

NRA-PVF

National Rifle Association of America
Political Victory Fund
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2022 NRA-PVF North Carolina Candidate Questionnaire

Last Name: Tripp First Name: Wes Middle Initial: _____

Party: Republican Office Sought: NC House of Representatives District: 27

Campaign Name: Wes Tripp for House Phone: 252-578-4003 Fax: _____

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Facebook Handle: Wes Tripp For House Campaign Website: westrippforhouse.com

Please mark the best and most appropriate response that aligns with your views.

1. **Do you agree that the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms for all law-abiding Americans?**

Yes

No

2. Firearm registration is a system in which a government agency maintains immediately accessible records of specific firearms owned by individual citizens. Current federal law prohibits the creation of a federal firearm registration system (other than the existing registration requirement for machineguns and short-barreled rifles and shotguns). Firearm registration has led to gun bans and confiscation in the United States (California and New York City) and abroad (Australia and Great Britain). **Do you support requiring firearm owners to register their firearms with a government agency?**

Yes

No

3. Statewide preemption laws guarantee that the state has sole responsibility in the field of firearm regulations, keeping counties and municipalities from passing a “patchwork” of confusing and conflicting local laws throughout the state. In recent years, some localities in North Carolina have attempted to ban concealed carry, while others have passed bans on lawful carry in parks. **Do you support strengthening North Carolina's firearm preemption laws?**

Yes

No

4. In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed a 10-year ban on the importation and manufacture for sale to private persons of nearly 200 models of semi-automatic firearms and ammunition magazines that could hold more than 10 rounds. This became known as the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban. Federal studies determined the ban had no measurable effect on crime, and it was allowed to expire in 2004. **Do you support a similar ban on semi-automatic firearms in North Carolina?** For additional information click [here](#).

Yes

No

5. While there is no evidence that limiting the capacity of an ammunition magazine has any impact on reducing crime or increasing public safety, some states are introducing legislation to restrict the possession, ownership, purchase, sale, and/or transfer of ammunition magazines by limiting the number of rounds of ammunition a magazine can hold. Many of these magazines are sold standard with firearms and are commonly-owned. **Do you support banning the possession, ownership, purchase, sale, and/or transfer of “higher” capacity ammunition magazines?** For additional information click [here](#).

Yes, I would support legislation banning magazines that hold more than ____ rounds.

No

6. Efforts at the state level are increasingly targeting access to ammunition, with proposals to ban mail order sales, require background checks and point-of-sale record-keeping, eliminate traditional lead shot, ration purchases, and even restrict the amount of ammunition that may be possessed at one time. Most of these proposals at the state level aim to punish law-abiding people who practice, train, and participate in recreational shooting activities. **Do you support new restrictions on the purchase and possession of ammunition beyond current law?**

Yes, please list restrictions:

No

7. Under current federal law, handgun purchases from a federally licensed dealer are restricted to individuals who have reached the age of 21. Some argue this purchase restriction should be extended to all firearms, including rifles and shotguns. This would effectively deny law-abiding adults, ages 18 to 20, their Second Amendment rights. **Do you support raising the age for the purchase of rifles and shotguns to 21 years of age?**

Yes

No

8. A foundational principle of the American judicial system is to guarantee that an individual is entitled to judicial due process – including notice of the relevant accusations, opportunity to appear at a hearing before a neutral judge, to present evidence in his or her favor, and access to legal representation – before the individual is declared legally ineligible to possess firearms or forced to surrender any firearms the individual owns. **Do you agree that an individual's Second Amendment Right cannot be denied without stringent due process?**

Yes

No

9. Gun-free zones create arbitrary boundaries where law-abiding citizens are disarmed, while zero measures are taken to prevent criminals from entering. Many argue that law-abiding gun-owners should be allowed to carry a firearm for self-defense outside their home, especially on public property that is not considered a “secured” facility. Secured facilities are those where all points of ingress and egress are protected by metal detectors and armed security. **Do you support state legislation reducing or eliminating gun-free zones that are not secured?**

