

*This lists all answers to Question Seven of North Carolina Health News' voter guide questionnaire. Unless otherwise noted, the answers were given directly to one of our reporters.*

**Question 7: What measures would you support to reduce gun deaths, both accidental, intentional and those from suicide?**

[NC 1](#)

**G.K. Butterfield:** I support common sense solutions to reduce gun violence and I also support law-abiding individuals' Second Amendment right to own firearms. In Congress, I have advocated for a number of actions to keep dangerous firearms out of the hands of those who should not have access to them, including:

- Require universal background checks on all gun sales and transfers;
- Ban military style assault weapons and military high capacity ammunition clips;
- Ban suspects on the terror watch list from purchasing firearms;
- Call for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to research gun violence as a major public health issue.

**Roger W. Allison** did not answer the survey.

[NC 2](#)

**George Holding** did not answer the survey.

**Linda Coleman** did not answer the survey.

**Jeff Matemu** did not answer the survey.

[NC 3](#)

**Walter Jones** did not answer the survey.

**David Price:** With each deadly shooting that occurs, the need for common-sense reforms to our nation’s gun laws grows more urgent—and Congress’s failure to reform them grows more shameful. It has now been more than five years since the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut—five years in which Charleston, San Bernardino, Orlando, Las Vegas, Sutherland Springs, Parkland, Santa Fe, and others have joined the growing list of communities victimized by mass shootings, as well as the much longer list of communities that experience gun violence as a daily epidemic.

As a Vice Chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force of the House Democratic Caucus, I have helped lead the fight in Congress to respond to the gun violence epidemic facing our country. I am a cosponsor of legislation to reinstate the ban on military-style assault weapons (H.R. 5087), to establish truly universal background checks (H.R. 4240), to ban the use of so-called “bump stocks” (H.R. 3947), to expand the use of gun violence restraining orders (H.R. 2598), and to establish a Select Committee on Gun Violence Prevention (H. Res. 367), among other initiatives. Unfortunately, the Republican majority has refused to bring any of these bills—or any other meaningful gun violence prevention measure—to the floor for a vote.

I have also used my position as North Carolina’s only member of the Appropriations Committee to advance gun violence reforms through the annual appropriations process. For years, the spending bill that funds the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has prevented the agency from conducting research into the causes and consequences of gun violence, and for years I have led an annual effort to advocate for the repeal of this prohibition, which is known as the “Dickey Amendment.” I’m pleased to report that the fiscal year (FY) 2018 spending legislation finally allows CDC to conduct this potentially life-saving research.

Most recently, the House Appropriations Committee approved an amendment I offered to clarify that states and localities may use federal funds to implement and administer Extreme Risk Protection Order laws, which create a mechanism for law enforcement officials to temporarily remove an individual’s firearms in the face of credible concerns that they could use them to do harm. Currently, eight states have implemented such laws, and several more, including North Carolina, are considering them.

I am hopeful that these modest breakthroughs are a sign of the tide finally turning in the wake of the Parkland tragedy and the subsequent advocacy of its survivors, which has brought a renewed sense of urgency and purpose to this debate. I will continue fighting as hard as I know how to demand action against gun violence, in solidarity with the many victims and families who have

been touched by this issue over the years, and with the students around the country who have raised their voices to proclaim, “never again!”

**Barbara Howe:** If you are asking do I support greater efforts at gun control, the answer is no. I believe unapologetically in every individual's right to self defense and the right to own the tools needful to exercise that right. Gun deaths are, indeed, sad, but there is no law that we can enact that will prevent them.

**Steve A. Von Loor** did not answer our survey.

[NC5](#)

**Virginia Foxx** did not answer the survey.

**DD Adams:** Until we have workable national regulations, we will be unable to address gun violence, because local regulations are inadequate. As a gun owner, I support the Second Amendment, but it is not an absolute right for anyone to own a gun. I support:

- Requiring a 24-hour waiting period to purchase a handgun
- Eliminating the gun show loophole
- Requiring owners to be licensed and insured
- Requiring owners to be safety certified and certifications to be renewed on a regular basis

The growing suicide rate reveals the much bigger effect of widespread firearm availability in the United States — and claims thousands more lives.

According to the Washington Post, “Research shows that the longer it takes someone to obtain a weapon — such as if they have to go out and buy one or if the state has a mandatory waiting period — the more likely they are to decide against killing themselves or choose an alternative, less lethal method.”

