

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 11, 2009**

**INTERVIEWS: KATHERINE RUMBAUGH (919)-451-2694**

## **N.C. Gun Owners Concerned for 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Right**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Survey data from Public Policy Polling finds that 51% of gun owners in North Carolina are concerned that President Barack Obama’s administration will push for legislation making it more difficult for civilians to own guns.

Among these gun owners, 68% of Republicans and 53% of independent voters reported worrying that Obama will diminish their right to bear arms. Among North Carolinians who voted for Senator John McCain or a third-party candidate, 70% and 56%, respectively, are concerned about this.

However, 78% of all respondents think gun control laws should be at least moderately strict, if not more so.

Of those respondents who voted for Obama in the 2008 presidential election, 57% believe gun control laws should be very strict, whereas only 20% of McCain supporters wanted very strict legislation.

“North Carolinians who voted for McCain last November tend to think the government should exercise moderate control over gun ownership,” said Katherine Rumbaugh, a spring fellow with PPP. “Voters who cast their ballots for a third-party candidate were the most likely to think gun control legislation should be minimally strict.”

Independent or unaffiliated voters were also most likely to rank issues involving gun ownership as very important, at 59%.

Significantly more women than men think gun control laws should be very strict, a 47/30 difference. By race, more African Americans than white think these laws should be very strict by a ratio of nearly 2:1.

PPP surveyed 1105 North Carolina voters from February 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-2.95%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com).

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Katherine Rumbaugh at (919)-451-2694.

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## North Carolina Survey Results

**Q1** How important of an issue is gun control to you? If very important, press 1. If somewhat important, press 2. If not very important, press 3. If not important at all, press 4. If you are neutral, press 5. If you are not sure, press 6.

*Very Important*.....46% *Not Important At All*. 4%  
*Somewhat Important*.....28% *Neutral*..... 3%  
*Not Very Important*.18% *Not Sure*..... 1%

**Q2** How strict do you think gun control laws should be? If you think gun control laws should be very strict, press 1. If you think they should be moderately strict, press 2. If you think they should be minimally strict, press 3. If you are not sure, press 4.

*Very Strict*..... 39%  
*Moderately Strict*..... 39%  
*Minimally Strict*..... 19%  
*Not Sure*..... 2%

**Q3** Do you have any children under the age of 16 living in your home? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.

*Yes* ..... 31%  
*No*..... 69%

**Q4** Do you keep a handgun, shotgun, or other firearm in your home? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.

*Yes* ..... 52%  
*No*..... 48%

**Q5** Are you worried that President Barack Obama's administration will push for legislation to make it harder for citizens to own guns? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.

*Yes* ..... 51%  
*No*..... 38%  
*Not Sure*..... 11%

**Q6** Who did you vote for in the 2008 presidential election? If Barack Obama, press 1. If John McCain, press 2. If other, press 3.

*Barack Obama*..... 48%  
*John McCain*..... 45%  
*Other*..... 6%

**Q7** Would you describe the community you live in as urban, suburban, rural, or a small town? If urban, press 1. If suburban, press 2. If rural, press 3. If a small town, press 4.

*Urban*..... 17%  
*Suburban*..... 30%  
*Rural*..... 30%  
*Small Town*..... 24%

**Q8** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 53%  
*Man*..... 47%

**Q9** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

*Democrat*..... 48%  
*Republican*..... 35%  
*Independent/Other*..... 17%

**Q10** If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.

*White* ..... 75%  
*African-American* ..... 22%  
*Other*..... 3%





**Q11** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29.....	12%
30 to 45.....	26%
46 to 65.....	40%
Older than 65.....	22%

**Q12**

252.....	13%
336.....	21%
704.....	20%
828.....	13%
910.....	13%
919.....	20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Children	
		Yes	No
<b>Gun Control Importance</b>			
<b>Very Important</b>	46%	43%	48%
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	28%	28%	28%
<b>Not Very Important</b>	18%	19%	17%
<b>Not Important At All</b>	4%	7%	2%
<b>Neutral</b>	3%	2%	3%
<b>Not Sure</b>	1%	1%	2%

	Base	Children	
		Yes	No
<b>Gun Control Laws</b>			
<b>Very Strict</b>	39%	36%	41%
<b>Moderately Strict</b>	39%	40%	39%
<b>Minimally Strict</b>	19%	24%	17%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%	1%	3%

	Base	Children	
		Yes	No
<b>Obama Takes Away Your Guns?</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	51%	61%	47%
<b>No</b>	38%	32%	41%
<b>Not Sure</b>	11%	8%	13%

	Base	Gun in Home	
		Yes	No
<b>Gun Control Importance</b>			
<b>Very Important</b>	46%	44%	49%
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	28%	27%	29%
<b>Not Very Important</b>	18%	20%	16%
<b>Not Important At All</b>	4%	5%	3%
<b>Neutral</b>	2%	2%	3%
<b>Not Sure</b>	1%	2%	1%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gun in Home	
		Yes	No
<b>Gun Control Laws</b>			
<b>Very Strict</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Moderately Strict</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Minimally Strict</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>

	Base	Gun in Home	
		Yes	No
<b>Obama Takes Away Your Guns?</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>51%</b>	
<b>No</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>38%</b>	
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>	

	Base	2008 Presidential Election		
		Barack Obama	John McCain	Other
<b>Gun Control Importance</b>				
<b>Very Important</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Not Very Important</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Not Important At All</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>-</b>

	Base	2008 Presidential Election		
		Barack Obama	John McCain	Other
<b>Gun Control Laws</b>				
<b>Very Strict</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Moderately Strict</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Minimally Strict</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>9%</b>





