



**Gun Laws Matter 2012: Methodology for Awarding Points**

<b>Policy and Description</b>	<b>Points<sup>1</sup></b>
<b><i>People Prohibited from Firearm Possession</i></b>	<b>13</b>
<b>1. Prohibited Purchasers=5</b> Laws that establish categories of persons deemed ineligible to purchase or possess firearms	Prohibit misdemeanors beyond federal law 3 Prohibit other (drug, alcohol, juvenile, mental illness) 2
<b>2. Minimum Age to Purchase and/or Possess=2</b>	Stronger than federal law for all firearms possession 1 Stronger than federal law for all firearms purchase 1
<b>3. Domestic Violence and Firearms=6</b> Laws intended to keep firearms out of the hands of domestic violence perpetrators	Require removal of firearms at DV scene 3 Require removal when protective order issued 3
<b><i>Sales and Transfers</i></b>	<b>44</b>
<b>4. Background Checks=3</b> Laws that regulate the background check process used to identify persons who are not legally permitted to purchase or possess firearms	Point of contact state for all firearms 3 - Point of contact state for handguns only (1)
<b>5. Mental Health Reporting=5</b> Laws requiring that relevant mental health records are sent to the F.B.I. for the purpose of firearm purchaser background checks	Require that records are sent to the F.B.I. for inclusion in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System 5
<b>6. Restrictions on Multiple Purchases or Sales=12</b> Laws that restrict the number of firearms that may be purchased by or sold to an individual within a given time frame	Restrict multiple purchase or sales 12
<b>7. Record Retention=12</b>	Require sales records sent to central database for all firearms 12 - Handguns and some other firearms (8) - Handguns only (6)
<b>8. Waiting Periods=12</b> Laws that require that a specified number of days elapse between the time a firearm is purchased and the time it is physically transferred to the purchaser	Require waiting period of 3 days or more 12 - Require 1-2 day waiting period or waiting period for select guns only (8)

<sup>1</sup> Points listed in parentheses indicate that a state has adopted only a partial version of a given policy. Parenthetical points are awarded instead of, not in addition to, the total possible points for the policy.

<b><i>Gun Dealers and Other Sellers</i></b>		<b>24</b>
9. <b>Dealer Regulations=12</b> Laws that require firearms dealers to be licensed and/or laws that impose other requirements on dealers such as recordkeeping, security practices, or employee background checks	Require dealer license – No license but other regulations on dealers (e.g. ban residential dealers, require employee background checks, security require sales and/or loss or theft reporting) (4)	12
10. <b>Private Sales=12</b> Laws that regulate firearms sales by persons who are not firearms dealers (federal law requires only federally licensed dealers to conduct background checks and complete and maintain records of sales)	Require background checks for all private sales – Require background checks for private sales of select firearms only or at gun shows only (6)	12
<b><i>Gun Owner Responsibilities</i></b>		<b>36</b>
11. <b>Licensing of Gun Owners or Purchasers=12</b> Laws that require an individual to obtain a license or permit authorizing him or her to purchase and/or possess a firearm	Require license for purchase or possession of all firearms and/or allow only one gun per license – Require license for select firearms only (6)	12
12. <b>Registration of Firearms=12</b> Laws that require gun owners to record the ownership of their firearms with a designated law enforcement agency	Require registration for all firearms with renewal – Require registration for select firearms only (6)	12
13. <b>Reporting of Lost or Stolen Firearms=12</b> Laws that require individuals to report the loss or theft of their firearms within a specified period of time	Require reporting of lost or stolen firearms	12
<b><i>Firearms in Public Places</i></b>		<b>19</b>
14. <b>Carrying Concealed Firearms=12</b> Laws that regulate the carrying of concealed firearms	Prohibit carrying concealed weapons – May issue <sup>2</sup> permitting scheme (10) – Shall issue <sup>3</sup> permitting scheme (-1) – Allow concealed carry with no permit (-3)	12
15. <b>Openly Carrying Firearms=3</b> Laws that regulate the open carrying of firearms	Prohibit open carry of all firearms – Prohibit open carry of some firearms or require a permit (2)	3
16. <b>Laws Limiting Guns in Public Places=4</b> Laws restricting the carrying of concealed weapons in certain public places	Ban hidden guns in bars Ban hidden guns on campuses Ban hidden guns in state parks Ban hidden guns in houses of worship	1 1 1 1
17. <b>Shoot First=-5</b> Laws that remove a shooter's duty to retreat before using lethal force in a public place	Remove duty to retreat anywhere outside the home – Remove duty to retreat when in vehicle only (-3)	-5

