



NRA-PVF

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
POLITICAL VICTORY FUND
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VA 22030-7400
FAX (703) 267-3976

2014 Maryland Candidate Questionnaire

Name: TRENT KITTLEMAN
Campaign Name: Friends of Trent Kittleman
Address: 3000 Kittleman Lane
City: West Friendship MD Zip Code: 21794
Office Sought: House of Delegates, 9A District: 9A Party: Republican
Campaign Phone: 301-661-3344 Fax: _____
Website: www.TrentKittleman.com E-mail: Trent@TrentKittleman.com

For further information on Maryland firearm laws,
please visit www.nraia.org and click on the "gun laws" feature located in the menu.

1. Do you agree that the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees a fundamental individual right to keep and bear arms that applies to all Americans, regardless of where they live in the United States?

- ☒ a. Yes.
☐ b. No.

2. Considering current Maryland firearm laws, do you support any additional restrictive state legislation regulating the sale, use or possession of firearms or ammunition?

- ☐ a. Yes, I support additional restrictive state legislation regulating firearms and ammunition.
☐ b. Yes, I support additional restrictive state legislation regulating firearms. Please explain: _____
☐ c. Yes, I support additional restrictive state legislation regulating ammunition. Please explain: _____
☐ d. No, current state firearm laws are sufficient.
☒ e. No, current state firearm laws should be improved to benefit law-abiding gun owners and sportsmen in Maryland.

3. Would you support state legislation banning the manufacture, possession, ownership, purchase, sale and/or transfer of any firearms?

- ☐ a. Yes, for all firearms. Please specify type of restrictions: _____
☐ b. Yes, for all handguns. Please specify type of restrictions: _____
☐ c. Yes, for some firearms. Please specify types of firearms/restrictions: _____
☒ d. No, I oppose banning the manufacture, possession, ownership, purchase, sale and/or transfer of any firearm. ** see Comment*

4. In addition to the federal system of dealer record keeping of all firearm sales, would you support state legislation requiring all firearm owners to register their firearm(s) for entry into a centralized state file or database?

- ☐ a. Yes, for all firearms.
☐ b. Yes, for all handguns.
☐ c. Yes, for some firearms. Please specify which firearms: _____
☒ d. No, I oppose state registration of firearms.

5. Many .50 caliber firearms are used in big game hunting and target competition, and the .50 caliber BMG cartridge has been used for nearly 100 years. Would you support state legislation prohibiting the ownership and/or sale of any .50 caliber firearm and ammunition?

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
☒ b. No, I would oppose such legislation.

6. Under the guise of “crime control,” anti-gun groups are promoting legislation in different states to mandate the use of certain technologies on firearms and ammunition sold within those states. “Microstamping,” requires gun manufacturers to incorporate technology into each handgun sold, so that it imprints identifying information about the firearm onto a cartridge case when fired. Similarly, anti-gun groups are promoting ammunition serialization/encoding which would require ammunition manufacturers to encode each cartridge produced by imprinting a unique serial number on the case and base of the bullet for entry upon sale into a state database. These proposals rely on unproven technology, which would significantly drive up the cost of producing firearms and ammunition and have limited crime-fighting utility (a tiny fraction of legally-purchased firearms and ammunition are ever used in crimes). **Would you support legislation mandating the “microstamping” of cartridge cases and/or encoding of ammunition before sales could lawfully take place in Maryland?**

- ☐ a. I would support mandatory “microstamping” and/or ammunition encoding.
- ☒ b. I would oppose legislation mandating “microstamping” and/or ammunition encoding.
- ☐ c. Other. Please explain: _____

7. When a gun is fired, markings are left on the bullet and cartridge case, referred to as “tool marks.” These markings may, at times, be used to identify a gun used in a crime. In 2000, Maryland passed a state law requiring that all new handguns sold be tested and ballistically “fingerprinted.” Maryland taxpayers have spent millions of dollars creating ballistic “fingerprinting” databases, yet the system has proven to be a crime-solving failure. In fact, the Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division called for scrapping the system entirely. **Would you support state legislation repealing the required collection of ballistic “fingerprint” data for firearms sold in Maryland?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☒ b. No, I would oppose such legislation.

8. In 2009, the Maryland State Police drafted legislation that would mandate the registration of firearm ammunition. If enacted, this bill would have required every person engaged in the business of selling ammunition to maintain extensive records on all sales, including the date of sale, purchaser’s full name, address, date of birth and form of ID used as well as the type and quantity of ammunition purchased. The federal government tried ammunition registration in the past, only to discover that it was unmanageable due to the sheer volume of transactions and was ineffective for law enforcement. Ammunition registration creates huge record keeping requirements and provides no useful benefits for law enforcement, which is why it was repealed by the Firearm Owners Protection Act of 1986. **Would you support legislation designed to register the purchase of firearm ammunition?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☒ b. No, I would oppose such legislation.

