Iowa Gun Owners

2026 IGO State Legislative Candidate Survey

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Question 1

In the wake of recent high-profile murder sprees around the country, anti-gun politicians, the media and Bloomberg-funded activists have been demanding a complete ban on the AR-15 (and standard 30-round magazines) and hundreds of related firearms all because of a variety of cosmetic features. Legislation has been introduced previously in Des Moines to ban these firearms across the state, even though these firearms are widely popular and are owned by tens of thousands of Iowans.

If elected, would you OPPOSE and VOTE NO on legislation that bans the manufacture, sale or possession of semi-automatic firearms and their standard capacity magazines -- knowing that these restrictions don't stop crime, but are used to harass gun owners?

Question 1 Answer

Yes

Question 2

Anti-gun organizations, often funded with out-of-state resources from Michael Bloomberg, have been pushing legislation in Des Moines for years that would criminalize the private sale of firearms in Iowa, unless gun owners submit to a federal NCIC check. Doing this adds the gun owner and their firearm to a federal list. And as we've seen, this legislation does virtually nothing to stop crime but expands state and national databases of gun owners – which can be used against gun owners later.

If elected, would you OPPOSE and VOTE NO on 'Universal Gun Registrations' (or similar legislation) that would ban all private party gun sales and make criminals out of Iowans who lawfully transfer firearms without first obtaining government permission?

Question 2 Answer

Yes

Question 3

Democrats have filed SF-2128, which would leave gun owners civilly liable if a criminal breaks into their home or vehicle, steals their firearm, and uses it in a crime. Gun owners would be forced to pay for things like emotional distress, physical injuries, property damage and legal fees caused by a criminal, when they themselves did nothing wrong.

If elected, would you OPPOSE and VOTE NO on legislation like SF-2128, that exposes gun owners to civil liability for what a criminal does with their firearm after stealing it?

Question 3 Answer

Yes

Question 4

Various state legislatures have passed legislation that would criminalize gun owners who do not keep their firearms under lock and key, giving criminals the advantage. To be clear, these “Safe Storage” laws do nothing to deter violent criminals and instead get innocent citizens raped or murdered.

If elected, would you OPPOSE and VOTE NO on legislation that would force Iowans to keep their guns in a government-approved storage device, leaving them unable to defend themselves or their loved ones in an emergency?

Question 4 Answer

Yes

Question 5

Gun control activists have long desired mandatory waiting periods before law-abiding citizens can purchase firearms, ammunition, or accessories. Many states have filed legislation that would make criminals out of their residents who buy a firearm without waiting five days first. This even though many women have been 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 legislation that would make criminals out of Iowans who buy firearms without waiting an arbitrary number of days first, knowing that these laws are unconstitutional and only endanger innocent people?

Question 5 Answer

Yes

Question 6

Over the last four years, an estimated 7,500,000 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 6 Answer

- Sponsor

Question 7

Democrats have filed ‘Red Flag Gun Seizure’ legislation in the Senate (SF-2122) which allows virtually anyone to tell a judge that a person is a ‘danger to themselves or others’ (while providing little to no evidence.) This allows liberal judges to order the confiscation of a person’s firearms before they’ve been arrested, indicted, or convicted of a crime. The Iowa House has passed HF-2718 to ban ‘Red Flag Gun Seizures’ in Iowa, but the bill is being bottled up in the State Senate.

If elected, would you SUPPORT and VOTE YES on legislation like HF-2718 that would ban ‘Red Flag Gun Seizures,’ ensuring that an Iowan can’t have his firearms confiscated until he’s been convicted of a felony crime in court where his due process rights can be protected?

Question 7 Answer

- Sponsor

Question 8

Dozens of states give the presumption of innocence to gun owners in the wake of a threatened or actual use of force, requiring the state to prove their guilt in court. Iowa's law inverts that, requiring gun owners to prove their innocence in court. In an era where liberal prosecutors are targeting gun owners to advance a political agenda, it's more important than ever that we have a pre-trial hearing process to dismiss these bogus charges. The Iowa House has passed HF-945 to address these concerns, but the bill is being bottled up in the State Senate.

If elected, would you SUPPORT and VOTE YES on legislation like HF-945 that would enhance Iowa's self-defense laws by providing the presumption of innocence to gun owners who are forced to defend themselves, as well as a pre-trial hearing process to spare them from going through politically motivated prosecutions?

Question 8 Answer

- Sponsor

Question 9

Most mass shootings happen in so-called 'Gun-Free Zones' where law-abiding citizens are forced to disarm. Thousands of Americans have been shot or murdered by violent criminals in these zones over the last fifteen years, because law-abiding citizens were unable to defend themselves or their loved ones, because of a deadly law that forced them to disarm.

If elected, would you SUPPORT and VOTE YES on legislation that eliminates government-mandated 'Gun Free Zones,' that leave law-abiding citizens helpless against violent killers looking to rack up a body count?

Question 9 Answer

- Sponsor

Question 10

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 Iowa 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 10 Answer

- Sponsor

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

The Second Amendment safeguards every other Amendment from gross government overreach. It gives Americans the right to protect themselves and their families, effectively protecting life and liberty in this country.

Name (As it will appear on the ballot)
Matthew Smith

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Phone

District Number
63

Chamber
Iowa House

Party Affiliation
Republican

E-Signature

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

Date
04/22/2026

Signature



Paper Survey

Reviewed

- Yes