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Presidential Election		
		Barack Obama	John McCain	Other
<b>Obama Takes Away Your Guns?</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	51%	20%	70%	56%
<b>No</b>	38%	69%	18%	40%
<b>Not Sure</b>	11%	11%	12%	5%

	Base	Community			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Gun Control Importance</b>					
<b>Very Important</b>	46%	51%	44%	45%	48%
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	28%	22%	31%	27%	29%
<b>Not Very Important</b>	18%	18%	18%	19%	17%
<b>Not Important At All</b>	4%	5%	4%	4%	2%
<b>Neutral</b>	3%	4%	2%	2%	2%
<b>Not Sure</b>	1%	0%	1%	3%	1%

	Base	Community			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Gun Control Laws</b>					
<b>Very Strict</b>	39%	51%	40%	30%	41%
<b>Moderately Strict</b>	39%	38%	40%	39%	39%
<b>Minimally Strict</b>	19%	10%	18%	28%	17%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%	1%	2%	3%	3%

	Base	Community			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
<b>Obama Takes Away Your Guns?</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	51%	45%	53%	57%	42%
<b>No</b>	38%	43%	42%	34%	37%
<b>Not Sure</b>	11%	12%	5%	8%	22%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gun Control Importance</b>			
<b>Very Important</b>	46%	47%	45%
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	28%	31%	25%
<b>Not Very Important</b>	18%	16%	20%
<b>Not Important At All</b>	4%	2%	6%
<b>Neutral</b>	3%	3%	2%
<b>Not Sure</b>	1%	1%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gun Control Laws</b>			
<b>Very Strict</b>	39%	47%	30%
<b>Moderately Strict</b>	39%	38%	40%
<b>Minimally Strict</b>	19%	12%	28%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%	2%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Takes Away Your Guns?</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	51%	45%	56%
<b>No</b>	38%	42%	35%
<b>Not Sure</b>	11%	14%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gun Control Importance</b>				
<b>Very Important</b>	46%	53%	42%	38%
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	28%	28%	28%	29%
<b>Not Very Important</b>	18%	14%	20%	24%
<b>Not Important At All</b>	4%	2%	7%	3%
<b>Neutral</b>	3%	2%	2%	5%
<b>Not Sure</b>	1%	1%	2%	1%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gun Control Laws</b>				
<b>Very Strict</b>	39%	55%	23%	26%
<b>Moderately Strict</b>	39%	32%	48%	40%
<b>Minimally Strict</b>	19%	10%	28%	29%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%	2%	2%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Takes Away Your Guns?</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	51%	30%	68%	53%
<b>No</b>	38%	60%	20%	36%
<b>Not Sure</b>	11%	10%	12%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Gun Control Importance</b>				
<b>Very Important</b>	46%	43%	59%	45%
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	28%	29%	25%	33%
<b>Not Very Important</b>	18%	20%	10%	17%
<b>Not Important At All</b>	4%	4%	4%	-
<b>Neutral</b>	3%	3%	2%	5%
<b>Not Sure</b>	1%	2%	1%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Gun Control Laws</b>				
<b>Very Strict</b>	39%	32%	63%	40%
<b>Moderately Strict</b>	39%	43%	26%	40%
<b>Minimally Strict</b>	19%	22%	10%	16%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%	3%	1%	5%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama Takes Away Your Guns?</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	51%	55%	32%	32%
<b>No</b>	38%	33%	62%	39%
<b>Not Sure</b>	11%	12%	6%	28%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gun Control Importance</b>					
<b>Very Important</b>	46%	56%	40%	49%	43%
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	28%	22%	33%	26%	28%
<b>Not Very Important</b>	18%	14%	17%	18%	21%
<b>Not Important At All</b>	4%	2%	6%	4%	1%
<b>Neutral</b>	3%	4%	3%	2%	3%
<b>Not Sure</b>	1%	2%	0%	1%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gun Control Laws</b>					
<b>Very Strict</b>	39%	51%	33%	38%	43%
<b>Moderately Strict</b>	39%	33%	42%	38%	40%
<b>Minimally Strict</b>	19%	16%	24%	20%	14%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%	-	0%	4%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Takes Away Your Guns?</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	51%	32%	57%	56%	42%
<b>No</b>	38%	55%	33%	36%	41%
<b>Not Sure</b>	11%	14%	10%	8%	17%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Gun Control Importance</b>							
<b>Very Important</b>	46%	52%	48%	43%	41%	49%	45%
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	28%	29%	24%	30%	27%	27%	30%
<b>Not Very Important</b>	18%	13%	19%	17%	23%	18%	17%
<b>Not Important At All</b>	4%	1%	3%	6%	4%	3%	4%
<b>Neutral</b>	3%	3%	2%	2%	5%	1%	2%
<b>Not Sure</b>	1%	2%	3%	1%	-	2%	1%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Gun Control Laws</b>							
<b>Very Strict</b>	39%	42%	40%	37%	28%	42%	44%
<b>Moderately Strict</b>	39%	42%	37%	41%	42%	39%	36%
<b>Minimally Strict</b>	19%	13%	20%	21%	26%	18%	19%
<b>Not Sure</b>	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%	1%	1%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Obama Takes Away Your Guns?</b>							
<b>Yes</b>	51%	61%	47%	49%	45%	62%	46%
<b>No</b>	38%	29%	43%	39%	41%	31%	42%
<b>Not Sure</b>	11%	11%	10%	11%	14%	7%	13%

