

Methodology for Awarding Points for Gun Laws Matter/Brady Scorecard

Policy and Description	Points ¹
Background Checks and Access to Firearms	23
1. Background Checks=11 Laws that regulate firearms sales by persons who are not licensed by the federal government (federal law requires only federally licensed dealers to conduct background checks and complete and maintain records of sales)	Require background checks for all unlicensed sales 11 – Require background checks for unlicensed sales of select firearms only or at gun shows only (6) – Require a permit to purchase that is valid for 30 days or less (3)
2. Mental Health Reporting=2 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 2
3. Categories of Prohibited People=5 Laws that establish categories of persons deemed ineligible to purchase or possess firearms	Prohibit violent and firearms-related misdemeanants 1 Prohibit individuals listed on terror watch list or “no fly” list 1 Prohibit drug or alcohol abusers 1 Prohibit juvenile offenders 1 Prohibit history of serious mental illness 1
4. Background Check Procedure=1 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 1 – Point of contact state for handguns only (.5)
5. Domestic Violence and Firearms=4 Laws intended to keep firearms out of the hands of domestic violence perpetrators	Require removal of firearms at DV scene 2 Require removal when protective order issued 2
Other Regulation of Sales and Transfers	24
6. Dealer Regulations=6 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 6 – 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 (3)
7. Maintaining Records of Gun Sales=6 Laws that require firearms sellers to send records to a centralized database where they are maintained by a government agency	Require records sent to law enforcement 6 – Handguns and some other firearms (3)
8. Purchases and Sales of Multiple Firearms=6 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 6

¹ 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.

9. Waiting Periods=6 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 – Require 1-2 day waiting period or waiting period for select guns only	6 (3)
Gun Owner Accountability		18
10. Licensing of Gun Owners and Purchasers=6 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 – Require license for select firearms only	6 (3)
11. Registration of Firearms=6 Laws that require gun owners to record the ownership of their firearms with a designated law enforcement agency	Require registration for all firearms – Require registration for select firearms only	6 (3)
12. Reporting Lost or Stolen Firearms=6 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	6
Firearms in Public Places		6
13. Concealed Weapons Permitting=5 Laws that regulate the carrying of concealed firearms	Discretionary (“May issue”) permitting system “Shall issue” permitting system Allow concealed carry with no permit	5 0 (-3)
14. Openly Carrying=1 Laws that regulate the open carrying of firearms	Prohibit open carry of all firearms – Prohibit open carry of some firearms or require a permit	1 (.5)
15. Guns in Public Places Categories=-4 Laws that allow guns in bars, on school property and in other sensitive areas	Allow hidden guns in bars Allow hidden guns on campus and/or K-12 Allow hidden guns in state parks Allow hidden guns in houses of worship	-1 -1 -1 -1
16. Guns in Parking Areas=-2 Laws that require employers and/or other businesses to allow firearms to be stored in parking areas on private property	Require businesses to allow guns in vehicles in parking areas	-2
17. Shoot First Laws (“Stand Your Ground”)=-3 Laws that remove the traditional “duty to retreat” from an area outside the home prior to the use of deadly force in self-defense	Remove duty to retreat anywhere outside the home – Remove duty to retreat when in vehicle only	-3 (-1)
Classes of Weapons and Ammunition/Magazines		13
18. Assault Weapons=3 Laws that ban or regulate semi-automatic firearms designed with military features to allow rapid and accurate spray firing	Ban assault weapons – Regulate assault weapons or ban select assault weapons only	3 (1)
19. Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines=3 Laws that ban detachable magazines with a capacity to store a large number of rounds of ammunition (usually more than 10) for automatic	Ban large capacity ammunition magazines – Over 10 rounds – Over 15 rounds	3 (2)

and semi-automatic firearms	
20. Fifty Caliber Rifles=1 Laws that ban military firearms that combine long range, accuracy, and massive power	Ban fifty caliber rifles 1 – Ban select fifty caliber rifles or regulate fifty caliber rifles (.5)
21. Ammunition Regulation=6 Laws that regulate the transfer of firearm ammunition	Require license to purchase, sell or possess ammunition 6
Consumer and Child Safety	8
22. Minimum Age to Purchase and/or Possess=2 Laws that restrict possession and/or purchase of firearms to minors	Stronger than federal law for all firearms possession or purchase 2
23. Safe Storage (Locking Devices)=2 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 suicide and unintentional death and injury	Require use of locking device 2 – Require locking device with firearms sale (1)
24. Personalized and Owner-Authorized Firearms=1 Laws that require firearms to be equipped with technology that allows them to be fired only by an authorized user	Personalized firearm law 1
25. Child Access Prevention=1 Laws that impose liability on adults who leave firearms accessible to children or otherwise allow children access to firearms	Negligence-based law 1 – Knowing/intentional or recklessness-based law (.5)
26. Design Safety Standards for Handguns =2 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 and/or allow only sale of approved guns listed on an official roster 2
Investigating Gun Crimes	2
27. Microstamping=2 Laws that require firearms to be equipped with technology that stamps a code on to the cartridge casing when the gun is fired. The code identifies the firearm that fired the round	Require firearms be equipped with microstamping technology 2
Local Authority to Regulate	6
28. Local Laws Allowed=6 Laws regulating the scope of local authority to regulate firearms	Allow broad local regulation 6 – Allow substantial local regulation (4)
Other	
29. Nullification of Federal Law=-1 Laws that declare firearms and/or ammunition made and kept in state exempt from federal law	Declare federal law inapplicable -1
30. Medical Gag Rule=-2 Laws that penalize medical providers for discussing firearm ownership and/or storage with patients	Penalize medical providers for discussing firearms with patients -2

Total	100
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For more information on the point allocation and the grading system, please contact the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence or the Brady Campaign.

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