

ALLIANCE
FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY
VICTORY FUND 

2016 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

www.gunresponsibility.org

May 15, 2016

Dear Candidate,

This year the Alliance for Gun Responsibility Victory Fund is prepared to make important and strategic investments to support a safer future for Washingtonians. Our mission at the Victory Fund is to provide accurate information to the public and our growing list of supporters about candidate positions on the issues related to gun responsibility and gun violence prevention.

Gun violence in our country accounts for nearly 32,000 preventable deaths annually and far more preventable injuries, in addition to the lifelong impacts of gun violence on survivors, families of victims, and financial costs to taxpayers. In Washington State more people die annually from gun violence than from motor vehicle accidents. It's an unacceptable toll - and it's our responsibility to take action.

Despite overwhelming public support for common sense gun laws, a lot of heated rhetoric continues to surround this issue. Our obligation to the candidates we choose to support, and to the general public is to remain steadfast in our commitment to data-driven, proven legal reforms and reasonable discourse. We believe the vast majority of Washingtonians who support stronger gun laws deserve elected leaders in Olympia who represent their values. Through our legislative and political work, we intend to help constituents keep track of elected leaders who stand with the people of Washington and those who side with the gun lobby.

Our broad coalition of law enforcement, public health experts, faith and business leaders, parents and teachers, Democrats and Republicans, veterans, gun owners and survivors, reflects broad public support to make our communities safer.

Please accept our invitation to join the growing movement to reduce gun violence in our state and across our country by filling out our Candidate Questionnaire. Your answers help us understand more about you and your level of support for the issues championed by the Alliance for Gun Responsibility. We are committed to common sense reform and look forward to supporting candidates who share our vision for safer communities.

Thank you for your complete answers to the following questions; feel free to provide comment beyond the space provided with an addendum attached to this questionnaire.

Yours Truly,
Renee Hopkins
Executive Director, Alliance for Gun Responsibility

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY

Gun violence is preventable. The Alliance for Gun Responsibility works to end the gun violence crisis in our community and to promote a culture of gun ownership that balances rights with responsibilities. Through collaboration with experts, civic leaders, and citizens, we work to find evidenced-based solutions to the crisis of gun violence in our community. We create innovative policy, advocate for changes in laws, and promote community education to reduce gun violence.

ABOUT INITIATIVE 1491: EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS

Extreme Risk Protection Orders will allow families and law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily suspend a person's access to firearms if there is documented evidence that an individual is threatening harm to themselves or others by way of dangerous mental illness or a high risk of violent behavior. The person subject to that order must surrender their guns to police and will not be able to buy, sell, or possess other firearms for a period of one year.

We know that the vast majority of mass shooters and individuals who commit suicide show signs of their intentions, but our law renders families — often the first to see those signs — unable to take life saving action.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders are modeled on our well-established systems of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Protection Orders with careful protections for due process and standards for evidence. After a family member files a petition, the court holds a hearing and determines whether the person poses a serious threat of violence to themselves or others. The judge can issue an order restricting access to firearms for up to one year and can also refer the person in crisis for mental health or chemical dependency evaluation to ensure they get the help they need. Once a petition is filed, the court notifies the subject and a hearing is held. If the evidence of a threat is upheld by a judge, the order is put in place for one year and can be renewed annually should circumstances warrant. The subject may request one hearing a year to rescind the order. Violation of the order carries a criminal penalty.

Survivors and family members of those killed in mass shootings at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle in 2006, Seattle's Cafe Racer in 2012, University of California Santa-Barbara in 2014, and others have all testified that they believe this type of law could have been used to prevent these tragedies. But mass shootings aren't the only tragedies that Extreme Risk Protection Orders could prevent. Just as importantly, suicides, romantic partner shootings, and individual family tragedies today could be prevented. Extreme Risk Protection Orders empower those in the best position to see a tragedy coming — family members and law enforcement — to prevent it.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Incumbent: YES NO Open Seat

Preferred Party: Democrat Republican Independent

Candidate Name:
Candidate Phone:
Candidate Email:
Office Sought:

Campaign Manager:
Manager Phone:
Manger Email:

Current Occupation:
Opponent(s):

Please check YES or NO to the following questions. (If you feel the need to explain or qualify answers you may attach an addendum.)

- 1. Do you believe gun deaths and injuries are preventable? YES NO
- 2. Do you believe guns in the home make you less safe? YES NO
- 3. Would you join a gun violence prevention (GVP) caucus? YES NO
- 4. Should gun responsibility be included as part of your party platform? YES NO
- 5. Would you support having GVP champions in leadership of your legislative caucus?
 YES NO

6. Please explain why you are seeking support from the Alliance for Gun Responsibility Victory Fund:

7. Have you sponsored stronger gun laws in the previous two legislative sessions? If yes, which? Please explain. (For challengers/ open seat contests, would you have sponsored legislation from the previous two sessions, if yes, which. Please explain.) **Please also include any examples of advocacy you have done for gun responsibility in your community/in the legislature/with your colleagues.**

8. How will you push for gun responsibility legislation to be prioritized in the legislature?

9. Do you plan to support Initiative 1491, the campaign for Extreme Risk Protection Orders, and why? (Check one, by checking YES you are endorsing the I-1491 campaign)

YES NO

10. Negligence and liability have been widely discussed in the context of reducing gun violence, particularly in regard to accidents involving children. What specifically do you think the state legislature can do to prevent firearms from falling into the hands of children?

11. If you receive the endorsement and support of the Alliance for Gun Responsibility Victory Fund, will you publicize that support by: (Check all that apply)

- Including it on your website
- Announcing endorsement to your email list of supporters
- Making public statements indicating your endorsement/
support for stronger gun laws



Signature

Date

Attached are additional resources regarding WA gun violence statistics and some of the solutions including more information around extreme risk protection orders.

If you have any questions or comments about this process, please contact Stephanie Ervin, and return your electronic copy of the completed questionnaire to Stephanie@wagunresponsibility.org for review of your endorsement request.