

**The  
Gun Owners of  
Vermont  
Analysis of “Universal  
Background Checks”**

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Dear Legislator,

There has been, and will be, much talk about “Universal Background Checks” (UBC) being implemented in Vermont, just as in Washington state.

We, The Gun Owners of Vermont, would like to clarify the real meanings of Universal Background Checks and its negative impact on the state of Vermont.

The Gun Owners of Vermont and its membership are strongly opposed to Universal Background Checks for many reasons.

**WHAT THE PEOPLE REALLY SAY:**

Despite what you are being told by Gun Sense, the majority of people in Vermont and the nation are NOT supportive of any additional gun control measures!

In November 2014 the voters of Vermont sent a clear message to the anti-gun politicians running for office <sup>(1)</sup>.

THREE extremely anti-gun candidates did not reach office for the first time.

NINE anti-gun legislators were defeated by pro-gun candidates.

THIRTEEN new pro-gun candidates won their districts.

FOURTY-FOUR pro-gun candidates returned to their seats.

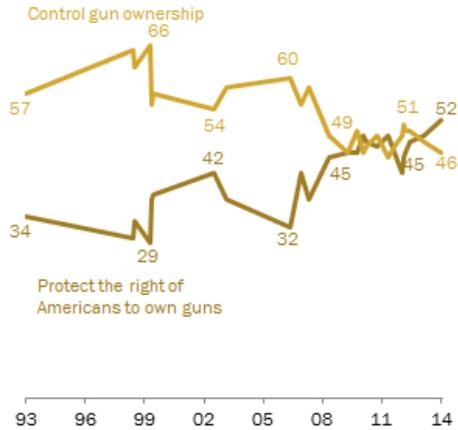
Gun owners in Vermont and across this nation have made their voices heard at the polling booth <sup>(2)</sup>.

Across the nation, unbiased polls all show overwhelming support for GUN RIGHTS!

1) The **PEW Research** article “Growing Public Support for Gun Rights” <sup>(3)</sup> now shows that the majority of Americans view protection of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights of citizens outweigh any desire for gun control.

**Two Years After Newtown, A Shift in Favor of Gun Rights**

% saying it is more important to ...