Yes

No

10. The “instant” background check system only prohibits the purchase of firearms based on objective disqualifiers. Due process requires the government to substantiate firearm purchase denials with reliable documentation. A “safety valve” provision in current law enforces this requirement by allowing (not mandating) an FFL to proceed with a sale after 3 business days if the FBI still has not denied the sale (illegal possession, of course, remains actionable). Gun control advocates want to repeal this safety-valve and have proposed increasing the “acceptable” time period of delays to a week, ten days, or even indefinitely. **Do you support current law allowing the purchase of a firearm to proceed after 3 business days if the FBI still has not denied the sale?**

Yes

No

11. Several states and the District of Columbia require mandatory waiting periods before the purchaser of a firearm may take possession of the firearm. For example, California and the District of Columbia require a 10-day waiting period from the date of purchase to the date of delivery. **Do you support mandating waiting periods between the purchase and delivery of firearms?**

Yes, I support a ___ day waiting period.

No

12. North Carolina law requires that a permit must be obtained to purchase or receive a handgun. However, in most states, including neighboring Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia, an “instant check” system for firearm purchases has been implemented and is operating at either the state level or through the federal National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Upon confirmation that the purchaser has no prohibitive criminal or mental health record, the purchaser may take possession of the firearm. In North Carolina, modernization of state background check records has rendered the permit-to-purchase system obsolete. Repeal of this antiquated system is supported by the Sheriff’s Association.

Do you support repealing the North Carolina permit-to-purchase system?

Yes

No

13. Across the country gun control advocates are pushing for “safe storage” laws. These laws require firearms to be locked with a trigger lock or in a locked container when not in use, and often require ammunition to be stored separately. Mandatory firearm storage requirements render firearms ineffective for self-defense in emergency situations, like a home invasion. **Do you support mandating the locked storage of firearms in one’s own home?**

Yes

No

14. North Carolina law currently bans concealed, but not open carrying of a firearm without a license. Currently, 21 states allow the open and concealed carrying of a handgun without a government issued license or permit. **Do you support - without diminishing the enforceability of any other firearm laws concerning prohibited persons, places, or conduct - treating open and concealed carriers alike by repealing the license requirement for the carrying of a concealed firearm?** *Note: This would not repeal the current licensing system, which would still benefit those who wish to take advantage of carry license reciprocity agreements when traveling out of state.*

Yes

No

15. In some states, gun control supporters have promoted legislation to criminalize the failure to report the loss or theft of a firearm within a certain period of time from when the owner “knew or should have known” of the loss or theft. Supporters claim, although not proven, that this will deter illegal firearms trafficking. The NRA certainly does not oppose the reporting of lost and stolen firearms. However, it does oppose stigmatizing and punishing the victims of crime or those who suffer loss from events, such as natural catastrophes, that are not their fault. The message these laws send is that persons whose firearms are lost or stolen are somehow to blame or are complicit in the criminal acts of another person. **Do you support making it a crime to fail to report the loss or theft of a firearm within a specified time period?**

Yes, please list restrictions:

No

16. Efforts at the state level are increasingly targeting the expansion of North Carolina’s background check system. Currently, all sales in North Carolina, through a federally licensed dealer, have to go through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). **Do you support expanding the background check system in North Carolina to include private sales or transfers of long guns, including between friends and family members (so-called “universal” background checks)?**

Yes

No

17. Increased development, due to a growing and shifting population, has put many established gun clubs and shooting ranges at risk of being squeezed out. This encroachment has led to lawsuits and local ordinances that aim to put established ranges out of business. To combat this, some states have enacted range protection laws or have strengthened existing range protection laws. **Do you support enhancing North Carolina’s range protection laws?**

Yes

No

18. Considering current North Carolina firearm laws, **do you support any additional restrictions regulating the sale, use, or possession of firearms or ammunition?**

Yes, please list additional restrictions:

No

19. **Are you a member of the National Rifle Association or any other firearm/shooting sports/sportsmen's organization?**

Yes, I'm an NRA member. Membership#: 229875669

Yes, I'm a member of other organizations. Please list:

No

20. **Have you ever run for or held an elected office?**

Yes, please list: Elected Sheriff of Halifax County, NC

No

Please feel free to use the next page to provide additional comments or policy positions you'd like to add, including your history and involvement with the NRA. If your campaign has released a position paper on firearm or Second Amendment related issues, please attach those as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-- Authorization --

This signature is an indication of identity and completion. It attests that the above information accurately represents the views of the candidate.

Signature Wes Tripp Date 03/15/2022



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