

Virginia Citizens Defense League, Inc.

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2023 General Assembly Candidate Survey

Name:	Position Sought:
Address:	District:
City/State/ZIP:	Party:
	Phone:
Email:	Web Site:

1. Virginia does not have any law prohibiting law-abiding citizens from legally carrying a handgun in a public place in open view (open carry). Thus, no permit is required in Virginia to open carry. However, if that same person, in that same place, wears a jacket or coat which covers their handgun they are required to get training, pay a fee of up to \$50.00, have a background check run, and wait up to 45 days for a permit in order to legally carry a handgun concealed.

Twenty-six (26) states now recognize that every citizen has the right to carry a gun, openly or concealed, for all lawful purposes. While Vermont neither requires nor issues permits at all, 25 other states (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming) continue to issue optional permits for those who wish to take advantage of reciprocity agreements with other states. Many are calling this "Constitutional Carry".

Florida just passed permitless carry legislation, bringing the total number of states allowing a gun owner to carry a concealed handgun without a permit to 27. More states are expected to pass such a law this year.

Will you vote FOR "Constitutional Carry" legislation that would allow law-abiding citizens to carry handguns openly or concealed (at the individual's discretion) for any reason except for the commission of a crime, while still allowing the individual the option of applying for a concealed handgun permit?

Yes _____ No _____

2. In 2015, the governor enacted emergency regulations prohibiting concealed firearms in offices owned or occupied by Executive Branch Agencies.

In 2021, these "no gun" policies were codified into state law by the General Assembly and only disarm the law-abiding who are then unable to provide for their own defense, as seen in recent school and government office massacres where such gun control was in effect.

As the tragedy at Virginia Tech proved, the "I'm unarmed, please don't hurt me" approach is not an effective means of self-defense, especially when faced with a violent criminal determined to kill. Unfortunately, the police can't be everywhere all the time and usually arrive after the crime to take a report from any survivors.

Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that only "sensitive" government buildings can have a gun ban, not all government buildings.

Will you vote FOR legislation that would repeal the state government building gun ban?

Yes _____ No _____

3. Gun control advocates often try to discourage gun ownership by creating a patchwork of differing local government ordinances.

Virginia has laws that protect our citizens and visitors from being caught by such a patchwork of laws. In 2020, the General Assembly removed some of those protections by allowing local governments to ban carry in local government buildings, parks, recreation & community centers, and at permitted events and adjoining streets.

Recently, bans on carrying guns in parks and permitted events was struck down by a judge in Winchester as unconstitutional. In addition, judges in other states have also struck down such laws, along with gun bans in non-sensitive government buildings.

Will you vote FOR legislation to repeal the law that allows localities to restrict the carrying or possession of firearms by law-abiding citizens in recreation centers, libraries, parks, permitted events, or other local government buildings and facilities?

Yes _____ No _____

4. A few states, such as California, have implemented Red Flag laws, also called Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GRVO), Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO), or Emergency Substantial Risk Orders (ESRO). The fact that the accused is left free and unsupervised instead of the Court mandating psychiatric observation, detention, supervision or treatment proves that these are really gun-confiscation laws disguised as “gun-violence prevention” or “suicide prevention” laws and are being pushed hard at both the state and federal levels.

Red Flag laws allow a judge to direct the police to confiscate a person's firearms merely on the word of another that the gun owner is a danger to himself or others. The accused does not get any due process, or even any notice, before the police show up at his door to remove all his firearms. Only after a period of time can the gun owner petition the court to return his firearms. The court can deny the petition for as long as it chooses.

Red Flag laws strip a citizen of not only his right to keep and bear arms, but also his right to due process and presume guilt in advance of a crime being committed.

Temporary Detention Orders (TDOs), which Virginia has had for years, DO involve mental health professionals and treatment.

In spite of already having TDOs, in the 2020 Legislative Session, a Red Flag bill was passed, and Governor Ralph Northam signed it into law.

In New York state, a similar Red Flag Law has been struck down as unconstitutional.

Will you vote FOR legislation to repeal the Emergency Substantial Risk Order that was signed into law?

