

TO: EVERYTOWN FOR GUN SAFETY ACTION FUND AND VICTORY FUND (“EVERYTOWN”) **FROM:** CARLY COOPERMAN

DATE: October 30, 2020

RE: **BATTLEGROUND STATES GUN SAFETY STUDY—IOWA**

Overview of Iowa Gun Safety Polling

Schoen Cooperman Research has completed 475 interviews with likely voters in Iowa to assess the state of the 2020 race and the impact of gun policy on the election.

The survey found that, headed into November 3, the vast majority of likely voters across battleground states support gun safety and view it as an important issue impacting their vote. Gun safety-themed messaging, which Everytown has deployed in its paid media, also has a statistically significant impact toward improving the horserace for Democratic candidates.

Table 1. 2020 Iowa Gun Safety Study Key Findings

- **Messaging deployed by Everytown is highly persuasive and effectively improves the horserace for Democrats in races up and down the ballot**
- **Candidates’ position on gun policy is important in deciding who to vote for**
- **Iowa voters believe the need for background checks on all gun sales is more important now than it was a year ago**
- **Iowa voters overwhelmingly support stronger gun laws by nearly a 4:1 margin**
- **A majority of Iowa voters say that an endorsement by the NRA makes no difference to their vote or makes them less likely to vote for a candidate who is endorsed by the NRA.**

Importance of Gun Policies

In Iowa, we find that **candidates' positions on gun policy are important to an overwhelming majority of voters, and even more so to suburban women.**

Further, the **need for laws requiring background checks on all gun sales is more important to voters in Iowa now amid the pandemic than a year ago.**

Table 2. Importance of a Gun Policies		
Policy	All Likely Voters	Suburban Women
A candidate's position on gun policy is important in deciding who to vote for	75%	84%
The Need for Background Checks on All Gun Sales is More Important Now than One Year Ago	52%	57%

Positions on the Strength of Gun Policy

Voters in Iowa overwhelmingly support candidates who support stronger gun safety laws over candidates who oppose stronger gun laws, and by nearly a 4:1 margin, Iowa voters believe gun laws in their home state should be made stronger compared to less strong.

Views on the Gun Lobby

Among Iowa voters, Everytown for Gun Safety has a very strong positive favorability rating, especially among Suburban Women, while the gun lobby's favorability rating is deeply negative.

Table 3. Favorability Ratings		
Group	All Likely Voters	Suburban Women
Everytown for Gun Safety	+11	+31
The Gun Lobby	-28	-27

A majority of all likely Iowa voters and suburban women also say that an endorsement by the NRA makes them less likely to support a candidate or makes no difference in their vote.

Table 4. Impact of an NRA Endorsement		
Policy	All Likely Voters	Suburban Women
More likely to support the candidate who is endorsed by the NRA	24%	19%
Less likely to support the candidate who is endorsed by the NRA or makes no difference in their vote	62%	66%

Persuasiveness of Everytown Gun Messaging

Gun safety messaging deployed by Everytown was persuasive to all likely voters in Iowa. Gun safety messaging exceeded healthcare messaging, and either exceeded or was on par anti-Trump messaging.

Table 5. Persuasiveness of Everytown Messaging	
Top Messages Tested	% Convincing
	All Likely Voters
[GUN LOBBY] After taking millions of dollars from the gun lobby, Republicans have consistently sided with their gun lobby donors over the health and safety of American families, by blocking common-sense gun safety laws like background checks on all gun sales, and laws that keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and those who pose a danger to themselves and others.	52%
[SPECIAL INTEREST GUN LOBBY + HEALTH CARE] Republicans are putting their corporate special interest donors ahead of our health and safety. They have taken millions of dollars from the insurance industry, while voting to eliminate protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and they've received millions of dollars from the gun lobby, while voting to block common-sense gun safety laws like background checks on all gun sales.	49%
[TRUMP CONNECTION] Republicans are standing by President Trump — even though Trump's failure to address covid-19 has led to more 215,000 deaths from the virus, and more than 57 million Americans have lost their jobs. And Republicans continue to stand with Trump as he works to repeal the Affordable Care Act during the pandemic, which would take away health care from millions of Americans and eliminate protections for people with pre-existing conditions.	47%

Positive Horserace Movement for Democrats

In fact, the generic vote improved substantially for Democrats after Everytown messaging.

Table 6. Impact of Everytown Messaging on Vote for Democrats	
Voter Group	Net Positive Generic Ballot Movement
All Likely Iowa Voters	+5