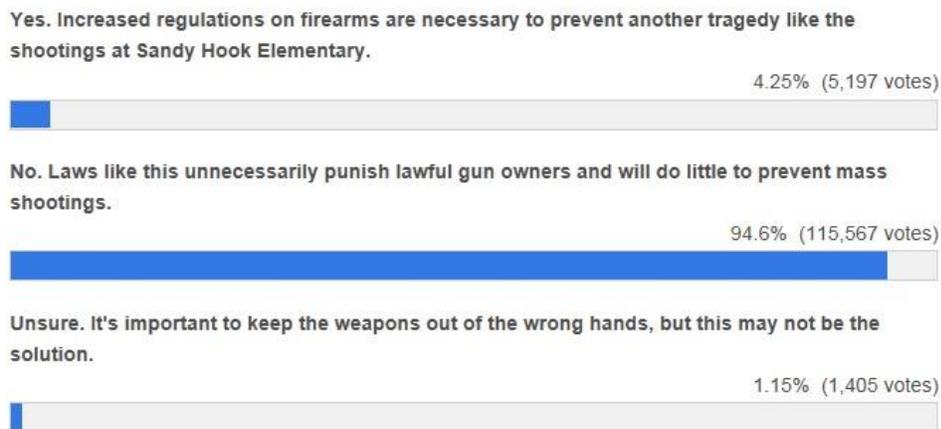


Survey conducted Dec. 3-7, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

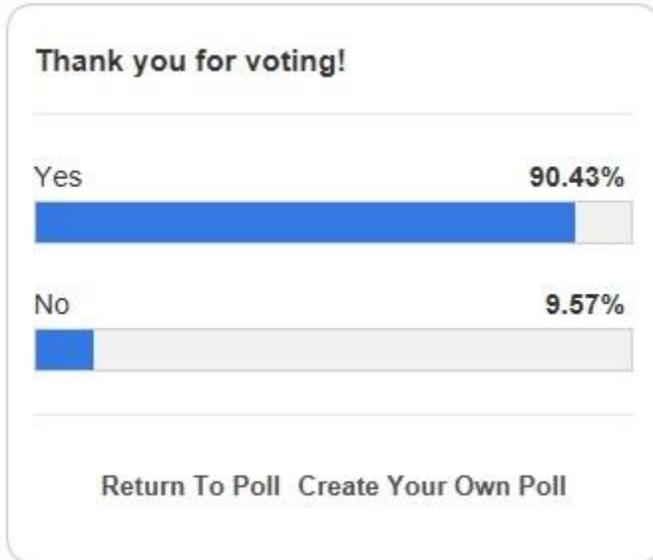
2) The **PBS Poll** (still ongoing), “Would you support more restrictions on guns in your state?” <sup>(4)</sup> is currently running over 122,000 votes, shows that **95%** of respondents are **AGAINST more restrictions!**

**Would you support more restrictions on guns in your state?**



Total Votes: 122,169

3) The **WWLP poll** (still ongoing), “Do you think the Bushmaster AR-15 should be available to purchase by the public?” <sup>(5)</sup> shows 90% of responses to be “Yes.”



#### **WHAT THE COURTS REALLY SAY:**

The Wall Street Journal printed an article on 12/18/2014 how the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati ruled that the federal law that kept a Michigan man, briefly committed to a mental institution decades ago, from now owning firearms, was unconstitutional <sup>(6)</sup>.

The Washington Post printed an article on 8/25/2014 how the California 10-day waiting period to buy a firearm violates the Second Amendment <sup>(7)</sup>.

#### **HOW UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS ACTUALLY AFFECT GUN CRIME:**

All Federal Firearms License (FFL) holders (dealers) are regulated and licensed by the federal government; therefore they need to adhere to federal law due to the nature of interstate commerce. Whereas a sale, gift, trade or loan between two individuals in the state of Vermont is not under regulation of the federal government, nor is it illegal by Vermont Statute.

It is already illegal under federal law to sell a firearm to someone who resides in another state without going through an FFL dealer who conducts a background check.

It is already illegal under federal law to sell a firearm to a prohibited person.

According to Gun Sense Vermont, we have the highest firearms death rate in New England! When the average citizen hears this, they assume that Gun Sense is talking about murders. This is intentionally deceptive, and creates an atmosphere of fear that feeds their anti-gun agenda and fills their campaign coffers.

The truth is, Vermont has the smallest number of firearm homicides in the nation, and one of the lowest in the world!

Even when comparing the percentage of total deaths to those by firearm, we rank the lowest. **The States that already have UBCs in force are seeing 70% of their total homicides attributed to guns!**

Stricter gun control is having the exact opposite effect of what they claim!  
(See Appendix A for full size chart)

Snapshot Comparison: Percentage of Total Homicides Attributed to Firearms In Relation to Level of Gun Control in State					
State	Universal Background Checks?	Avg murders	Avg firearms	% of murders by firearm	
Years: 2009-2012	California	AWB + UBC	1863	1285	69%
	Connecticut	AWB + UBC	128	93	72%
	New York	AWB + UBC	774	463	60%
	Rhode Island	UBC	27	15	51%
	Massachusetts	AWB + UBC + Permit	171	101	59%
	New Jersey	AWB + UBC + Permit	362	252	70%
	New Hampshire	NO Restrictions	13	6	45%
	Vermont	NO Restrictions	8	2	25%

**UBC** = Universal Background Checks, **AWB** = Assault Weapons Ban, **Permit** = Gun Purchaser Permit System

According to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) data there have been over 378,000 background checks in Vermont since 1999! <sup>(7)</sup>

This does not include the millions of firearms purchased before the Brady Law went into effect.

The reality is, an estimated 75% of households in Vermont have firearms while Massachusetts has a firearms ownership rate of only 13%!

Even with such a high rate of ownership, the number of homicides and “gun crimes” annually are among the lowest in the nation!

The problem with using the numbers of lawful gun owners to determine crime rates is statistically **dishonest**, as it is not “law abiding citizens” that are robbing convenience stores and hurting people during home invasions or drug deals.

