Michigan Firearms Association

2026 MFA State Legislative Candidate Survey

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Question 1

In 2023, Governor Whitmer signed a vicious gun-control bill that ended all private party firearms transfers in Michigan unless they submit to a federal NCIC check, thereby adding themselves and the firearm to a federal list. As we've seen, this legislation does little to stop crime but creates statewide databases of gun owners – which can be used against gun owners later for gun confiscations.

If elected, would you SUPPORT and VOTE YES to REPEAL Michigan's "Universal Background Checks" law that outlaws private party sales and makes criminals out of Michigan gun owners – and create a database of gun owners at the same time?

Question 1 Answer

Yes

Question 2

"Extreme Risk Protection Orders" commonly referred to as 'Red Flag Gun Confiscations,' were passed in Michigan in 2023 and allow a spurned ex, a former partner, a co-worker etc, to petition a court and make the claim, with no evidence or substantiation, that a person is a "danger to themselves or others". Under "Red Flag Gun Confiscations" the court can, through ex parte hearings and with no due process of law, issue a "Red Flag" order, stripping a law-abiding gun owner, who has never even been arrested, indicted or convicted of a crime, of their firearms without so much as a day in court!

If elected, would you SUPPORT and VOTE YES to REPEAL Michigan's 'Red Flag Gun Confiscations' law that denies law abiding Michigan citizens their gun rights without due process through a court of law and without ever having been adjudicated as mentally defective or convicted?

Question 2 Answer

Yes

Question 3

Anti-gun lawmakers in Michigan and across the country have proposed legislation that would ban all gun rights from American citizens between the ages of 18-20. In addition, many lawmakers at the state and federal level are publicly calling for this legislation to be enacted at the state level nationwide! This, despite the fact that these are law abiding citizens that can serve in the military, pay taxes, get married, have careers and enjoy every other aspect of being a legal adult.

If elected, would you OPPOSE and VOTE NO on legislation that would leave American citizens between the ages of 18-20 defenseless and unable to buy a firearm for self-defense?

Question 3 Answer

Yes

Question 4

Anti-gun lawmakers, the media, and Bloomberg funded activists have been screaming for a complete ban of the AR-15 (and their standard 30-round magazine) and hundreds of related firearms all because of a variety of cosmetic features. Legislation has been introduced to ban these firearms in Washington, D.C., and lawmakers here in Michigan are viciously pushing similar legislation. This, despite the fact that all semi-automatic firearms function essentially the same way.

If elected, would you OPPOSE and VOTE NO on legislation banning the manufacture, sale or possession of semi-automatic firearms and/or standard-capacity 30rd magazines, recognizing that these restrictions do nothing to stop crime but only serve to harass gun owners?

Question 4 Answer

Yes

Question 5

Gun control activists have long desired a mandatory waiting period before law abiding citizens would be able to exercise their 2nd Amendment freedoms and purchase a firearm for self-defense. This, despite the fact that the madmen in some of the worst mass shootings in America purchased their guns AFTER submitting to these waiting periods. Of course, these waiting periods do nothing to stop violent crime and have only resulted in many women being murdered by violent predators because they were unarmed and couldn’t defend themselves, because they hadn’t waited enough days to buy a gun.

If elected, would you OPPOSE and VOTE NO on any legislation that would place unconstitutional waiting periods limiting when a law-abiding citizen in Michigan could purchase a firearm for self-defense?

Question 5 Answer

Yes

Question 6

Constitutional Carry recognizes that every law-abiding citizen has the right to carry a gun, openly or concealed, for any reason they want to, except to commit a crime. Thus, with no government bureaucracy or license, Michigan citizens could defend themselves, and criminals who use firearms to commit crimes are severely punished. This is the law in nearly 30 states. If passed in Michigan, this law will allow thousands of people the right to carry a firearm for any lawful purpose with no additional paperwork or fees.

Would you support Constitutional Carry legislation, which would allow all law-abiding Michigan citizens the right to carry a weapon, either concealed or openly, without having to first obtain government permission and be added to a list, as is done in several other states?

