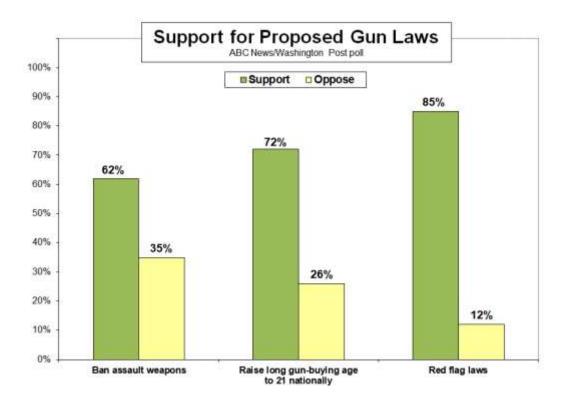
Six in 10 Say Ban Assault Weapons, Up Sharply in Parkland's Aftermath

Support for new gun laws has risen sharply in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll, including anti-gun-violence legislation in general and a ban on assault weapons in particular. Large and bipartisan majorities also back raising the legal age to buy long guns and enacting "red flag" gun-confiscation laws.

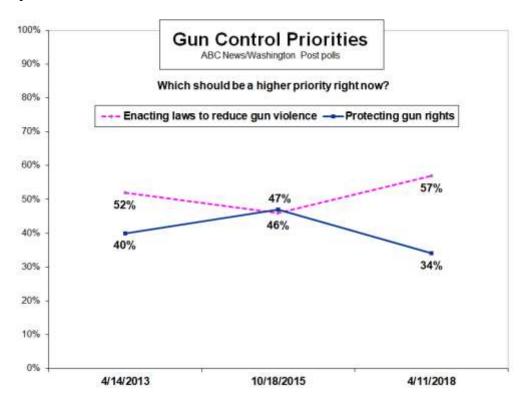
In the wake of the high school shooting that killed 17 in Parkland, Florida, in February, 62 percent of Americans now support a nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons, up from 50 percent just since mid-February and 45 percent in late 2015 to its highest since January 2011.

More, 72 percent, support raising the legal age to buy rifles and shotguns to 21 in all states, and 85 percent favor red flag laws empowering the police to take guns away from those judged to be a danger to themselves and others. Such laws have been enacted in six states and proposed in 23 more.

More generally, the public by 57-34 percent now says that enacting new laws to try to prevent gun violence should be a higher priority than protecting the right to own a gun. That broad 23-point preference for new gun laws compares with an even 46-47 percent split in fall 2015.



These shifts aren't the norm; attitudes on gun control generally have not moved significantly immediately after heinous gun crimes. Then again, the Parkland shooting prompted an unusual response, including the participation of hundreds of thousands of young people in "March for Our Lives" protests.



The public by 71-24 percent also says Congress is not doing enough to try to prevent gun violence, and by 59-34 percent says Donald Trump is not doing enough. As noted in a separate report Sunday, the issue could be a potent one in November, with 78 percent saying it's important to them to support candidates who share their views on gun policy.

The changes in views on gun policy come even as many are unsure about the staying power of the student protests that followed the Parkland shooting. Fifty-three percent see this as a lasting movement, while 43 percent think it's more of a "one-time thing" in the poll, produced for ABC by <u>Langer Research Associates</u>. That said, another student walkout is planned for Friday, the 19th anniversary of the Columbine shootings; more than 2,000 events nationally have been registered.

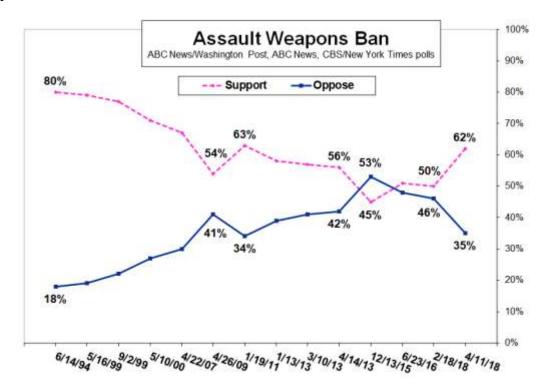
Regardless, support for banning assault weapons, raising the age to buy long guns and enacting red flag laws reaches 49, 63 and 81 percent, respectively, even in gun-owning households. That's a key result because so many American households include a gun owner – 47 percent in this survey, a numerical high in ABC/Post polls dating back nearly 20 years.