The Real Estate website Movoto recently ranked Vermont the “THIRD SAFEST STATE in the nation” <sup>(9)</sup>, and then selected the “top ten safest towns in Vermont” <sup>(10)</sup> in a different article. According to the Middletown [CT] Press article <sup>(11)</sup> on 11/10/14 (using FBI data), the largest decrease in violent crime in New England was in Vermont, where violent crime was down 19.2 percent overall.

That means without Universal Background Checks, Vermont’s violent crime dropped up to six times more than neighboring states like Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island with their strict gun control!

**GUN SENSE SAYS VERMONT IS THE MAJOR SOURCE OF ILLEGAL GUNS IN NEW ENGLAND:**

You will hear from Gun Sense and the anti-gun media that Vermont is THE major source of “illegal” guns travelling into Massachusetts. This is an outright lie and the ATF data confirms this.

<b>Firearms RECOVERED in Massachusetts (2006-2013)</b>						
<b>Year</b>	<b>#1 Source MA (in state)</b>	<b>Top Five Outside Source States (with # recovered)</b>				
		<b>#1</b>	<b>#2</b>	<b>#3</b>	<b>#4</b>	<b>#5</b>
2006	<b>334</b>	NH (99)	ME (65)	FL (57)	GA (55)	VA (43)
2007	<b>316</b>	NH (93)	ME (61)	GA (32)	FL (31)	CT (29)
2008	<b>290</b>	ME (97)	NH (91)	GA (58)	FL (41)	VA (31)
2009	<b>395</b>	NH (105)	ME (84)	GA (53)	FL (53)	VA (38)
2010	<b>438</b>	NH (139)	ME (118)	FL (77)	GA (44)	PA (31)
2011	<b>351</b>	NH (133)	ME (79)	GA (60)	FL (56)	CA (38)
2012	<b>453</b>	NH (129)	ME (72)	FL (45)	GA (42)	NC (33)
2013	<b>431</b>	NH (121)	ME (91)	FL (51)	GA (47)	<b>VT (29)</b>

With millions of guns in the state, and few restrictions, Vermont consistently has some of the lowest numbers of firearms being recovered in other states, yet media outlets, such as the Boston Globe <sup>(12)</sup>, Seven Days <sup>(13)</sup>, WPTZ, NPR <sup>(14)</sup> and others, went wild with the “Iron Pipeline” slander campaign.

However, WCAX used the ATF data, just like Gun Owners of Vermont, to verify that Vermont was NOT a major source of guns, much less THE major source!

WCAX printed the article in June, entitled, “Report: Vermont not a major source of guns” <sup>(15)</sup>.

**GUN SENSE SAYS DRUG DEALERS COME TO VERMONT TO “STOCK UP” ON GUNS:**

The ATF reports actually show that more guns enter Massachusetts from Florida and Georgia than Vermont, why? Because “crime guns” are usually STOLEN from their rightful owners and NOT purchased legally and then sold to criminals!

More importantly, the FBI data includes an important statistic that all the anti-gun proponents completely ignore; “**Time-to-Crime.**”

The definition of "Time-to-Crime" (TTC) is simple, it is the number of YEARS between when a firearm was originally purchased and when it was recovered.

The average "Time-To-Crime" in Massachusetts during 2006-2013, is **13.3 YEARS**.

<b>Firearms Recovered in Massachusetts (2006-2013)</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Time To Crime (Years)</b>
2006	12.07
2007	12.94
2008	12.94
2009	13.36
2010	13.42
2011	14.00
2012	14.21
2013	13.43

These are not guns being bought legally in Vermont and immediately resold to felons from out of state.

These guns were most likely stolen as far back as the 90s and moved around the country by criminals, some traveling up to **3000 miles from California** to end up in Massachusetts, yet Vermont gets all the blame by Gun Sense and the media!

This Time-To-Crime statistic alone invalidates the media and Gun Sense's lie that straw-purchasers are fueling the "guns-for-drugs" <sup>(12)</sup> <sup>(13)</sup> <sup>(14)</sup> argument.

## LOOKING CLOSER AT THOSE “CRIME GUNS” IN MASSACHUSETTS:

By federal law, it is legal to transport a firearm between states as long as it is legal to possess them from your place of departure to your destination in continuous travel.

