



Gun Owners' Action League

Massachusetts Candidate Questionnaire

2024

Protecting Your Freedom Begins Here

If the candidate has any questions regarding any part of the questionnaire, please contact GOAL **prior** to submitting.
Once submitted, ALL ANSWERS ARE FINAL.
All questionnaires will be **graded as submitted.**

1. Do you recognize that the Second Amendment is a fundamental natural right of all responsible American citizens to keep and bear arms for all lawful purposes?

Yes

No

2. The Second Amendment is an inalienable civil right, are there any government agencies or entities that should have the authority to restrict civil rights?

3. In 1964, our nation ratified the 24th Amendment that banned "Poll Taxes" which were used to discourage minorities and the poor from voting. A comparison can be drawn between such taxes and firearm license fees in Massachusetts as well as other jurisdictions that are proposing other fees and mandatory insurance for gun owners. Do you believe that citizens should have to pay a fee to exercise any of their civil rights?

Yes

No

4. Even with the strict criteria required for lawful ownership and possession of firearms in Massachusetts, State Government still restricts the brands, models and often general types of firearms citizens can purchase and possess. Do you support the ban on any rifles, pistols and shotguns in common use?

Yes

No

5. Currently, the majority of states in the union, twenty-seven as of the drafting of this questionnaire, allow for the permit-less carry and ownership of firearms. This means that those states have no licensing scheme. The balance of the states each have their own licenses and processes, effectively ending Second Amendment rights at the state border. While all other civil rights are essentially borderless.

Would you support restructuring MA gun laws to focus on prohibited persons rather than wasting resources to license and restrict responsible gun owners?

Yes

No

6. The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has ruled in four different decisions that the Second Amendment is indeed an individual right. (*Heller*, 2008; *McDonald*, 2010; *Caetano*, 2106; and *Bruen*, 2022) The most recent decision, *Bruen*, requires that licensing authorities standardize the licensing process across all municipalities and adopt a “shall issue” scheme to issue licenses to those applicants that are not prohibited persons. In 2022, the Massachusetts legislature created a loophole using language allowing for the arbitrary denial of a license based on the personal opinion of the licensing authority rather than legal prohibited status.

Would you support GOAL’s efforts to ensure that Massachusetts complies with the rulings of SCOTUS not only with the letter of law, but the intended spirit of the decisions?

Yes

No

7. Over the past years anti-civil rights activists have attempted to use local ordinance amendments to restrict or impede the citizens of the Commonwealth from exercising their civil rights. In some instances, it only takes ten (10) signatures to bring a question before a town meeting or to create a local referendum ballot initiative.

Our democratic republican system of government established by the Constitution is designed to prevent bigotry by popular vote. In order to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth from local social bigotry, GOAL has filed legislation to prevent municipalities from passing anti-civil rights ordinances by mob rule. This type of civil-rights protection law is commonly referred to as a “Pre-Emption Law” in other states.

Would you support GOAL’s effort to pass Pre-Emption legislation in Massachusetts?

Yes

No

8. Massachusetts Attorneys General (AG) have a long history of weaponizing their office and abusing their authority for political purposes. In the past few decades, they have misused this authority to marginalize the Second Amendment community: citizens who simply choose to exercise their Constitutional civil rights.

In 1996 AG Scott Harshbarger abused his authority under the consumer protection law (93A) to force new “safety standards” onto handgun manufacturers and retailers, creating a backdoor ban on most handguns. In 2003 AG Thomas Reilly sent letters to various ammunition manufacturers and suppliers in an effort to intimidate them into avoiding shipping ammunition to Massachusetts consumers—even though it is legal to do so. In 2016, then-AG Maura Healey, reinterpreted the Commonwealth’s so-called “assault weapons” ban, issuing an enforcement notice turning many otherwise law-abiding gun owners in the Commonwealth into felons overnight. Current AG Andrea Campbell established a “Gun Violence Prevention Unit” in her office and staffed it with former employees of anti-civil rights groups.

Would you support efforts to reign in and depoliticize the Attorney General’s Office, and any other state-level Executive Office, to ensure that these types of end-runs around the legislative process are not tolerated in the future?

Yes

No

9. In this most recent legislative session, the House and the Senate each filed and passed their own omnibus bills, both represent, what can only be called, tantrums after the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruling in *Bruen*. In each case, the bills represent a massive assault on the law abiding Second Amendment community while doing nothing to address violent crime and mental health.

