



MEMORANDUM

March 30, 2015

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: Goodwin Simon Strategic Research

RE: Maine Voters, Including Gun Owners, Strongly Favor Keeping Law Requiring Concealed Carry Permits

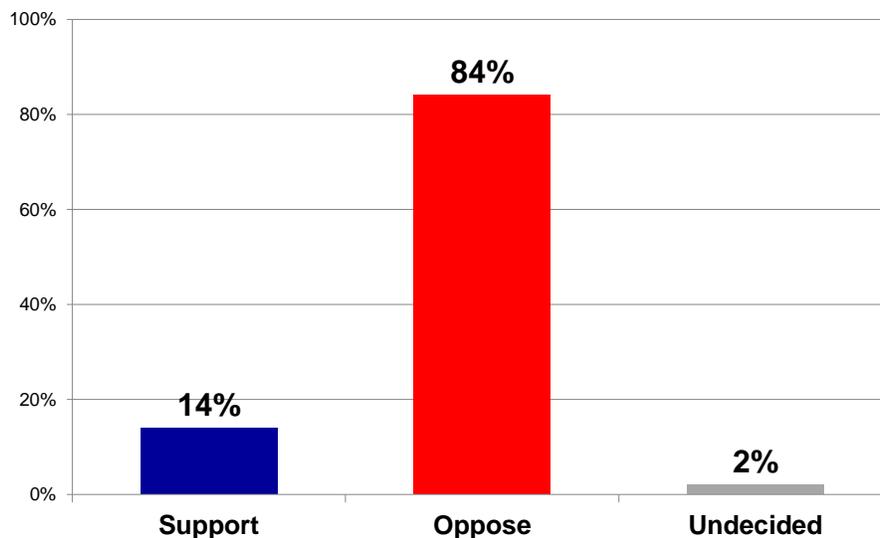
This memo highlights key findings of a live interviewer public opinion telephone survey conducted March 8 - 12, 2015 among 802 likely November 2016 election voters in Maine. The sample included landline and cell phone respondents and the margin of error for the survey was +/- 3.5 percent.

The findings of this survey reveal strong opposition to permitless carrying of concealed handguns among Maine voters, including opposition among significant majorities of gun owners, NRA-member households, and strong supporters of the Second Amendment.

These findings are particularly striking given that almost half (49%) of Maine voters report having one or more gun in their home, and fully 60 percent say they consider themselves to be a strong supporter of the Second Amendment.

- **More than eight in ten voters (84%) oppose permitless carry.** An overwhelming majority of respondents oppose allowing citizens to carry concealed handguns in public places without a permit. Just 14 percent support permitless carry and a mere two percent are undecided.

Allowing Carrying of Concealed Handguns in Public Without Permit

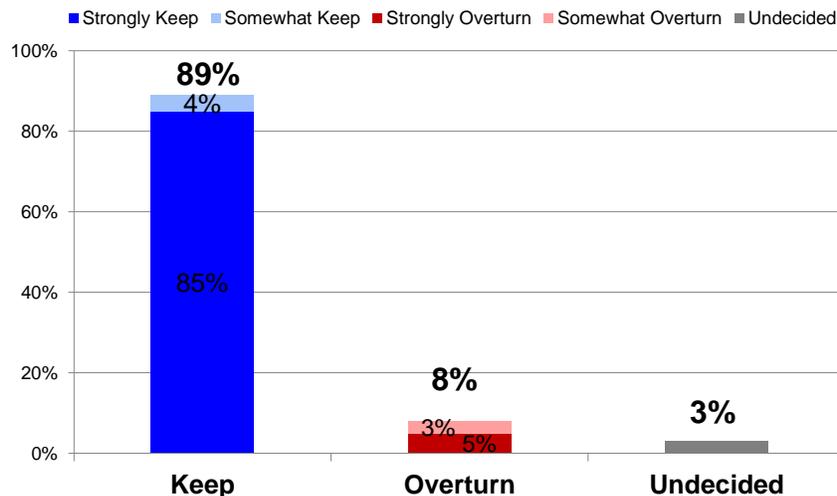


- **In fact, nearly nine in ten voters say they want to keep current Maine law requiring permits for concealed carry, which requires a clean recent criminal record and the completion of a safety training course.**

Fully 85 percent say they would strongly like to keep the current Maine law (89% total keep). Just five percent say they would strongly like to overturn the current law (8% total overturn) and only three percent are undecided.

