

A new poll of likely voters in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties conducted by Lake Research Partners shows that **suburban Philadelphia voters overwhelmingly support tougher laws to control the availability of guns and reduce gun crime**. Support for tougher gun laws cuts across all demographic lines and includes Democrats, independents and Republicans.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Over three quarters of suburban voters (76%) support a statewide ban on assault weapons**, including 67% who strongly favor a ban, while 22% are opposed (16% strongly). Seventy-nine percent of women and 72% of men favor a statewide assault weapons ban.
- While Democrats (85% favor) and independents (78% favor) are the most intense supporters of an assault weapons ban, two-thirds of Republican voters (67%) also favor banning assault weapons, including 70% of Republican women.
- **More than four out of five voters (81%) support a statewide limit on handgun purchases to one gun a month**, including 66% strongly. These suburban voters are even more intensely supportive of allowing the City of Philadelphia to enact a one-gun-per-month limit (84% favor, 73% strongly).
- Nearly three quarters of Republican voters support the one-gun-a-month limit (74% favor), along with overwhelming majorities of Democrats (88%) and independents (87%).
- Suburban voters overwhelmingly support a number of additional measures to cut down on guns and gun crime including:
 - ✓ **Requiring gun owners to report lost or stolen guns within 24 hours** or face a fine for unintentional failure to report, or a criminal charge for intentional failure to report (80% favor, 19% oppose).
 - ✓ **Requiring all police departments in Pennsylvania to trace and report any firearm recovered from a juvenile under 18** who was illegally in possession of the firearm (96% favor, 3% oppose).
 - ✓ **Reforming the state's gun laws to allow local governments greater control over regulating guns** (75% favor, 23% oppose).
- **Arguments that cracking down on illegal guns would take away the rights of gun owners do not hold water with suburban voters.** Over three quarters of these suburban voters (77%) agree with a statement that “Cracking down on illegal guns, gun runners, and violent criminals who use stolen guns in their crimes is good for everyone in the state, including law-abiding gun owners.” Just 20% agree with an opposing statement that “Any time a politician talks about cracking down on guns, their end goal is to take away the rights of gun owners.”

- In addition to the findings on gun laws, the poll found that **suburban voters strongly support new state funding for a broad range of other measures to reduce crime and violence**, including:
 - ✓ Creating a low interest loan fund for police agencies to purchase equipment such as bullet-proof vests (90% favor, 10% oppose).
 - ✓ Increasing funding for intensive supervision and other resources directed at juvenile offenders (86% favor, 13% oppose).
 - ✓ Increasing funding for long-term investments such as quality pre-school care and Head Start that pay off in lower crime over time (83% favor, 17% oppose).
 - ✓ Providing more state assistance to local school districts for peer mediation and dispute resolution programs (82% favor, 17% oppose).
 - ✓ Funding more grants for local governments to put more police on the street (83% favor, 16% oppose). Over two thirds of voters support grants to put more police on the street “even if it means raising taxes” (69% favor).

DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE POLL

- County: 34% Montgomery, 25% Bucks, 23% Delaware, 19% Chester
- Party registration: 54% Republican, 37% Democratic, 9% independent
- Education: 57% college graduates, 20% some college, 23% high school or less
- Gun ownership: 24% gun owners
- Race: 88% white, 6% African American, 6% other/refused

This telephone survey of 400 likely voters in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania was conducted August 28-31, 2006, by Lake Research Partners. The margin of sampling error is +/-4.9%.