GROUPS – Women are much more likely than men to support new gun laws, with the greatest growth in those views. In one example, women call passing new laws to reduce gun violence a higher priority than protecting gun rights by almost 3-1, 68-25 percent, while men divide evenly

on the question, 46-45 percent. And that priority on new laws is up 16 points among women since 2015, vs. 7 points among men.

Additionally, support for an assault weapons ban has grown twice as much among women as men just since mid-February, up 19 vs. 7 points. That smaller gain among men occurred mostly among nonwhite men – up from 50 to 63 percent, while remaining essentially unchanged among white men (39 vs. 43 percent).

While there are sharp partisan differences on banning assault weapons, the rise in support crosses party lines. Eighty-two percent of Democrats back the step, up 11 percentage points in two months; it's 59 percent among independents, up 14 points; and 45 percent among Republicans, up 16 points.



Notable, too, is a big jump in support for banning assault weapons among senior citizens, up 23 points to 77 percent.

While the Parkland protests have been organized as a young-persons' movement, attitudes among young adults are mixed. Most generally, 18- to 29-year-olds are likelier than those 30 and older to favor creating new laws to try to prevent gun violence over protecting gun rights, 65 vs. 56 percent. On specifics, though, young adults are less likely than those age 50 and older to support an assault weapons ban (55 vs. 70 percent, rising to 77 percent among seniors, as noted) or red flag laws (79 vs. 88 percent). That said, 18-29s are more likely than those 50 and older to support making 21 the legal age to buy rifles and shotguns, 84 vs. 69 percent.

Majorities across demographic groups support raising the minimum age for long guns, including 55 percent of Republicans and, as noted, 63 percent of people in gun-owning households. And

red flag laws have even broader bipartisan backing, from 84 percent of Republicans, 83 percent of independents and 92 percent of Democrats.

This includes solid support in the conservative base: About three-quarters of 2016 Trump voters (77 percent), evangelical white Protestants (77 percent), strong conservatives (74 percent) and white men without college degrees (74 percent) support red flag laws.

	Higher prior	rity - 2018	Higher prior	ity - 2015
	New laws	Gun rights	New laws	Gun rights
	57%	34	46%	47
Men	46	45	39	53
Women	68	25	52	41
Age 18-29	65	29	48	46
50+	57	35	43	50
Whites	50	41	39	54
Nonwhites	71	24	58	35
Blacks	73	24	65	31
Hispanics	70	23	53	41
College graduates	65	27	52	40
Non-college grads	54	38	43	51
Whites: Non-college men Non-college women College men College women	32	58	29	65
	58	34	40	56
	53	38	41	47
	68	24	54	39
Democrats	81	15	70	23
Republicans	32	58	24	71
Independents	58	33	43	50
Liberals Moderates Conservatives Smwt. conservatives Strong conservatives	81	17	68	27
	63	28	48	44
	34	54	31	64
	40	49	36	58
	28	62	21	74
Evangelical white Protestants Non-evangelical white	36	54	28	67
Protestants	49	42	40	51
White Catholics	52	37	45	52

Criticism of Congress, for its part, extends across party lines, albeit to differing degrees. Most Democrats (87 percent), independents (72 percent) and Republicans (54 percent) say the GOP-controlled Congress isn't doing enough to try to prevent mass shootings in this country.

Republicans are less critical of Trump's actions; 63 percent say he is doing enough to try to prevent mass shootings. On this, just 32 percent of independents and 11 percent of Democrats agree.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone April 8-11, 2018, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,002 adults. Results have a margin of <u>sampling error</u> of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 32-25-35 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by <u>Langer Research Associates</u> of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt Associates of Rockville, Md. See details on the survey's methodology here.

Analysis by Christine Filer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at http://abcnews.com/pollingunit.

Media contacts: Heather Riley or Julie Townsend.

Full results follow.

1-13, 19-27 previously released.
*= less than 0.5 percent.

