



# Rocky Mountain Gun Owners

*Entered  
Answers*

## 2010 Sheriffs' Candidate Questionnaire

The following survey is a list of questions important to gun owners in Colorado. Our goal is to provide gun owners within your county with a detailed accounting of your views on their constitutional rights. This survey is public, not private, and will likely be viewed by hundreds if not thousands of potential constituents. Failure to answer this survey is viewed with suspicion by those who hold their Constitutional rights in high regard.

If you wish, you can fax it to our office (at 202-351-0528) prior to sending the original via regular mail. Please submit the following survey to RMGO, PO Box 27, Windsor, Colorado 80550. Call 970-482-7646 with questions. Only signed surveys will be accepted.

Candidate Name: John Cooke Party: R  
County: Weld

1. Sheriffs in Colorado have long aligned themselves with County Sheriffs of Colorado (CSOC) as a method of advocating or defeating changes in the legislature. This association is often opposed to the rights of gun owners.

Will you take public positions in favor of private citizens' rights to keep and bear arms, even though that position may be at odds with CSOC?

Yes X No     . *I have already done this on several occasions*

2. In 2000, Tom Mauser and SAFE Colorado launched a ballot initiative to close the so-called "gun show loophole." In essence, this expanded the Colorado Brady Registration check to private purchases at gun shows.

Do you support a repeal of the 2000 "gun show loophole" law?

Yes X No

3. Gun control advocates hype the false idea that certain cosmetic features make some semi-automatic firearms or high capacity magazines "different" than others. Media hysteria has led to the misperception that semi-automatic firearms are so-called "assault weapons." All semi-automatic firearms function essentially the same, as do all magazines. Since the 1994 Crime Bill had a 10 year sunset, which contained the Feinstein "Assault Weapons" ban, Congress must vote to reauthorize that ban by 2004.

Do you oppose legislation and/or policies banning the manufacture, sale or possession of semi-automatic firearms and large-capacity magazines?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

4. So-called "instant" background checks are in fact computerized central gun registration systems. Only a single computer keystroke is necessary to permanently register every gun sale and gun buyer. These "checks" fly directly in the face of Colorado's Constitution, where in Article II Section 13 it says the right of no person to keep and bear arms "...shall be called into question..."

Will you publicly support the repeal of computerized "instant" Brady background check legislation since it centrally registers gun sales and gun owners?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

5. Vermont has one of the lowest violent crime rates in the nation. The Vermont carry law recognizes that every citizen has the right to carry a gun, openly or concealed, except to commit a crime. Thus, with no government bureaucracy or license, Vermont citizens can defend themselves. Criminals who use arms are severely punished.

Would you support Vermont-style legislation which would eliminate all requirements to pay fees and register gun owners and simply allow law-abiding citizens to carry firearms openly or concealed (at the individual's discretion) for any reason except for the commission of a crime?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

6. Some gun rights groups have touted Project Exile (now called "Project Safe Neighborhoods") as a way to enforce existing gun laws. This has spawned TV commercials urging citizens to turn in their neighbors for "illegal guns" and other Gestapo-like tactics. This project, which is really a collaboration between state and federal authorities, plays into the hands of gun-banners, using gun rights groups as a pawn to enforce domestic abuse gun bans and other bad gun laws.

Will you oppose Project Safe Neighborhoods, which attempts to enforce unconstitutional and unwarranted attacks on citizens' rights to keep and bear arms?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

7. Federal agencies are creating their own SWAT teams and are increasingly using their status as quasi-law enforcement as methods to enforce compliance with federal law. Some U.S. Sheriffs have restricted the activities of federal agencies in their county, requiring permission from the Sheriff's department before taking "police action."

Will you require federal agencies to obtain your department's prior approval before taking "police actions" in your county?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I would if legal but I don't know of any Sheriff who has done this. I support "Sheriff First" legislation that would require Federal Agents to receive approval.

8. Current Colorado law allows County Sheriffs to sign form 4's, which is a form from the BATFE allowing citizens to own Title II weapons (which include machine guns and sound suppressors). Form 4's require a signature from the chief law enforcement officer in the applicant's jurisdiction. To date, no form 4 held firearms have been used in the commission of a crime since their classification in 1934.

Will you sign form 4's for law-abiding citizens in your county?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

I sign approx. 2 form 4's almost every week

9. Current law allows sheriffs to enter concealed carry permit holders into a statewide criminal database (CCIC), right next to rapists and murderers. Though lists of permit holders are maintained by the issuing sheriff and easily verified by that department, this database is being used to harass law-abiding citizens in routine traffic stops. This policy is at the discretion of the elected sheriff.

Will you enter concealed carry permit holders in a statewide criminal database?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Never have - never will

10. Oathkeepers.org is a separate organization which urges law enforcement, military and others who are required to swear an oath to the Constitution to understand that oath, and to refuse to obey unconstitutional and/or immoral orders.

I have signed the Oathkeepers.org pledge.

Yes I have signed it \_\_\_\_\_

No I have not signed it X

but I certainly agree with the principles stated - to understand the Constitution + oath + not to violate that oath.

I hereby submit the answers to this survey as my solemn word that, if elected, I will guide my department to administer these issues as I've indicated in this survey.

Signed Joe B Cook Date 3/22/10 County Weld  
(Candidate signature)