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# New Gun Law Favored in Poll

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As early as 1938 the Gallup Poll found that the American public wanted stricter controls on guns. Now, in the latest survey, a specific plan wins the support of a majority of the general public. The plan is based on a law now in effect in Massachusetts.

The Gallup Poll in its latest nationwide survey interviewed a cross-section of the nation's adults on each of two major provisions in the Massachusetts law.

This question was asked first:

"In Massachusetts a law requires that a person who carries a gun outside his home must have a license to do so. Would you approve or disapprove of having such a law in your state?"

	Approve	Disapprove	Opinion
Nationwide	77%	19%	4%
Gunowners	88	29	3
Non-gunowners	85	11	4
Pistol owners	84	34	2
Shotgun owners	84	33	3
Rifle owners	84	33	3
Own one gun	76	23	1
Two	88	28	4
Three	68	28	4
Four	59	37	4
Five or more	59	38	3

Following are the full findings:

is sentenced to a mandatory year in jail. Would you approve or disapprove of this?"

Seven in ten (69 per cent) of those who approve or requiring a license also favor such a sentence.

When the results of the two questions are combined, it is found that a majority of 53 per cent favors the plan — with both the major provisions included.

Much of the current debate over gun legislation focuses on the handgun. The latest survey shows 69 per cent of all persons interviewed in favor of stricter laws covering the sale of handguns. A substantial majority of

In April, the Bartley-Fox act was put on the books in Massachusetts. The law provides that a person who carries a gun outside his home must have a license to do so. Anyone who is convicted of carrying a gun without a license is given a mandatory sentence of one year in jail.

Gunowners are somewhat less likely to approve, but even among this group, nearly seven in ten indicate approval of the provision.

All persons who said they approve of this provision were then asked this question:

"Under the Massachusetts law, anyone who is convicted of carrying a gun outside his home without having obtained a license

gunowners, 61 per cent, also would like to see present laws made tougher.

Following is the question:

"In general, do you feel that the laws covering the sale of handguns should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?"

	More Strict	Less Strict	Kept as Are	No Opinion
Nationwide	69%	3%	24%	4%
Gunowners	81	4	32	3
Non-gunowners	79	1	15	5
Pistol owners	55	6	36	3
Shotgun owners	59	4	34	3
Rifle owners	57	5	36	2
Own one gun	66	5	25	4
Two	63	3	32	2
Three	61	5	32	2
Four	56	11	33	2
Five or more	49	3	47	1

Approximately half of all households in the United States have at least one gun. One-fifth of households have a pistol or revolver.

About three in ten households have two or more guns, while seven per cent of all households have five or more guns.