If you stop in Massachusetts (for gas, food or to use the restroom) you are no longer in continuous travel, and without a Massachusetts permit, you are in violation of Massachusetts law!

According to the ATF data, 90% of all “crime guns” in Massachusetts are recovered during non-violent offenses, such as; possession of a firearm without the proper license, or in the case of a Vermont resident, merely driving over the border while going shopping and forgetting there is a firearm in the vehicle.

How many of those “Vermont recovered” guns are for merely driving over the border?

<b>90% of All Recovered Firearms in Massachusetts from ALL States are for <u>Non-Violent</u> Crimes</b>				
Year	State	Total Recovered In State	Category: Violent	Category: Non-Violent
2009	Massachusetts	1968	133	1618
2010	Massachusetts	2173	230	1746
2011	Massachusetts	1737	125	1479
2012	Massachusetts	1600	140	1377
2013	Massachusetts	1571	139	1293
			violent	10%
			<b>non violent</b>	<b>90%</b>

## WHAT DO UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS NEED TO WORK?

The Universal Background Check push is publicly touted on the false premise that making people go through the background check process will keep guns out of the hands of criminals. This is a fallacy, as the small number of criminals that do not pay attention to the law now, will not abide by any new law?

Under current federal law:

Buying a firearm for a prohibited person is already a crime.

Selling firearms across state lines without going through an FFL is already a crime.

Selling firearms to prohibited persons is already a crime.

Trading guns for drugs is already a crime.

These transactions are NOT those of “law-abiding” citizens, and NONE of these actions will be prevented by enacting a Universal Background Check law!

Again, the only people affected by such a law are the law-abiding citizens.

The anti-gun crowd KNOWS this and uses deception, emotion and catchy phrases like; “gun safety”, “it’s for the children”, “if it can save just one life”, “reasonable restrictions”, or “it’s common sense legislation” to cajole the unknowledgeable public into supporting unconstitutional restrictions that will further the war on the lawful ownership of firearms. Those phrases are also used to demonize lawful gun owners who “dare” stand up for their Constitutional Rights.

Universal Background Checks require registration to function and registration always leads to confiscation.

**In order to enforce a Universal Background Check law, Vermont would have to begin registration of every firearm in the state.**

**All states that currently have UBCs also have forced registration.**

**Every state that has forced registration has mandated confiscation statutes.**

Charles Morgan, Director of the Washington, D.C. ACLU, during testimony before the House Subcommittee on Crime stated, “I have not one doubt, even if I am in agreement with the National Rifle Association, that that kind of record keeping procedure [gun registration] is the first step to eventual confiscation under one administration or another.” <sup>(16)</sup>

This might not happen this year or next, but make no mistake about it, in 3, 5, or 10 years down the road, Gun Sense and some anti-gun legislators will be back asking for registration because the Universal Background Checks aren’t reducing gun crime. <sup>(17)</sup>

If any Universal Background Check legislation passes in Vermont it will be the cornerstone of confiscation.

Five quick examples of **UBC => Registration => Confiscation** include:

- 1) The passage of the New York S.A.F.E. Act, without public discourse, mandates to confiscation of unregistered semi-automatic firearms and prosecution of their owners.
- 2) The passage of the New York S.A.F.E. Act now allows firearms registered under the Sullivan Act in New York City, such as bolt-action .22 caliber rifles with tubular magazines to be confiscated.
- 3) New York has even begun searching and seizing firearms from the widows of licensed gun owners after they die <sup>(18)</sup> because the list of pistol permit holders also contains the exact details of each firearm.
- 4) The California “Armed and Prohibited Person” program <sup>(19)</sup> has already confiscated over 10,000 firearms from people who have previously obtained those firearms lawfully, but, due to changes made to state law since its passage, are now prohibited from possession.
- 5) Connecticut enacted its latest update to their Assault Weapon Ban <sup>(20)</sup> in April 2013, now,

virtually every firearm AND magazine that is capable of holding more than 10 rounds is illegal unless registered with the State. If it was unregistered in January 2014, it was mandated that the firearm be rendered inoperable, sold to an FFL, removed from the state or “relinquished” to the police department. The initial grace period is now over and any owner will be arrested, charged with a crime, jailed and the firearm confiscated.