Yes _____ No _____

5. In the 2020 Legislative Session, gun control advocates succeeded in passing legislation establishing “universal background checks” (UBCs) to criminalize all non-dealer private gun sales.

Recently, a judge in Virginia has struck down UBCs for those 18-20 as unconstitutional.

In addition, under the UBC scheme, the Right to Keep and Bear Arms would be the only right enumerated in the US Constitution that would require permission from the government to exercise that right.

Will you vote FOR legislation to repeal the “universal background check” legislation passed into law in 2020?

Yes _____ No _____

6. Virginia law generally prohibits the carrying of guns in both public and private K-12 schools, except for the police (including off-duty, vacationing LEOs from other states) and judges and Commonwealth Attorneys with no firearms training. In 2021, the General Assembly added daycare and preschools to the list of “gun free” killing zones.

So, an untrained judge or even an off duty, vacationing game warden from Hawaii can legally carry a loaded gun into a Virginia school classroom, but a Virginia parent with a concealed handgun permit and training can’t even get out of his car! This ban 1) infringes the rights of law abiding Virginians, 2) grants special privileges to citizens of other states who know little or nothing of Virginia law, and 3) makes it almost certain that children and school personnel would remain helpless in the face of a Columbine type of attack by a deranged student or stranger who will ignore the law against bringing a gun into the school.

Even the draconian federal Gun Free School Zone Act specifically exempts concealed handgun permit holders from its restrictions and allows permit holders to carry their firearms into classrooms.

Since 2011, Utah concealed handgun permit holders can legally carry a concealed handgun in K-12 schools and universities and Utah has not had a school shooting.

Will you vote FOR legislation to conform school gun policy more closely with federal standards by allowing concealed handgun permit holders to have a gun on their person while on school grounds?

Yes _____ No _____

7. In 1993, Governor Doug Wilder led an emotional stampede that limited the number of handguns law-abiding citizens may purchase to one every 30 days -- with police permission required for multiple purchases. Today, most Americans realize that: 1) criminals will always find ways of obtaining weapons whether legally or illegally and 2) limiting the legal activities of honest citizens reduces popular support for laws in general and undermines our legal system.

South Carolina was the first state to pass a “one-handgun-a-month” law and repealed that law in 2004. In 2012, Virginia also repealed its “one-handgun-a-month” law. In 2015, the US Court of Appeals struck down Washington, DC’s “one-handgun-a-month” law.

In 2020, the General Assembly passed and Governor Ralph Northam signed a bill reinstating the “one-handgun-a-month” law.

Will you vote FOR legislation to repeal Virginia's "one-handgun-a-month" rationing law?

Yes _____ No _____

8. Effective July 1, 2010, concealed handgun permit holders can carry concealed in all restaurants in Virginia provided they don't consume any alcoholic beverages while carrying concealed. However, on & off duty Virginia police officers, retired law enforcement officers, and vacationing law enforcement from other states, Commonwealth Attorneys, and any judge or justice of the Commonwealth are all exempted from this prohibition. This un-American arrangement creates two classes of citizens: those on the government payroll who get special privileges and the rest of us who don't.

It seems only appropriate that there should be one standard for whether or not it is appropriate for someone carrying a concealed handgun to consume alcoholic beverages in a restaurant.

Will you vote FOR legislation to eliminate this double standard on carrying of concealed handguns in restaurants licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for on premises consumption?

Yes _____ No _____

9. Recently, there has been an effort to ban suppressors based upon one illegal use of this firearm accessory, even though there are well over one million legally owned suppressors in the United States that are used safely and responsibly by law-abiding citizens.

Unfortunately, too many people believe Hollywood movies that, for dramatic effect, vastly overstate the noise reduction capability of a suppressor. When a gun is fired, three sounds are produced – the supersonic crack of the bullet, the muzzle blast of gasses created by burning gunpowder, and the cycling of the weapon. A suppressor reduces only one of these sounds – the muzzle blast. Even with a suppressor, most common rifles and pistols are still very loud. Suppressors lower the sound level for most firearms from much louder than a jet plane taking off down to the level of a jackhammer.