The legislative effort, led by the House, was initially described as a “top-down review” of the state’s gun laws, but the legislature’s subsequent actions showed that not to be the case. The leaders involved even adamantly refused to review the Commonwealth’s own data that clearly demonstrates the State’s gun laws are an abysmal failure.

The same “leaders” remarked countless times that “responsible gun owners are not the problem” and that our rights would not be infringed upon. The resulting legislation did not reflect that!

Would you support efforts for a credible top-down review of the state’s gun laws and the repealing of any laws that restrict civil rights that cannot be specifically attributed to substantially reducing violent crime in Massachusetts?

Yes

No

10. Do you support the understanding that our Second Amendment civil rights protects the right of law-abiding citizens to use the force necessary in the defense of themselves and others wherever they have a right to be?

Yes

No

11. Do you believe that law-abiding citizens and/or their estates should be shielded from exposure to civil liability brought against them by a criminal assailant after an act of lawful self-defense or the defense of others?

Yes

No

12. The Firearm Owners Protection Act (FOPA) protects the rights of law-abiding gun owners throughout the country to transport guns across state lines as long as the individual can legally possess them in their place of origin as well as their destination and the guns are properly stored during transport.

As many states differ in their treatment of guns and gun owners, and most states are much more respectful of their citizens' civil rights than Massachusetts, there have been instances of law-abiding U.S. citizens facing criminal prosecution for exercising their Second Amendment Civil Rights while traveling through Massachusetts with their guns.

Would you support state legislation, that mirrors current federal law, giving these citizens protection from criminal prosecution under these circumstances?

Yes

No

13. In the legislature, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President hold an unprecedented amount of power over the bodies as a whole and over individual members. In some cases this power, both the draw of it and the fear of it, has led some members, on both sides of the aisle, to vote against their principles and their conscience in order to maintain their position.

If put to the test, do you think you could stand on your principles against overwhelming pressure from leadership to vote for a bill you don't believe in if it meant you would lose your standing among your party or in the legislature itself?

Yes

No

14. During the recent pandemic, state and local government officials blatantly abused their so-called “emergency powers”. The Governor’s office, and municipalities, took this opportunity to single out and shut down the Second Amendment community.

These government officials co-opted the crisis to further their political agenda by closing firearm retailers, shooting ranges, and shut down mandated training courses. There were also multiple instances where the entire local gun licensing process was shuttered, even though Federal guidelines declared those operations essential.

The Massachusetts Attorney General even had the audacity to publicly announce that the Second Amendment community was a threat to public safety, first responders and domestic violence victims.

Would you support doing away with hurdles (mandates) to exercising civil rights that can be arbitrarily blocked without due process and conduct a thorough review of any emergency powers statutes and regulations in the Commonwealth?

Yes

No

15. Which of the following choices best describes your attitude toward hunting?

Hunting should be eliminated.

Hunting is a long-standing tradition that is an essential tool of wildlife management and keeps families in personal touch with our wildlife resources.

Other: _____

16. In 1946, the state legislature established the Fisheries and Wildlife Board to oversee the work of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) to professionally manage the Commonwealth's fish and wildlife using proven scientific methods.

The DFW's budget is predominately supported by the Second Amendment Community through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, popularly known as the Pittman–Robertson Act, established by Congress in 1937. Approximately 50%, or more, of the funding for DFW comes from these funds. Funds from that act come from an 11% federal excise tax on sporting arms, ammunition, and archery equipment, as well as a 10% tax on handguns. Hunters, trappers, and anglers also contribute a substantial percentage of the agency's revenue through license and stamp sales.

Would you support the appointment of individuals to the Board who are fundamentally opposed to professional/scientific wildlife management and those opposed to the civil rights protected by the Second Amendment?

- I would support such appointments.
- I would oppose such appointments.

17. Should any entities that are regulated by Federal law, such as banks and insurance companies, be allowed to deny services based on a political agenda?

- Yes
- No

18. The version of the bill presented by the House of Representatives contains a provision mandating updates to firearms safety training. Some of the proposed mandates include live fire training and other types of advanced tactical training. If these proposals become law, would you support the state building, equipping and staffing public shooting ranges and statutorily allowing existing shooting ranges to expand to meet the needs that will be created by this initiative?

- Yes
- No

Questionnaire Prepared by: _____ Date: _____

Candidate's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return options information:

- Scan and e-mail to Jim Wallace – Jim@gol.org
- Mail: 287 Turnpike Road, Suite 115, Westborough, MA 01581

AUTHORIZATION: This signature attests this questionnaire accurately represents my views as a candidate.

Signature: _____

Contact Information

Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.)

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