The direct links to confiscation are Universal Background Checks and registration.

**Neither will work without the other.**

### **UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE DEFACTO REGISTRATION:**

Before an FFL dealer can do a background check, a person has to fill out a form 4473, which lists the make, model, serial number, caliber and who is purchasing it.

Although you may not want to take firearms away from the good and honest people of Vermont, who is to say what some other legislative body will do, twenty years down the road? There are currently legislators who ARE READY to betray their Oath by proposing and voting FOR gun control, to enact statutes that will abridge the Constitutional Rights of Vermonters and will lay the groundwork to allow the future confiscation of firearms that are currently legal.

**Universal Background Checks ARE that groundwork.**

### **UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE UNCONSTITUTIONAL:**

The NRA-ILA posted an article in 2000, that still stands true: *“Gun owners also know that criminals will never register their illegally possessed guns and, in fact, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Haynes v. U.S. (309 U.S. 85 (1968)) that since felons are prohibited from owning firearms, compelling them to register them would violate their 5th Amendment rights against self-incrimination.”*<sup>(16)</sup>

**So, the very laws that gun control radicals proclaim will reduce crime, do NOT actually affect criminals, but ONLY affects law-abiding gun owners!**

The truth is clear, Universal Background Checks and registration have nothing to do with crime control, but they have everything to do with control over the law-abiding gun owners of this nation!

It is not about safety, it is about furthering a political agenda.

The Universal Background Check push is based on the false premise that the “security” of the people can only be accomplished by the violation of “Individual Rights” and that the government must have total power over the people. So many anti-gunners repeat, over and over again, that it is their right to **demand** the government enact strict gun control so that they can “feel safe”.

This is why our Founding Fathers created a Constitutional Republic, **not** a democracy.

We must remind these people that there is NO Constitutional Right to “feel safe”.

Article 1 of the Vermont Constitution describes our “unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty” and “pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety” as **ACTIVE** pursuits, not PASSIVE ones to be provided and regulated by the government <sup>(21)</sup>.

The Constitutional Rights of the INDIVIDUAL come first, to be PROTECTED by law, not subject to the whim of the loudest, wealthiest, nor numerous amongst the masses.

Any anti-gun legislation brought before the Statehouse will likely contain “exceptions”.

These exceptions will be there in the attempt to appease gun owners in Vermont that the anti-gun crowd is not out to adversely affect them.

Since when does a Right, protected under several Articles of the Vermont Constitution, have exceptions?

ANY provision for exception can be amended, modified, altered or removed in a future legislative session, undermining the Constitution of Vermont.

Any legislation that seeks to “prevent” criminal behaviors before it happens is misguided at best, and unlawful at worst. Criminalizing an object that is used to obtain a constitutionally protected Right violates the founding principles of this nation and our state.

You are being told that Universal Background Checks are **necessary** to reduce the chances of guns falling into the “wrong hands.”

As William Pitt stated, "Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves."

## **WHY THE SUDDEN SWITCH TO UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS? WHY NOW?**

The latest gun control push is spearheaded by **ONLY ONE** group, Gun Sense Vermont.

In 2013 and 2014, Gun Sense **went all-out** on its anti-gun agenda by supporting EVERY ONE of the SEVENTEEN gun control bills proposed in Montpelier without exception!), these included:

1. Banning the manufacture, possession, or transfer of semi-automatic firearms,
2. Banning the manufacture, possession, or transfer of ammunition magazines over 10 rounds,
3. Mandated “safe storage” of all firearms,
4. Mandated 48 hour waiting periods,
5. Mandated reporting of mental health records to the federal government,
6. Banning firearms on all properties owned by schools (anti-hunting),
7. Mandated confiscation of firearms from persons ACCUSED of domestic violence,
8. Mandating Vermont law enforcement to be required to enforce federal laws,
9. Mandated “safety training” (and licensing for concealed carry),  
and EVERY one of the 5 proposed Burlington Charter Changes, including:
10. An “assault weapon” and “high capacity” magazine ban,

11. Mandated license to carry concealed firearms,
12. Confiscation of firearms without adjudication on “reasonable suspicion” of domestic violence,
13. Ban on any property owned or leased by establishments with a liquor license,
14. Mandatory storage requirements for all firearms.

