serve to harass gun owners?

Question 5 Answer

Yes

Question 6

In 2021, the State of Missouri passed the Second Amendment Protection Act, otherwise known as SAPA, which prohibits the Federal government from ‘commandeering’ state and local law enforcement to enforce federal gun laws. House Bill 382 was introduced in Ohio this General Assembly and has majority support within the House Republican Caucus. Interest in this legislation has exploded across the grassroots gun owner community, and states across America are moving this legislation as well.

Would you support the Second Amendment Protection Act, or legislation here in Ohio, which simply prohibits the federal commandeering of state and local law enforcement resources for gun control enforcement and imposes civil penalties on those departments that violate SAPA?

Question 6 Answer

- Sponsor
- Co-Sponsor

Question 7

Anti-gun organizations, often funded with out of state or non-governmental organization (“NGO”) resources, have been clamoring for legislation to end all private party sales in Ohio – and go so far as to make it a felony for family members to

pass firearms down to the next generation without submitting to a federal NCIC check, thereby adding themselves and the firearm to a federal list.

Do you oppose Bloomberg's "Universal Gun Registration" legislation that would ban all private party sales and label offenders as felons for simply passing down a family firearm to a descendant or sharing a firearm with a friend while on a hunting trip?

Question 7 Answer

Yes

Question 8

"Mental health" has become a back door for gun control by expanding the criteria for voluntary and involuntary mental health commitments by so-called "medical professionals," adding more and more people to the NCIC 'prohibited persons' list often without due process and full adjudication by a court of law. Once a person's name is placed on this list, it is virtually impossible to have it removed. Legislation has been introduced multiple times in recent years that would greatly expand the range of people who would be able to add a person's name to the prohibited person's list, including "Red Flag" legislation that would strip gun owners of their Second Amendment Rights without due process.

Would you oppose all so-called "mental health" legislation that would deny law abiding Ohioans their gun rights without due process through a court of law?

Question 8 Answer

Yes

Question 9

Most mass shootings happen in so-called "Gun-Free" areas where law-abiding citizens are forced to disarm, which quite literally has resulted in violent criminals targeting these sites. This prevents otherwise law-abiding citizens from defending themselves, their loved ones and innocent citizens around them.

If elected, would you support legislation to eliminate restrictions on law-abiding gun owners from carrying a firearm in certain so-called "Gun-Free" areas, otherwise known as "Criminal Safe Zones?"

Question 9 Answer

- Sponsor
- Co-Sponsor

Name (As it will appear on the ballot)

Lew Lainhart

Email Address

lainhartforohio@gmail.com

District Number	Chamber	Party Affiliation
40	Ohio House	Republican

E-Signature

✔ I have truthfully answered the questions above and they accurately reflect my positions on the Second Amendment

Date

01/13/2026

Signature