A suppressor helps prevent long-term damage to the hearing of a shooter, hunter, or nearby people. It also reduces environmental noise levels affecting nearby residences & businesses.

Will you vote AGAINST any legislation to ban the sale or possession of suppressors in the Commonwealth?

Yes _____ No _____

10. Virginia and the United States have a long history of invention and innovation in many areas, including the firearms industry. For this, and other reasons (like preventing a gun registry), federal law allows for individuals to make their own firearms without requiring the person to get expensive licenses, provided they are not making these items as a business. In recent years, anti-gun zealots have attempted to create hysteria by using terms like "ghost guns" to describe these Privately Made Firearms (PMFs).

Will you vote AGAINST legislation attempting to ban or require registration of privately made firearms?

Yes _____ No _____

11. Gun control advocates have attempted to ban various classes of firearms and related items such as:
- semi-automatic copies of popular military rifles and carbines (strictly due to their cosmetic appearance when they are, in fact, identical in function to standard semi-automatic rifles with a traditional wooden stock)
 - inexpensive and affordable handguns (frequently demonized with the racist and fear inducing "Saturday Night Special" label)
 - standard capacity magazines which are misrepresented as "high-capacity" based solely upon an arbitrary definition of what is "high-capacity"
 - expensive, top shelf guns (like .50 caliber rifles)
 - etc.

Will you OPPOSE ALL gun bans?

Yes _____ No _____

12. Several states now have laws on the books that prevent state or local government employees from assisting the Federal government in any way with enforcing federal gun-control laws that violate the Second Amendment's protections of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. A government employee who violates that state law can be civilly fined.

With the recent push by the federal government to ban various types of guns and magazines, and with talk of registration and even confiscation, it is very important that Virginia protect its citizens as much as possible from having constitutional rights unlawfully stripped away.

Will you vote FOR legislation to prevent any agency, political subdivision, or employee of Virginia from assisting the Federal government of the United States in any investigation, prosecution, detention, arrest, search, or seizure, under the authority of any federal statute enacted, or Executive Order or regulation issued, after December 31, 2023, that infringes on the individual Right to Keep and Bear Arms by imposing new restrictions on private ownership, private transfer of firearms, firearm magazines, ammunition, or components thereof?

Yes _____ No _____

13. Most firearms experts recognize that mechanical devices, such as trigger locks, create an extremely dangerous condition, whereby a gun can be fired accidentally. These dangerous "lock up your safety" devices may render a firearm ineffective when most needed and leave an individual or family defenseless and vulnerable to attack. Additionally, trigger locks create a false sense of security similar to that created when child safety caps were mandated which resulted in a significant increase in child poisonings when parents came to rely on the "safety" caps rather than education to protect their children.

Will you vote AGAINST government mandated use of trigger locks or other such hazardous "safety" devices which have the effect of making it difficult, if not impossible, to have a gun available to defend your home and family?

Yes _____ No _____

14. In 1989, the Supreme Court of Virginia (SCOVA) MANDATED, in Diffendal vs Commonwealth, that "Moreover, the force used must be reasonable in relation to the harm threatened." However, in 1995, the General Assembly changed concealed weapons permits from "weapon" permits, to "handgun" permits, stripping Virginians of ANY less-lethal option, despite SCOVA's mandate. This puts case law and the Code of Virginia in direct conflict with each other and creates a dangerous liability for all carriers in Virginia, open or concealed.

Will you SUPPORT less-lethal options for Virginia's citizens by restoring Virginia's concealed handgun permit back into a concealed weapons permit, as it was prior to 1995?

Yes _____ No _____

15. At the beginning of the 2020 Legislative Session, the 14-member Joint Rules Committee passed an edict banning the possession of firearms by the public at the Capitol and the General Assembly Building (GAB). The General Assembly never debated or voted on this "General Assembly Building Gun Ban," nor has the General Assembly ever granted the Joint Rules Committee the specific authority to ban the lawful possession of firearms.

Will you vote FOR overturning this GAB gun ban?

Yes _____ No _____

Feel free to attach additional comments to this survey.

Candidate Authorization	
My signature affirms that the answers given above accurately represent my beliefs as a candidate for elective office.	
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Candidate's Signature	Date