

## Americans back guns, even after shootings: poll

by Staff Writers

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*(The highlights and inserts in italics are by Skanda987)*

An overwhelming majority of Americans, particularly whites, are adamant about the constitutional right to bear arms, a poll showed this week amid a rash of shootings across the United States.

More than two thirds -- 68 percent -- of respondents said the Second Amendment right is as important as other rights enshrined in the US Constitution, such as freedom of speech and freedom of the press, according to a survey published Wednesday by the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI).



Some 75 percent of whites agreed, compared to 56 percent of non-whites.

Americans were divided over gun control. A slim majority of 52 percent backed tougher gun control laws, against 44 percent, but the differences were stark between different religious and political groups, races and gender.

Six in 10 Catholics and religiously unaffiliated Americans (62 and 60 percent, respectively) said they favored more restrictions, compared to less than half of white evangelical Protestants (35 percent) and white mainline Protestants (42 percent).

White, non-Hispanic Americans, at 45 percent, were far less supportive of gun control than non-whites (66 percent), the poll found.

Still, there was broad public support against carrying concealed guns into a place of worship (76 percent), a government building (73 percent) or on a college campus (77 percent).

Opinions differed among people with various religious and political beliefs. Nearly a third (32 percent) of white evangelical Protestants, 27 percent of white mainline Protestants, 18 percent of the religiously unaffiliated and 14 percent of Catholics favored the right to bear arms in a place of worship.

As for political affiliations, those identifying with the conservative Tea Party movement supported allowing people to bring concealed guns to church at 55 percent, followed by Republicans at 38 percent, Independents at 17 percent and Democrats at nine percent.

Protestants were twice as likely as Catholics to favor being able to bring a gun into church, PRRI research director Daniel Cox said in a statement.

"White evangelical Protestants and white mainline Protestants are also substantially more likely than Catholics to own guns," Cox said.

The right to bear arms is a hot button issue in the United States after a series of fatal shootings.

A gunman shot and killed six people at a Sikh Temple in the Midwestern state of Wisconsin early this month, just weeks after another assailant gunned down 12 people at a screening of Batman film "The Dark Knight Rises" in Colorado.

Three in 10 Americans said stricter gun control was the most important measure to prevent shootings, while one in five (22 percent) pointed to better detection of mental illness and 19 percent put their trust in God and morality.

Still, 11 percent said that allowing more citizens to bear arms was the best course of action, a view three times more likely among Tea Party members.

The survey was conducted between August 8 and 12 among 1,006 adults and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

Source:

[http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Americans\\_back\\_guns\\_even\\_after\\_shootings\\_poll\\_999.html](http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Americans_back_guns_even_after_shootings_poll_999.html)

*(Gun control is not necessary because:*

- 1. Gun is just a tool in the hands of one who carries it. So, the society needs to train with ethics and morals about when (for what reasons) to use gun, and when (for what reasons) to not use gun or pull trigger.*
- 2. The bad guys or criminals will get the guns any way regardless of the laws. This puts the good and innocent guys at disadvantage against the bad guys.*
- 3. If the bad guys know that their targets also have guns, they will not think much of going to kill because they could get killed as well.*
- 4. Police or professional armed response service may not be able to come soon enough to save lives in some situations. In such cases, when the good guys have guns, they can kill bad guy before bad guy kills more lives.*

*Therefore, I believe that it would be wise for the Sikh Gurudvaras to keep two armed guards at each Gurudvara. Another reason in support of this thought is that carrying arms is one of five mandatory things the Sikhs must do. So, carrying guns to protect is a part of Sikh religion. Two guards at opposite ends are needed because if one is killed, another has chance to kill the bad guy.*

*Another measure for security is the design of entrance exist doors. As soon as it is found that a shooter is coming and is not in the building, the doors can be closed so that the shooter cannot enter the facility.*

*Sata naam vaahe guru!*

*Jai sri Krishna!*

*- Skanda987)*