### **Now, Gun Sense says the ONLY thing they want in 2015 is Universal Background Checks?**

Something is seriously wrong with this picture!

How can the same small group of people who led an **outright assault** on Article 16 in Vermont in 2014, suddenly change their song and say the “only” thing they want is background checks? The core beliefs of these people have not changed, they still want to ban guns. They just want to go about it in a different manner since their last attempt was stopped cold in its tracks.

If you have to say your organization is “independent”, it isn’t <sup>(22)</sup>.

If you have to say your organization is “grassroots”, it is not <sup>(23)</sup>.

If you have to say your ideas are “common sense”, they aren’t.

If you have to tout that your goals will be “reasonable”, they won’t be.

If you have to insist the results are “proven effective”, they haven’t been. **(Appendix A)**

If your organization says it wants to start a “conversation”, yet **bans all pro-gun commentators from your Facebook page**, you don’t actually want to have that conversation <sup>(24)</sup>.

If your organization publicly professes to want a “discussion”, and **constantly refuses to publicly debate the issue**, you do NOT actually want ANY discussion.

If your “statistics” have been repeatedly proven false, yet you keep parroting them as facts, you don’t want people to know the truth <sup>(25) (26)</sup>.

If your past history shows an unwavering assault on lawful firearms ownership from every possible angle, yet you constantly say you are not “anti-gun”, **that is a lie.**

**Since Gun Sense does all these things, what else are they lying to you about?**

### **CONCLUSION:**

Universal Background Checks are an infringement on Vermonters’ Rights under Article 1 and Article 16 of the Vermont Constitution. **(Appendix B)**

In the event a Universal Background Check bill manages to pass in violation of the Oath of Office **(Appendix C)** of every legislator who voted for it, rest assured that gun owners across the state of Vermont **WILL NOT COMPLY** with such an unconstitutional law, thus, rendering us all criminals.

As criminals, we will not be required to register our firearms...

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## Universal Background Check States (red) vs Non UBC States (green)