14. Do you think [ITEM] is or is not doing enough to try to prevent mass shootings in this country? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

4/11/18 - Summary Table

		Doing enough		Not doing enough			No	
		NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
a.	Congress	24	13	12	71	14	56	5
b.	President Trump	34	20	14	59	10	50	6

Trend:

a. Congress

	Is doing enough				Is not doing enough				
	NET	Strngly	Smewht	No op.	NET	Smewht	Strngly	No op.	No op.
4/11/18	24	13	12	NA	71	14	56	NA	5
2/18/18	19	11	8	0	77	17	59	1	4

b. President Trump

	Is doing enough				Is not doing enough				
	NET	Strngly	Smewht	No op.	NET	Smewht	Strngly	No op.	No op.
4/11/18	34	20	14	NA	59	10	50	NA	6
2/18/18	29	21	8	0	62	11	50	*	9

15. Prompted by the school shooting in Parkland, Florida in February, students across the country held rallies last month to call for stricter gun laws. Do you think this represents a lasting movement, or is it more of a one-time thing?

Lasting One-time No

	movement	thing	opinion	
4/11/18	53	43	4	

16. Which do you think should be a higher priority right now - (enacting new laws to try to reduce gun violence) or (protecting the right to own guns)? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	Enact	ting new	laws	Right	to own	guns	Both	Neither	No
	NET	Strg	Smwt	NET	Smwt	Strg	(vol.)	(vol.)	opinion
4/11/18	57	50	7	34	3	31	5	1	2
10/18/15	46	38	8	47	7	40	4	1	2
4/14/13	52	NA	NA	40	NA	NA	3	2	3

17. Would you support or oppose [ITEM]? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat? Summary Table - 4/11/18

			Support			Oppose	9	No
		NET	Strngly	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Strngly	op.
a.	a nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons	62	51	12	35	8	26	3
b.	raising the legal age to buy rifles and shotguns to							
	21 in all states	72	60	13	26	5	21	2
c.	a law allowing the police to take guns away from people who have been found by a judge to be a danger to							
	themselves or others	85	72	13	12	5	7	3

Trend where available:

a. a nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons

		Support			Oppose		No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
4/11/18	62	51	12	35	8	26	3
2/18/18	50	38	12	46	11	36	4
6/23/16*	51	41	10	48	10	37	2
12/13/15	45	34	10	53	12	41	3
4/14/13	56	45	11	42	12	30	2
3/10/13	57	46	11	41	11	30	2
1/13/13	58	50	9	39	12	26	3
1/19/11**	63	NA	NA	34	NA	NA	3
4/26/09**	54	"	"	41	"	"	5
4/22/07***	67	54	13	30	10	21	3
5/10/00	71	60	11	27	11	16	2
9/2/99	77	68	9	22	8	14	1
5/16/99	79	67	12	19	7	12	2
6/14/94	80	NA	NA	18	NA	NA	2

 $^{^*}$ June 2016 and prior "Would you support or oppose a law requiring a nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons?"

b-c. No trend.

18. Do you or does anyone in your house own a gun, or not?

Yes No No opinion

^{**}CBS/NYT "Do you favor or oppose a nationwide ban on assault weapons"

^{***}ABC News

5/16/99 46 53 *	4/11/18 5/19/13 4/14/13 3/10/13 1/13/13 1/16/11 4/24/09 6/15/08 4/22/07 10/8/06 10/20/02 5/10/00 4/2/00 9/2/99 5/16/99	47 44 43 42 44 41 42 45 42 41 45 43 44	52 55 57 56 55 58 55 58 55 56 56 53	1 1 2 1 1 * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
	4/2/00	43	56	*
4/2/00 43 56 *	10/20/02	41	59	*
10/20/02 41 59 * 5/10/00 45 55 * 4/2/00 43 56 *	, , ,			0
10/8/06 42 58 * 10/20/02 41 59 * 5/10/00 45 55 * 4/2/00 43 56 *				
6/15/08 42 58 * 4/22/07 45 55 0 10/8/06 42 58 * 10/20/02 41 59 * 5/10/00 45 55 * 4/2/00 43 56 *				_
1/16/11 44 55 * 4/24/09 41 58 * 6/15/08 42 58 * 4/22/07 45 55 0 10/8/06 42 58 * 10/20/02 41 59 * 5/10/00 45 55 * 4/2/00 43 56 *	4/14/13 3/10/13	43	55	2
4/14/13 43 55 2 3/10/13 42 57 1 1/13/13 44 56 1 1/16/11 44 55 * 4/24/09 41 58 * 6/15/08 42 58 * 4/22/07 45 55 0 10/8/06 42 58 * 10/20/02 41 59 * 5/10/00 45 55 * 4/2/00 43 56 *	, , ,			1

*** END ***