9. In the United States, the number of privately owned firearms has risen by more than 10 million annually to an all-time high. Meanwhile, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, the firearm accident death rate has decreased 90 percent over the last century. This trend is due in part to NRA firearm safety training programs used by tens of thousands of NRA Certified Instructors, schools, civic groups, and law enforcement agencies. Nevertheless, several states have recently considered legislation to require that locking devices be placed on firearms kept in the home. A lock severely limits the ability to use a firearm for self-defense purposes and potentially increases the risk of a firearm accident. **Would you support legislation requiring locking devices (safes, trigger locks, cable locks, lock boxes, etc.) or other locking procedures for firearms stored in the home?**

- ☐ a. Yes.
- ☒ b. No.
- ☐ c. No, I would oppose such legislation and would instead support a resolution encouraging Maryland public schools to adopt NRA’s Eddie Eagle GunSafe® accident prevention program as part of its curriculum.

10. The “Firearms Safety Act” of 2013 (Senate Bill 281) imposed a ban on the sale, purchase, transfer, and transport of semi-automatic firearms that have certain cosmetic features, or appear on a list of 45 specific models classified as so-called “assault weapons.” These firearms are capable of firing only one round of ammunition per pull of the trigger and are, in most cases, of a smaller caliber than firearms used for hunting. They are rarely used in crime, and are commonly owned by Maryland citizens for self-defense and sporting purposes. Additionally, this legislation reduced the magazine capacity limit from 20 rounds to 10. Most handguns available in the U.S. today have a standard capacity magazine of between 10 and 20 rounds. **Would you support state legislation repealing these provisions of the “Firearms Safety Act” of 2013?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation for semi-automatic firearms only.
- ☐ b. Yes, I would support such legislation for magazines only.
- ☒ c. Yes, I would support such legislation for semi-automatic firearms and magazines.
- ☐ d. No, I would oppose such legislation.

11. The "Firearms Safety Act" of 2013 (Senate Bill 281) created a new requirement for persons wishing to purchase a handgun in Maryland. The Handgun Qualification License requires individuals wishing to exercise their fundamental right to purchase a handgun for self-defense in the home to obtain eight hours of training, obtain and pay for fingerprints, and pay a \$50 fee to the state before applying for the license. **Would you support legislation repealing the licensing requirement for a handgun purchase in Maryland?**

- ☒ a. Yes, I would cosponsor such legislation.
- ☒ b. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☐ c. No, I believe the HQL is appropriate.
- ☐ d. No, I would expand the licensing requirement to apply to all firearms.
- ☐ e. No, I would keep the HQL, but amend the law in another way. Please explain: _____

12. Maryland law limits the number of handguns that a law-abiding citizen can purchase to one per 30-day period, or "one-gun-a-month." There has been no evidence proving that limiting the number of firearms a law-abiding citizen is allowed to purchase has lowered violent crime rates. **Which of the following best describes your attitude towards Maryland's "one-gun-a-month" law?**

- ☐ a. I believe the law should be amended to be more restrictive.
- ☐ b. I believe the law should be amended to raise the number of guns that can be purchased in a 30-day period.
- ☒ c. I believe the law should be repealed so that there are no limits on the number of firearms a law-abiding citizen can purchase within a 30-day period.
- ☐ d. I agree with the current gun rationing law.

13. Federal law requires that all persons who acquire firearms from federally-licensed firearms dealers be submitted to a background check, and in most states the check is accomplished through the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Maryland requires a more expansive check to be conducted by the Maryland State Police (MSP) within seven days. However, sometimes the check is not completed within seven days, and under such circumstances the dealer is permitted to release the handgun to the purchaser after seven days have transpired. Allowing firearm dealers to initiate NICS checks when customers begins the paperwork for their purchases, and to forward to MSP the documentation showing the purchaser's approval by NICS, would permit MSP to expedite the remaining portion of the check required under Maryland law, and decrease the chance that a handgun would be released to a prohibited person. **Would you support legislation allowing dealers to initiate NICS checks on handgun customers, and forward the results to the State Police?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☒ b. Yes, I would support such legislation, and furthermore believe the FBI instant check is adequate for all firearms sales, and would therefore support repeal of the additional check currently required in Maryland.
- ☐ c. No, the current system is adequate.
- ☐ d. No, I would oppose such legislation, and would support legislation prohibiting dealers from releasing firearms until MSP has returned the application to purchase.