Appendix A

### Gun Sense VT says states with UBCs are 38% safer than those who don't. The Facts prove otherwise!

Year	State	Universal Background Checks?	Total murders	Total firearms	% of murders by firearm	Year	State	Universal Background Checks?	Total murders	Total firearms	% of murders by firearm
2004	California	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	2391	1774	<b>72%</b>	2004	Massachusetts	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	167	97	<b>58%</b>
2005	California	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	2503	1845	<b>74%</b>	2005	Massachusetts	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	171	94	<b>55%</b>
2006	California	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	2485	1822	<b>73%</b>	2006	Massachusetts	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	185	111	<b>60%</b>
2007	California	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	2249	1605	<b>71%</b>	2007	Massachusetts	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	182	114	<b>63%</b>
2008	California	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	2142	1487	<b>69%</b>	2008	Massachusetts	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	164	89	<b>54%</b>
2009	California	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	1972	1360	<b>69%</b>	2009	Massachusetts	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	169	93	<b>55%</b>
2010	California	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	1811	1257	<b>69%</b>	2010	Massachusetts	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	209	118	<b>56%</b>
2011	California	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	1790	1220	<b>68%</b>	2011	Massachusetts	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	183	122	<b>67%</b>
2012	California	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	1879	1304	<b>69%</b>	2012	Massachusetts	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	121	70	<b>58%</b>
2004	Connecticut	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	86	47	<b>55%</b>	2004	New Jersey	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	391	230	<b>59%</b>
2005	Connecticut	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	91	47	<b>52%</b>	2005	New Jersey	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	417	276	<b>66%</b>
2006	Connecticut	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	100	65	<b>65%</b>	2006	New Jersey	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	428	289	<b>68%</b>
2007	Connecticut	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	95	57	<b>60%</b>	2007	New Jersey	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	380	260	<b>68%</b>
2008	Connecticut	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	112	71	<b>63%</b>	2008	New Jersey	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	376	236	<b>63%</b>
2009	Connecticut	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	107	70	<b>65%</b>	2009	New Jersey	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	319	220	<b>69%</b>
2010	Connecticut	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	131	97	<b>74%</b>	2010	New Jersey	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	363	246	<b>68%</b>
2011	Connecticut	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	128	94	<b>73%</b>	2011	New Jersey	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	379	269	<b>71%</b>
2012	Connecticut	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	146	112	<b>77%</b>	2012	New Jersey	<b>AWB + UBC + Permit</b>	385	273	<b>71%</b>
2004	New York	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	864	500	<b>58%</b>	2004	New Hampshire	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	13	4	<b>31%</b>
2005	New York	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	868	500	<b>58%</b>	2005	New Hampshire	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	16	6	<b>38%</b>
2006	New York	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	921	400	<b>43%</b>	2006	New Hampshire	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	12	3	<b>25%</b>
2007	New York	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	800	500	<b>63%</b>	2007	New Hampshire	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	11	7	<b>64%</b>
2008	New York	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	835	475	<b>57%</b>	2008	New Hampshire	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	12	2	<b>17%</b>
2009	New York	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	779	481	<b>62%</b>	2009	New Hampshire	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	10	4	<b>40%</b>
2010	New York	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	860	517	<b>60%</b>	2010	New Hampshire	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	13	5	<b>38%</b>
2011	New York	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	774	445	<b>57%</b>	2011	New Hampshire	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	16	6	<b>38%</b>
2012	New York	<b>AWB + UBC</b>	682	407	<b>60%</b>	2012	New Hampshire	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	14	9	<b>64%</b>
2004	Rhode Island	<b>UBC</b>	26	16	<b>62%</b>	2004	Vermont	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	16	3	<b>19%</b>
2005	Rhode Island	<b>UBC</b>	34	16	<b>47%</b>	2005	Vermont	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	8	5	<b>63%</b>
2006	Rhode Island	<b>UBC</b>	28	7	<b>25%</b>	2006	Vermont	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	12	7	<b>58%</b>
2007	Rhode Island	<b>UBC</b>	19	9	<b>47%</b>	2007	Vermont	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	12	9	<b>75%</b>
2008	Rhode Island	<b>UBC</b>	29	18	<b>62%</b>	2008	Vermont	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	17	8	<b>47%</b>
2009	Rhode Island	<b>UBC</b>	31	18	<b>58%</b>	2009	Vermont	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	7	0	<b>0%</b>
2010	Rhode Island	<b>UBC</b>	29	16	<b>55%</b>	2010	Vermont	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	7	2	<b>29%</b>
2011	Rhode Island	<b>UBC</b>	14	5	<b>36%</b>	2011	Vermont	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	8	4	<b>50%</b>
2012	Rhode Island	<b>UBC</b>	34	19	<b>56%</b>	2012	Vermont	<b>NO Restrictions</b>	8	2	<b>25%</b>
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UBC = Universal Background Checks											
AWB = Assault Weapons Ban											
Permit = Gun Purchaser Permit System											

Appendix B

**Constitution of the State of Vermont**

AS ESTABLISHED JULY 9, 1793, AND AMENDED THROUGH DECEMBER 14, 2010

**CHAPTER I. A DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE INHABITANTS**

**OF THE STATE OF VERMONT**

**Article 1. [All persons born free; their natural rights; slavery prohibited]**

That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety

**Article 16. [Right to bear arms; standing armies; military power subordinate to civil]**

That the people have a right to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the State--and as standing armies in time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; and that the military should be kept under strict subordination to and governed by the civil power.

Appendix C

**CHAPTER II. PLAN OR FRAME OF GOVERNMENT**

**DELEGATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS**

**§ 16. [REPRESENTATIVES' OATHS]**

The Representatives having met, and chosen their Speaker and Clerk, shall each of them, before they proceed to business, take and subscribe, as well the oath or affirmation of allegiance hereinafter directed (except where they shall produce certificates of their having theretofore taken and subscribed the same) as the following oath or affirmation:

You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that as a member of this Assembly, **you will not propose, or assent to, any bill, vote or resolution, which shall appear to you injurious to the people, nor do nor consent to any act or thing whatever, that shall have a tendency to lessen or abridge their rights and privileges, as declared by the Constitution of this State;** but will, in all things, conduct yourself as a faithful, honest Representative and guardian of the people, according to the best of your judgment and ability.

Under the pains and penalties of perjury.