Gun Control/Ownership

National Poll: While some opinions on gun control and ownership reflect broad support, there is significant variation and degrees of opposition when viewed demographically by race, ethnicity, gender, age, income, and geographically.

- Nearly 50% of Americans feel that government is encroaching on the 2nd Amendment rights to carry and own arms
- A significant majority (88.7%) feel that they have a right to use a firearm in their home against an intruder
- Nearly 30% nationally feel that tensions in places like Ferguson, Missouri would be lessened by more gun controls
- Nearly 53% nationally indicated that they own or would own a firearm for personal or family protection in the home, while in the southern region, nearly 70% said the same
- Only one-third (33.1%) of respondents felt teachers and administrators should carry guns in public schools
- While 7.2% of those surveyed believed there should be no regulations or controls for any reason on firearms, 79.9% suggested they can see some limited licensing or permitting and some restrictions on certain arms such as assault weapons. Another 7.2% believe firearms should not be privately owned
- Owned firearms were reported to be stored in a safe, kept individually locked and kept unloaded – 37.6%, 48.3%, and 65.3% respectively
- Over two-thirds of Americans support allowing active duty military members to carry arms on their bases

ABOUT THE POLL: The Poll was conducted by The Polling Center at Jackson State University’s Institute of Government. Polling by the Center is conducted on a regular basis and may also include spontaneous polling on occurring events.

METHODOLOGY: The Poll sampled opinions of 900 approximately proportional to state population contribution nationwide. The survey was conducted September 1 – 9, 2014. All Surveys were conducted using an online survey instrument. The poll has a +/- 3.5 percent margin of error at a 95 percent confidence level on a composite basis.

ABOUT JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY – The Polling Center at Jackson State University's Institute of Government has released a national survey among 900 adults. The Center measured American support for gun control, use of arms in self-defense, and levels of safe-use training among owners.
Identification

Americans View Identification for Passport and Loan More Reasonable than Voting

Jackson, MS. In a recent poll respondents were presented with a survey in which they rated instances when identification is typically required.

➢ 95.7% viewed obtaining a passport more reasonable for identification than voting (81.4%)
➢ 91.1% thought that applying for a loan was a reasonable reason to require identification than those believing the same for voting (81.4%)
➢ Other reasons perceived as reasonable for presenting identification were opening a bank account (90.3 %), buying a gun (89.8%), even writing a check (82.3%) or buying alcohol (82.3%) were more valid reasons for requiring identification than voting
➢ While perceptions for presenting identification differed among all respondents, 69% reported having a driver’s license, 4.4% reported having a government issued identification, and 25% reported having both
➢ Only 18.6% suggested voter fraud is very serious in the United States. Another 11.9% felt it was not serious at all. Most fell between the extremes (57.8%) and suggested that voter fraud was somewhat serious or not very serious
➢ Overall the poll reported that just under half of all Americans surveyed, 47.2%, reported that they hold strong trust in the reliability of today’s identification measures, in general, given the level of identification counterfeiting

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Law Enforcement

National Poll: The poll provides a demographic analysis of respondents’ perception of law enforcement based on community, interaction with police, and trust in police departments and the community’s judicial system.

Community

➢ A large majority, 98.1%, suggested that they felt safe in their own neighborhoods during the day while fewer, 71.2%, indicated the same for their community downtown at night
➢ Rural respondents were significantly more likely (81.5%) to report feeling safe in their community’s downtown area at night than suburban and urban respondents – 72.8% and 62.1% respectively
➢ The perception of safe neighborhoods at night remained high among White respondents (95.4%) but declined significantly among Hispanic (84.3%) and African American (87.7%) respondents. Nationally 91.6% of respondents felt this way
➢ Lower income respondents are significantly less likely to report feeling safe in their communities at night than higher income peers

Interaction with Police Officer

➢ Unfortunately, 34.3% suggested they “do all that they can to avoid police officers” while another 11.4% said they have taught children to avoid police officers
➢ Nearly one-in five of those surveyed, 17.1%, indicated they have experienced verbal abuse, condescending remarks, or intimidation by police officers. Further, 15.1% suggested they had been profiled or believed they were stopped by officers because they “appeared” suspicious
➢ Younger respondents are three and four times as likely to report being verbally abused and profiled by police than those 65+ and significantly more likely than those aged 40-64
➢ Just short of one-half of all respondents, 47.6%, agreed with a statement that read: “Based on all that I know or have heard, African-Americans are justified when they report fearing the police.” When “don’t know” respondents are removed from the data, this percentage moves to 52.6%

Trust of Police Departments/Judicial System

➢ Older respondents, 65+, are nearly twice as likely to report trusting their local police, police departments and the judicial system as those 18-39 years of age
➢ Ratings for local police, police departments, State Police and TSA were significantly higher among rural respondents and suburban respondents than urban respondents
➤ African Americans and Hispanics were comparatively more likely to avoid police and teach their children to avoid police than whites
➤ Trust for police officers, trust in police departments and trust in the judicial system is about 20.0% lower among lower income respondents that those in income categories above 40K annually
➤ Younger respondents are less supportive of other policing strategies such as community policing, foot patrols and providing local police departments with used military weaponry
➤ Females are less likely to trust local police departments than males

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