

Gun Owners' Action League

Dear Candidate,

It is no secret that state and federal gun laws are very confusing to understand or to follow. The purpose of this Gun Owners' Action League (GOAL) candidate questionnaire is to determine your principles and positions, *not* to test your knowledge of Massachusetts firearm laws. Please call us at 508-393-5333 if you would like more information on specific gun laws.

Our members use candidate grades to make informed voting decisions. To gun owners, a candidate's position regarding the private ownership of firearms by lawful citizens is probably the most important criteria to review when deciding whether to vote for a candidate. GOAL uses the candidate ratings to make endorsements and promote our members' active involvement in campaigns. Obviously, GOAL supports candidates or incumbents who share our philosophy on lawful gun ownership.

We would appreciate your response as soon as possible in order for us to evaluate your questionnaire quickly. Thank you for taking the time to address the concerns of thousands of GOAL members and best wishes in your campaign.

James L. Wallace
Executive Director



Candidate Questionnaire

37 Pierce Street
PO Box 567
Northboro, MA 01532



Massachusetts Gun Law Overview

Licensing: Unlike other states, Massachusetts requires a person to be licensed merely to possess a firearm, rifle, shotgun or ammunition. There are several types of licenses based on the type of firearms to be possessed. All are issued in the city or town in which one lives or has a place of business.

Firearms Identification Card (FID) and restricted FID;

License to Carry Firearms (LTC), Class A or Class B;

There is no license needed to purchase a primitive firearm such as a black powder rifle or shotgun or replica that does not use modern ammunition.

Firearms Identification Card (FID): *Shall issue* photo and fingerprint card, renewable every six years at the cost of \$100. This card covers the purchase, possession or transportation of non-large capacity rifles or shotguns, ammunition or chemical sprays. A restricted FID which covers possession of chemical sprays is available.

License to Carry Firearms: *May issue* photo and fingerprint card, renewable every six years at the cost of \$100. A non-resident version is available, renewable every year for \$100.

Class "A" LTC will cover purchase, possession or transportation of all handguns, rifles and shotguns and carrying of handguns. Loaded handguns must be under your direct control while in a vehicle.

Class "B" LTC will cover purchase, possession, or transportation of large capacity rifles and shotguns and non-large capacity handguns. This license **does not** permit the bearer to carry concealed or loaded on a public way. Firearms must be unloaded and locked in the trunk or other container while in a vehicle.

Training: Massachusetts requires all applicants to take a state certified basic firearms safety course from a state certified instructor. Because the law exempts new residents for just sixty (60) days, it is recommended that they get the required training and application in to the police department within the first two weeks of residency.

Registration: The transfer of any resident's handgun, shotgun or rifle, whether through a dealer or between licensed individuals must be reported to the state via the FA- 10 form available from your local police station.

Storage : All guns not under the direct control of the owner must be stored or kept in a locked container, or equipped with a tamper-resistant mechanical lock.

Purchase of guns: Massachusetts residents can not purchase many firearms lawful in other parts of the country. State law, and regulations put forth by the Attorney General, severely restrict the handguns which may be purchased at retail. A ban on so-called "assault weapons" and "large capacity magazines" also restrict purchases made by Massachusetts citizens.



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Northboro, MA 01532
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www.goal.org

MASSACHUSETTS CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name _____
Office Sought _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____
Campaign Phone _____
Website (if any) _____
Campaign Contact Name _____

Election Date: _____
District _____
Party Affiliation _____
Zip _____
Campaign Email _____
OCPF # _____
Contact Email _____

Do you support the understanding that the Second Amendment guarantees that law abiding citizens have the right to keep and bear firearms?

Yes.

No.

Do you support firearm ownership for:

Hunting?

Personal protection?

Competitive shooting?

Constitutional rights?

Informal sport shooting?

Collecting?

Should citizens be able to possess a handgun in their home or place of business without a License to Carry Firearms?

Yes.

Yes, but they should have an FID Card in order to go through the background check.

No. A License to Carry Firearms should be required.

Microstamping is a patented process that laser engraves the firearm's make, model and serial number on the tip of the gun's firing pin so that, in theory, it imprints the information on discharged cartridge cases. The technology of microstamping is unreliable, does not function as the patent holder claims. A recent independent, peer-reviewed, study published in the professional scholarly journal for forensic firearms examiners showed that microstamping can be easily defeated. As recently as March 2008, the National Research Council (NRC), an arm of the National Academy of Sciences, released a report advocating more in-depth studies are needed on the durability of microstamping. Would you support legislation mandating microstamping of handguns in the state of Massachusetts?

Yes, I feel the state should follow California's lead and implement a technology that is not supported by science, easily defeated and will only burden law-abiding citizens.

No, I would side with the National Academy of Sciences and other forensic professionals nationwide advocating further study of this legislation and its impact on the firearms industry and law abiding citizens.

Do you believe that any entity other than the legislature (or agencies which the legislature has empowered to oversee the law) has the authority to regulate firearms ownership?

No, the legislature should have sole authority.

Yes, the legislature's authority should be shared with:

The courts

Governmental agencies

Other:

Currently Massachusetts law sets the firearm license fees at \$100. Many families cannot afford the cost of a license and are therefore prevented from practicing their rights as a citizen to own a firearm. Since the right to keep and bear arms is a civil right guaranteed by our constitution, would you support doing away with this fee?

Yes, I would support.

No.

No, but I would support reducing it to: _____

Given the strict criteria required for the lawful ownership of firearms in Massachusetts, do you support legislation banning the lawful manufacture, sale, transfer and or possession of:

- All guns. Any handgun. Any rifle. Any shotgun. Any air gun.
- I do not support the ban of any firearm.
- If yes, but your response is not listed, please specify:

Under current state law, local licensing authorities have the power to deny a lawful citizen their second amendment rights for no specific reason. In the past several years, this authority has been abused to the point where many cities and towns will not issue licenses without unwarranted restrictions attached. Would you support removing the local authorities power to deny or restrict a lawful citizen's firearm license for unspecified reasons?

- Yes, lawful citizens should only be denied or restricted based on statewide statutory disqualifications.
- No, the local authority should have the final word on who is allowed to exercise their rights as citizens.

Prior to the passage of Chapter 180 of the Acts of 1998 (The Massachusetts Gun Control Act) there were 1,500,000 licensed gun owners in the Commonwealth. Since then, it has become so difficult and expensive to be a licensed gun owner in the Commonwealth that our numbers have been decreased to 240,000. Unfortunately at the same time, gun crime has increased by over two hundred percent. With this information, would you support GOAL's efforts to streamline and reform the State's licensing laws?

- Yes, I would support.
- No.

Currently, local authorities are using material in sealed records to deny citizens a firearm license. Some of these denials are being based on the fact that the applicant did not disclose the sealed record on their firearm license application form. Would you support legislation clarifying that citizens should not be required to disclose a sealed record and the information contained within cannot be used to disqualify them from obtaining a license?

- Yes
- No

Which of the following choices best describes your attitude toward hunting as a sport?

- The hunting tradition should be eliminated.
- Hunting as a sport should be preserved, and is an essential tool of wildlife management.
- Other:

Our state's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife budget is supported solely by sportsmen, through license sales and taxes on the manufacture of guns and ammunition. Sportsmen therefore pay for protecting all wildlife, even non-game. In 1946, the state legislature established the Fisheries and Wildlife Board to oversee the work of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife; regulate hunting, fishing and trapping; and supervise the Division budget. Would you support the appointment of individuals to the Board who seek to end or severely restrict the hunting and fishing traditions?

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

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

Candidate's signature

Date