14. Maryland requires that a prospective handgun purchaser obtain a Handgun Qualification License (HQL) to take possession of a handgun. In order to obtain an HQL, the purchaser is required to undergo eight hours of firearms safety training and a background check conducted by the Maryland State Police (MSP). However, upon receipt of an HQL, the purchaser must file a separate application to purchase a handgun, wait a minimum of seven days, and again be subjected to the background check required for the HQL. Most states instead screen handgun purchasers only through the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which checks criminal history, mental health and other databases of persons prohibited from possessing firearms, to which all states contribute records. The check is almost always achieved within several minutes. No waiting period is necessary, thus none is imposed. **Would you support legislation to eliminate Maryland's seven-day waiting period and MSP background check upon purchase and instead rely on the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System?**

- ☒ a. Yes, I would support legislation that would eliminate both the HQL and the seven-day waiting period and instead use only the FBI Instant Check system for all firearms purchases in Maryland.
- ☐ b. Yes, I would support legislation that would eliminate the seven-day waiting period and MSP check, and instead require a NICS check to purchase a handgun, for persons who already possess an HQL.
- ☐ c. No, I would oppose such legislation.

15. Forty-nine states have some form of a concealed carry permit system (Vermont does not require a permit) for its citizens, enabling law-abiding citizens to carry a concealed firearm for defense of themselves and others. The majority of states administer a "shall issue" system, allowing any citizen not otherwise prohibited from firearms ownership to obtain a permit to carry a concealed firearm for defense. Maryland's system is "may issue", requiring applicants for a permit to prove a "good and substantial reason" to obtain a permit to carry. **Would you support legislation creating a "shall issue" system in Maryland?**

- ☒ a. Yes, I would cosponsor such legislation.
- ☒ b. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☐ c. No, I believe Maryland's concealed carry laws are adequate.
- ☐ d. No, I would oppose such legislation and would place further restrictions on concealed carry. Please explain: _____

16. Maryland law regarding the transport of legally owned firearms allows only for transport to and from a firing range, hunting ground, for repair at a gunsmith or for sale at a federally licensed firearms dealer, or for surrender to law enforcement. **Would you support legislation expanding Maryland citizens' ability to transport their firearms for any lawful purpose?**

- ☒ a. Yes, a citizen's vehicle is an extension of their home. I would support legislation allowing transport of a loaded, accessible firearm in a personal vehicle.
- ☒ b. Yes, as long as the firearm is kept unloaded and ammunition is in a separate compartment of the vehicle.
- ☐ c. No, the current law is adequate.

17. Following Hurricane Katrina, various law enforcement agencies and military units confiscated firearms from law-abiding residents of New Orleans. Those citizens were effectively denied their basic civil right of self-defense at a critical time--when law enforcement was unable to provide public safety. **Would you support state legislation to prohibit state and local law enforcement agencies or their agents from confiscating firearms from law-abiding citizens or prohibiting the transport, sale, carrying and use of firearms, during declared state emergencies, except in the course of enforcing laws against criminal possession or use of firearms?**

- ☒ a. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☐ b. No, I would oppose this legislation. Please explain: _____

18. Forty-nine states, including Maryland, have some form of firearms preemption. This law guarantees that the state has sole responsibility in the field of firearm regulations, keeping counties and municipalities from passing a "patchwork" of confusing and conflicting local laws throughout the state. **Do you support Maryland's firearm preemption law?**

- ☒ a. Yes, I support Maryland's firearm preemption law. *See Comment*
- ☐ b. Yes, I support Maryland's firearm preemption law and believe it should be strengthened so it is easier to enforce and sends a clear message to counties and municipalities that firearm law and regulation are issues solely for the state.
- ☐ c. No, I believe Maryland's firearm preemption law should be repealed. Please explain: _____

19. Some jurisdictions deprive responsible law-abiding citizens of their Right to Keep and Bear Arms in their home merely because they reside in public housing. **Would you support state legislation to ensure that persons are not denied their Second Amendment rights based on their income by prohibiting public housing authorities from banning the otherwise lawful ownership and possession of firearms by public housing residents?**

- ☒ a. Yes.
- ☐ b. No.

20. Currently, some long-established shooting ranges across the state are being forced to close or curtail activities due to court actions or local noise standards imposed on them by a growing and shifting population. Unfortunately, Maryland law does not adequately protect all the shooting ranges in the state. **Would you support state legislation that would protect established shooting ranges from closure due to local noise ordinances or nuisance actions for noise throughout the state of Maryland?**

- ☒ a. Yes, I would cosponsor such legislation, *but with reasonable accommodation to neighboring residents.*
- ☐ b. Yes, I would support such legislation.
- ☐ c. No, I would oppose such legislation.