<sup>2</sup> A "may issue" permitting scheme provides discretion to concealed weapon permitting authorities to decide, based on strict guidelines, who should be granted a permit.

<sup>3</sup> A "shall issue" permitting scheme provides no discretion to concealed weapon permitting authorities – all applicants meeting specified minimum requirements must be granted a permit.

<b>Consumer and Child Safety</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>18. Design Safety Standards for Handguns/ Junk Gun Regulation=5</b> Laws that require firearms to meet design and construction standards to reduce the risk of unintentional death and injury	Require specific design and safety standards such as a chamber load indicator or magazine disconnect mechanism <sup>4</sup> and/or allow only sale of approved guns listed on an official roster 5
<b>19. Locking Devices=5</b> Laws that require the sale and/or use of a wide range of disabling devices designed to keep unauthorized users from gaining access to guns and to reduce the risk of unintentional death and injury	Require use of locking device 5 – Require locking device with firearms sale (3)
<b>20. Personalized Firearms=3</b> Laws that require firearms to be equipped with technology that allows them to be fired only by an authorized user	Personalized firearm law 3
<b>21. Child Access Prevention=3</b> Laws that impose liability on adults who leave firearms accessible to children or otherwise allow children access to firearms	Negligence-based law 3 – Knowing/intentional or recklessness-based law (1)
<b>Classes of Weapons/Ammunition/Magazines</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>22. Assault Weapons=12</b> Laws that ban or regulate semi-automatic firearms designed with military features to allow rapid spray firing	Ban assault weapons 12 – Regulate assault weapons or ban select assault weapons only (6)
<b>23. Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines=12</b> Laws that ban detachable magazines with a capacity to store a large number of rounds of ammunition (usually more than 10) for automatic and semi-automatic firearms	Ban large capacity ammunition magazines 12
<b>24. Fifty Caliber Rifles=5</b> Laws that ban military firearms that combine long range, accuracy, and massive power	Ban fifty caliber rifles 5 – Ban select fifty caliber rifles or regulate fifty caliber rifles (2)
<b>Ammunition Regulation</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>25. Ammunition Regulation=12</b> Laws that regulate firearm ammunition	Require license to purchase, sell or possess ammunition 12 – Require ammunition sales record-keeping (6)
<b>Investigating Gun Crimes</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>26. Microstamping=5</b> Technology that would stamp a firearm’s unique code onto each ammunition cartridge when fired in order to aid law enforcement in the investigation of crimes	Require firearms be equipped with microstamping technology 5
<b>Local Authority to Regulate</b>	<b>12</b>

<sup>4</sup> A “chamber load indicator” is a device that clearly indicates that a cartridge is in the firing chamber. A “magazine disconnect mechanism” is a mechanism that prevents a semi-automatic pistol that has a detachable magazine from firing when a detachable magazine is not inserted into the pistol.

<p><b>27. Local Laws Allowed=12</b> Laws regulating the scope of local authority to regulate firearms</p>	<p>Allow broad local regulation 12 – Allow substantial local regulation (8)</p>
<p><b>Other</b></p>	
<p><b>28. Nullification of Federal Law=-1</b> Laws that declare firearms and/or ammunition made and kept in a state exempt from federal laws</p>	<p>Declare federal law inapplicable -1</p>
<p><b>29. Medical Gag Rule=-5</b> Laws that penalize medical providers for discussing risks of firearms with patients</p>	<p>Has medical gag rule law -5</p>
<p><b>Total Possible Points</b></p>	<p><b>210</b></p>