

**To:** Interested parties  
**From:** Global Strategy Group and Everytown for Gun Safety  
**Date:** September 6, 2019  
**Re:** Voters call for background checks, strong Red Flag bill

Global Strategy Group, together with Everytown for Gun Safety, surveyed a total of over 2,500 likely 2020 voters in five battleground states (Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Ohio) and across the country, to understand how voters feel about background checks and Red Flag laws.

The survey, conducted from August 10-17, proceeded the West Texas mass shooting in which seven people were shot and killed and 25 more were wounded. Since the survey was conducted, Americans have learned that the West Texas mass shooter exploited the background check loophole and legally purchased the firearm he used in the shooting from an unlicensed seller – avoiding a background check that he had already failed once before.

Even before the West Texas mass shooting, the results of the survey were clear: **Americans from all walks of life want Congress to address gun violence by passing background checks on all gun sales and enacting a strong Red Flag law.**

## Key Findings

**Voters blame gun violence on easy access to guns.** Majorities of American voters, both nationwide and in battleground states, say easy access to guns contributes a lot to gun violence. That’s more people blaming easy access to guns than blaming a poorly funded mental health system, bad parenting, a lack of training/education about guns, or the impact of violent video games.

% saying each “contributes a lot to gun violence”	Nationwide	Battlegrounds
Easy access for anyone to get a gun	61%	57%
Poorly funded mental health system	51%	50%
Bad parenting	39%	36%
Not enough training/education about guns	35%	35%
Violent video games	18%	20%

**These voters strongly support and are looking for Congress to pass background checks and Red Flag laws.** In an age of polarization, where nobody seems to agree on anything, suburban women and majorities of all parties strongly support requiring background checks on all gun sales and Red Flag laws.

Total support for...	Nation-wide	Dem	Ind	GOP	Gun Owners	Suburban Women	Battlegrounds
Requiring background checks on all gun sales	95%	98%	95%	93%	92%	98%	94%
Enacting Red Flag laws, which give family or law enforcement a way to remove guns from someone who poses a threat	85%	94%	84%	77%	78%	91%	80%

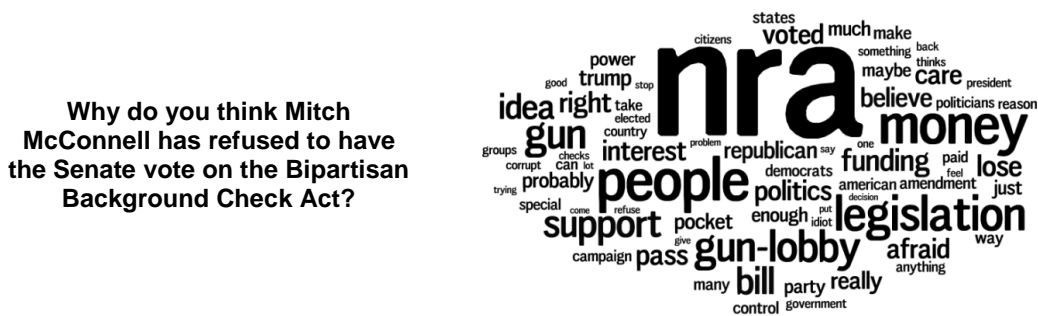
**Voters are clear that anything less than a strong version of Red Flag legislation is unacceptable.**

By a 38-point margin, voters believe that we need to pass a national Red Flag law that helps enforce already strong state laws, not a weak one that penalizes the 17 states that have already taken strong action.

Which of the following do you agree with more?	Nation-wide	Dem	Ind	GOP	Gun Owners	Suburban Women	Battle-grounds
We need to pass a national Red Flag law, but not if the law contains a provision that penalizes and denies funding to states that have already passed stronger Red Flag laws	69%	64%	71%	73%	72%	73%	74%
We need to pass a national Red Flag law even if that means states that have already passed stronger Red Flag laws will be penalized and denied federal funding for having done so	31%	36%	29%	27%	28%	27%	26%

**Voters are ready to hold politicians who are beholden to special interests and do nothing to curb gun violence accountable.** Three quarters of voters in battleground states (75%) and nationwide (77%) – including 77% of independents, 57% of Republicans, and 62% of gun owners nationwide – agree with the following statement: “Last year, more Americans died from gun violence than from military combat overseas. And as mass shootings become more and more common, American families and communities worry they could be next. Yet the politicians in Washington DC have done nothing to curb gun violence out of fear of losing money from special interest donors. Enough is enough. We must hold these corrupt politicians accountable by voting them out of office.”

When 1,200 voters nationwide were asked in an open-ended manner why Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has refused to have the Senate vote on the bipartisan background checks legislation that passed the House earlier this year with a 50-vote margin, here’s what they said:



When given four possible explanations why McConnell has not brought the bill to a vote, 71% of voters nationwide, including 60% of gun owners and 78% of suburban women, again said it is because he is worried about losing money from the gun lobby, which opposes background checks.

**ABOUT THIS POLL**

Global Strategy Group conducted an online survey of 1,200 likely 2020 voters nationwide plus 300 likely 2020 voters in each of five battleground states, from August 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The five battleground states included CO, FL, KY, NC and OH.