21. Which of the following best describes your attitude toward hunting?

- ☒ a. Hunting is a valuable tool for wildlife management, a positive use of natural resources, and an American tradition that teaches young people responsibility and respect for the outdoors.
- ☐ b. Hunting should be made illegal.
- ☐ c. Other. Please explain: _____

22. Hunting laws and regulations should be grounded in sound science, not politics. In other words, there should be a verifiable biological or public safety justification for hunting restrictions such as bag limits, methods and seasons. Unfortunately, many hunting laws and regulations are imposed because one particular constituency prevails over another in a policy debate or because certain practices make enforcement efforts easier. **In an effort to maintain consistent laws and regulations for wildlife management, would you support reforming hunting laws and regulations ensuring that all regulations are based upon verifiable biological or public safety justifications and considerations?**

- ☒ a. Yes, I would support efforts to reform hunting laws and regulations in this manner.
- ☐ b. No, I would oppose efforts to reform hunting laws and regulations in this manner. Please explain: _____

23. Many states provide civil liability protection to private property owners who allow the public to hunt on their property. Shielding property owners from frivolous lawsuits eliminates a significant concern for property owners and encourages them to open their land to hunting. This enhances public hunting opportunities and assists the state in effectively managing its wildlife populations. **Would you support passing or strengthening liability protections for private landowners who allow hunting on their property?**

- ☒ a. Yes, I would support this legislation.
- ☐ b. No, I would oppose this legislation. Please explain: _____

24. The prohibition on Sunday hunting is an old blue law left on the books in just a handful of states. This inhibits biologists, wildlife managers, and sportsmen from making conservation decisions based on science. Opportunity and access remain the biggest obstacles to continuing our hunting heritage. Many hunters cannot introduce their children or friends to hunting because Saturday is their only opportunity, and they are competing with numerous organized sports and activities. Comprehensive research shows that allowing hunting on Sundays in Maryland would generate a total annual economic impact estimated at \$170 million and create more than 2,000 jobs. All of this would be spurred by simply eliminating words from state statute books (the current prohibition), not spending taxpayer dollars on some pie-in-the-sky scheme. Maryland currently has a patchwork of several counties that allow hunting on Sundays on private land only. **Completely removing the Sunday hunting ban is essential to continue the rich hunting and conservation heritage that Marylanders have enjoyed. Would you support legislation that would:**

- ☐ a. Permit Sunday hunting on public land only.
- ☐ b. Permit Sunday hunting on private land only.
- ☒ c. Permit Sunday hunting on both private and public land, while removing any remaining hurdles to hunting on Sundays.
- ☐ d. None of the above. The current system of control by local legislative delegations should remain in place.
- ☐ e. None of the above. The statewide ban on hunting on Sundays should be restored, and locally limited Sunday hunting should be repealed.

25. Mentored hunting programs are being implemented across the nation to help promote our hunting heritage. Mentored hunting allows novice hunters to hunt prior to completing hunter education requirements if they hunt under the close supervision of a licensed, adult hunter who meets hunter education requirements. This is the "try it before you buy it" concept. According to the National Safety Council, hunting is already one of the safest recreational activities and mentored hunting has proven to be the safest form of all hunting practices. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has hosted several mentored youth hunts with Department personnel, but a comprehensive program allowing all licensed adults such as parents to mentor throughout the season does not exist. **Would you support a mentored hunting law that would allow any licensed, adult hunter who meets hunter education requirements to mentor throughout the hunting season, which would help promote our hunting heritage and introduce kids and novice adults into hunting?**

- ☐ a. Yes, I would support implementing a comprehensive mentored hunting law.
- ☐ b. No, I oppose implementing a mentored hunting law.
- ☒ c. Other. Please explain: I strongly support this idea but might want more accountability from licenced Mentors

26. Are you a member of the National Rifle Association or any other firearm/shooting sports/sportsmen's organization?

- ☒ a. Yes. NRA Membership #: _____ Other Organization(s): _____
- ☐ b. No.

Candidate's Signature: _____

Date: 4-9-14

27. (For non-incumbents) Have you ever run for or held federal, state or local elective office?

- ☒ a. Yes. Please specify: Howard County Executive-2010 Howard County Council 19
☐ b. No.

Please use the space below for any additional comments.

If your campaign has released a position paper on firearms issues, please feel free to include it as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

3. The only caveat I have is understanding whether the term "firearm" refers to things like missiles, or any other major weapon. Assuming it does not, I am comfortable opposing the actions listed in the question.

18. Although I agree that limiting the right to create more laws in local jurisdictions, there is one example that gives me pause. Carroll County's Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution concerning the "Right of the People to Keep & bear Arms," essentially telling the state that its passing SB281 created unconstitutional restricts and that Carroll County would not in any way enforce its provisions. (this resolution is on my web site)

-AUTHORIZATION-

This signature attests that the above information accurately represents the views of the candidate.

Candidate's Signature:

James K. Kellum

Date:

4-9-14