Question 6 Answer

- Sponsor

Question 7

One of the major pieces of gun control passed in 2023 was Mandatory Firearms Storage laws, less known as “Safe Storage” laws, which make it a CRIME to keep a gun anywhere but in a locked safe that the government approves of,

leaving homeowners helpless in the face of violent intruders. This law was passed even though it has gotten people killed in places like Merced California where a man used a pitchfork to brutally murder two young children while their 14-year-old sister was locked out of her Dad's safe because of California's "Mandatory Firearms Storage" law.

If elected, would you SUPPORT and VOTE YES to REPEAL Michigan's new law restricting law-abiding gun owners from exercising their rights as free Americans and firearms owners to use their own common sense to store their firearms in the manner they see fit?

Question 7 Answer

- Sponsor

Question 8

Under the Biden admin, an estimated 10,000,000+ people have illegally entered America. The Dept. of Homeland Security said that at least 70,000 of these were 'special interest' aliens, coming from countries that 'promote or protect terrorism' against the United States. Now, some are trying to use the Bruen decision to justify letting these foreign nationals possess firearms.

If elected, would you SUPPORT and VOTE YES on legislation that would clarify that foreign nationals who have entered America illegally are not allowed to possess a firearm, knowing they'll be able to legally buy a firearm once they've completed the process for entry?

Question 8 Answer

- Sponsor

Question 9

The next Democratic President will attack gun owners with the full power of the federal government, using executive orders, bureaucratic attacks, and legislation. But the federal government relies on state and local cops to enforce their laws. In response to this, some states have passed the Second Amendment Preservation Act (SAPA) which instructs peace officers to only enforce the gun laws of their state. And if a Democrat-run city violates SAPA, SAPA allows that department to be sued for civil damages. SAPA protects gun owners from a Leftist President, and our police from being ordered to violate their oath of office.

If elected, would you SUPPORT and VOTE YES on legislation which states that Michigan cops may not be used by the federal government to enforce federal gun control laws or Executive Orders, and which contain civil penalties that allow gun owners to hold rogue departments who break the law accountable?

Question 9 Answer

- Sponsor

Question 10

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.

If elected, would you OPPOSE and VOTE NO on all methods of gun control, including those that the media calls 'reasonable?' These could include bans on 'ghost guns,' laws that ban those with simple misdemeanor convictions from owning guns, new taxes on ammunition, civil liability insurance requirements for gun owners, and the use of pistol braces?

Question 10 Answer

Yes

Question 11

In your own words, please explain what rights you believe the Second Amendment ultimately safeguards:

Question 11 Answer

I am a person who truly believes in our Bill of Rights. I believe in our First and Second Amendments are a foundation for our freedom as citizens of the United States of America. I believe ALL law-abiding citizens should NOT have their 2nd Amendment Rights infringed at all. I support the Heller (2008) interpretation of the 2nd Amendment maintains that the right to bear arms is a right applied to individuals. I support the Bruen decision of 2022 that maintains the ability to carry a pistol in public is a constitutional right guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment. I do believe that Article 1, section 6 of the Michigan Constitution does applies to the carrying of firearms on public property. I support retaining Michigan's "Stand Your Ground" law. I do support permitless concealed carry and constitutional carry. I do support repealing "Red Flag Laws" that were enacted in 2023. Law-Abiding Citizens of Michigan should not have their Constitution Rights infringed. I am a person who supports our 1st and 2nd amendment rights. And if elected, State Senator for District 12, and I have a questions or need knowledge on a 2nd amendment right that maybe I do not know or have enough knowledge about, I will ask for the advice from your group, MCRGO, NRA, and others. And if you need to talk to me, I have an open door policy. Talk to me.

Name (As it will appear on the ballot)

Joseph Backus

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Phone

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District Number

12

Chamber

Michigan Senate

Party Affiliation

Republican

E-Signature

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

Date

06/20/2026

Signature

Reviewed

- Yes

Paper Survey