Support for Keeping Concealed Carry Permit Law

Currently, Maine law requires that gun owners get a permit in order to carry a concealed firearm. To get a permit, people must have a clean recent criminal record and complete a safety training course. Would you like to KEEP this law or OVERTURN this law?



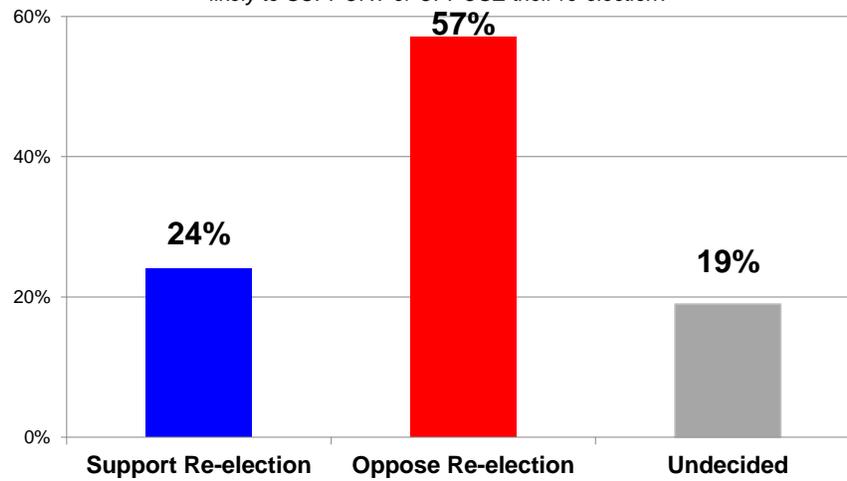
Support for keeping the law is overwhelming among every subgroup, including:

- Men (85%) and women (94%);
 - Younger voters (85% ages 50 and under) and older voters (92% ages 50 and older);
 - Democrats (94%), Republicans (85%), and Independents (88%);
 - College educated (92%) and non-college educated (88%) voters ;
 - Gun owners (95% 1 gun, 91% 2-4 guns, 88% 5+ guns) and those living in an NRA-member household (83%);
 - Voters in Congressional District 1 (90%) and those in Congressional District 2 (89%);
 - And, those who identify as strong supporters of the Second Amendment (86%).
- **Maine voters overwhelmingly want to keep the current laws requiring permits for concealed carrying of weapons in place.**
 - **In addition, a significant majority say legislative efforts to overturn this law would impact their voting decisions when it comes time to re-elect their representatives in the state legislature.**

A significant majority (57%) say they would be more likely to oppose the re-election of their state legislator if he or she voted to overturn current law and allow people to carry concealed firearms without a permit. In contrast, just one-quarter (24%) say they would support the re-election of their state legislator if they voted to overturn the law. Two in ten (19%) are undecided if they would support or oppose the re-election of their legislator based on this vote.

Impact of Legislator Vote to Overturn Law on Legislator Re-Election

*And if your Maine state legislator voted to overturn this law in order to allow people to carry concealed firearms **without** a permit, how would it affect your vote? Would you be more likely to **SUPPORT** or **OPPOSE** their re-election?*



The proportion who would oppose their legislator's re-election includes a majority of voters regardless of gender, age, education level, and region; significant majorities of Democrats and Independents; nearly half of all Republicans; and a majority of all gun owners and self-identified strong supporters of the Second Amendment.

- **Taken as a whole, these survey results provide a clear mandate for lawmakers to support current laws requiring concealed carry permits and oppose efforts to overturn or erode these gun safety measures.**