In 2017, the CDC released *Preventing Suicide: A Technical Package of Policy, Programs, and Practices* which provided a wide range of strategies. Those that I think deserve governmental support include:

- Gatekeeper training: is designed to train teachers, coaches, clergy, emergency responders, primary and urgent care providers, and others in the community to identify people who may be at risk of suicide
- Crisis intervention: these approaches provide support and referral services, typically by connecting a person in crisis (or a friend or family member of someone at risk) to trained volunteers or professional staff via telephone hotline, online chat, text messaging, or in-person.
- Treatment for people at risk of suicide: can include various forms of psychotherapy delivered by licensed providers to help individuals with mental health problems and other suicide risk factors with problem-solving and emotional regulation
- Treatment to prevent re-attempts: these approaches typically include follow-up contact and use diverse techniques (e.g., home visits, mail, telephone, e-mail) to engage recent suicide attempt survivors in continued treatment to prevent re-attempts

## [NC 6](#)

**Mark Walker** did not answer our survey.

**Ryan Watts** did not answer our survey.

## [NC 7](#)

**David Rouzer** did not answer the survey.

**Dr. Kyle Horton:** Tragically, I nearly lost patients to suicide while awaiting care within the Veterans Affairs health care system. This is why I worked on suicide prevention, particularly for veterans, which is a public health crisis claiming an estimated 20 veteran lives a day. There's a growing body of research that means matter—access to firearms and other lethal means must be addressed proactively to save lives. From a public health standpoint, gun violence in this country is a crisis, including in our schools. We must fully repeal the Dickey Amendment that prevented the research we need to better understand gun violence, and also fund

that research fully. As a gun owner, I support what I believe was the true intent of the Second Amendment to protect a “well-regulated militia” that’s armed against tyranny. To keep us safe though, we need common sense gun policies that put people’s lives over gun manufacturers profits. I’m with the majority of Americans who endorse strengthening universal background checks, closing gun show and internet sale loopholes, as well as addressing weapons and their accessories that were designed for combat that have no business in the hands of untrained civilians and that are unnecessary for hunting or personal protection.

#### [NC 8](#)

**Richard Hudson** did not answer our survey.

**Frank McNeill** did not answer our survey.

#### [NC 9](#)

**Mark Harris:** My position has always been that we don't need more gun laws, per se, in order to prevent injury and prevent the kind of things that that we see happening in so many of these mass shootings. I just don't believe gun laws would solve that problem. Some of the cities in our nation that have some of the strictest gun laws have some of the greatest gun violence, and I think there's a connection there.

I do believe in education, I believe that it's important for people to know how to handle a firearm, and when they know how to handle it, and they're certified to handle it, then obviously, they are far less likely to harm themselves or accidentally harm someone else. It needs to be far more a process of education of individuals in order to protect themselves and protect those right around them. But I do really believe that gun laws we have in place are more than adequate to prevent the misuse of firearms

**Dan McCready:** *McCready left this question unanswered.*

**Jeff Scott:** I would not treat violence as a public health issue. Violent behavior should be addressed by law enforcement, the courts and the penal system.

Suicide is the ultimate form of self-harm and can only be addressed by strong families, communities and institutions. We must all cooperate to fight despair, isolation and mental health issues. I see a role for the Federal Government in improving its treatment of Veterans by restructuring the VA for greater accountability to the Vets themselves (see my proposal on [lpmeck.org](http://lpmeck.org)).

Regarding the issue of violence in schools, we have options. Teachers can opt for better training. Schools can opt for better security measures. Parents can opt for better monitoring of troubled children. Doctors can opt for better treatment regimens for mentally ill youth. Police can opt for tracking real threats. Banning weapons is a losing strategy.

#### [NC 10](#)

**Patrick McHenry** did not answer our survey.

**David Wilson Brown:** Absolutely. The CDC was restricted from researching—that's certainly something we need to address.

I think it goes back to mental health care. With a great power comes great responsibility; we have to figure out a way to make sure those who have guns understand what their responsibilities are to continue gun ownership, and that includes proactive storage of their weapons.

Red flag laws are a big differential for many people, including concerns about self-harm not just potential harm for others. These would make a huge impact, along with universal background checks, to make sure that those who are in a bad way, if only for a temporary period, do not have access to weapons. I want to get them through the experience.

#### [NC 11](#)

**Mark Meadows** did not answer our survey.

**Clifton B. Ingram** did not answer our survey.

**Phillip Price:** We need to have universal background checks, going across state lines, nationwide registry that would include history of violent mental illness, history of habitual animal abuse. We should have longer waiting periods, cool off periods. We need to close any loopholes that are in purchasing guns at gun shows and pawn shops.

I don't think it would be an infringement on people's 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights if we had to register guns like we do automobiles.

Yes, most definitely [we should we treat gun violence as a public health issue, allowing government-funded studies].

### [NC 12](#)

**Alma Adams:** I think it has become a public health issue. There's too much access. [...] We don't have enough control on not only who buys them, but where you can buy them from. We don't have enough regulations in terms of your how long we have to wait, background checks. All of those things, in my opinion, will help in this regard. Because if they're not accessible, then people don't have them to the degree that they have them. Recently they there was something out about guns that are produced through the internet, and you can just print it out 3-D and they're plastic. You're not going to be able to check them, they can go through the security in an airport, you wouldn't even know it. The current administration lifted the regulation that we had on that [which] would have given us more control. I think we need to stop turning our heads and really focusing on what we know is wrong, and we know what we can do to me solve some of those issues as far as it as it relates to guns, and which contributes to a lot of violence in our communities.

**Paul Wright** did not answer our survey, but he did provide a statement.

### [NC 13](#)

**Ted Budd** did not answer our survey.

**Kathy Manning** did not answer our survey.

**Tom Bailey** did not answer our survey.