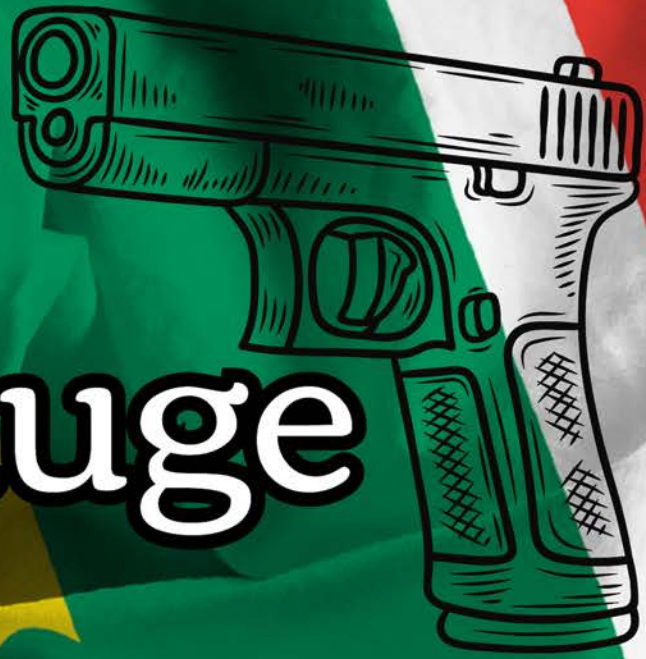


SAGA Gun Gauge

Elections 2024



POLITICAL PARTY POSITION ON FIREARM OWNERSHIP

As South Africa prepares for the upcoming elections, understanding the stance of each political party on key issues becomes crucial for informed voting. In view of the importance of firearm ownership in South Africa, where approximately 3 million individuals are registered firearm owners, the South African Gunowners' Association (SAGA) initiated a survey to gather and present the policies and perspectives of the major political parties on this significant matter.

In our effort to foster an informed electorate, we reached out to all major political parties with a questionnaire, seeking clarity on their positions regarding firearm ownership and regulation. Our goal was to ensure that every voter, especially those within the firearm-owning community, is well-informed about the political landscape and how it could impact their rights and responsibilities as gun owners.

We are pleased to present this report, which compiles and analyzes the responses received. This document is designed to serve as a resource to help you understand the diverse viewpoints and policies of each party concerning firearm legislation and ownership rights.

Your informed vote is a powerful tool for shaping the future of our country. We thank all the political parties for their participation in this survey and their commitment to addressing the concerns of South African gun owners. We also extend our gratitude to our community for their ongoing engagement and interest in this critical issue.

As you review this report, we encourage you to consider how each party's stance aligns with your views on firearm ownership and the broader implications for safety and freedom in our society. Your decision at the polls can reinforce the importance of responsible firearm ownership and ensure that your voice is heard in shaping the policies that govern our nation.

Thank you for your attention to this pivotal issue. We look forward to your active participation in the upcoming elections.

The SAGA Trustees.

SAGA Gun Gauge



WHAT QUESTIONS DID WE ASK?

We asked the following questions, and gave the parties an opportunity to make a statement about their views.

Please rate the following statements on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 represents strong disagreement and 5 represents strong agreement.

Question 1: Protection of the Right to Self-Defence

Statement: South Africans should have the right to use firearms for self-defence in their homes and communities provided they do so responsibly and in accordance with the law.

Question 2: Support for Sports Shooting, Hunting & Collecting

Statement: South Africans should have the freedom to participate in sports shooting, use firearms for hunting & be able to collect firearms, provided they do so responsibly and in accordance with the law.

Question 3: Protection of Firearm Owners' Rights

Statement: Political parties should actively work to protect the rights of law-abiding firearm owners and ensure that any proposed firearm law does not unduly restrict those rights.

Question 4: Opposition to Further Gun Control Measures

Statement: South Africa does not need additional gun control measures as existing laws are sufficient.

Party Representatives' Statements:

Please use the space below to provide a statement regarding your party's stance on firearm ownership in South Africa. You may include any relevant information or policy positions.



WHAT PARTIES WERE REPRESENTED?



POLITICAL PARTIES YET TO RESPOND



Despite SAGA's commitment to providing comprehensive insights into the political landscape, regrettably, at the time of publishing our SAGA Gun Gauge for Elections Report, several parties had not yet responded to our inquiries.

The African National Congress (ANC), Action SA, Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), Al Jama-ah, GOOD, BOSA, RISE MZANSI, the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and the uMkhonto weSizwe Party remain silent in our survey.

While their voices may be absent in our current report, we uphold our promise to deliver impartial and inclusive analyses. At SAGA, we recognize the importance of every voice in shaping the democratic discourse. Should these parties choose to engage with us post-publication, we are committed to updating our poll with their input, ensuring a comprehensive representation of diverse political perspectives.

While the parties who did not reply to the survey may have firearm ownership policies in place, SAGA cannot verify this without their input.





The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) has responded to the poll as follows:

Question 1 – Protection of the Right to Self-Defence

5 – Strongly agree

Question 2 – Support for Sports Shooting, Hunting and Collections

5 – Strongly agree

Question 3 – Protection of Firearm Owners Rights

5 – Strongly agree

Question 4 – Opposition to Further Gun Control Measures

5 – Strongly agree

The ANC government is failing in its primary role of protecting its citizens. The ACDP is on record for protecting the right of South Africans to use firearms for self-defence in their homes and communities, particularly in light of the high levels of crime in society.

We actively opposed the Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000 in Parliament, and will oppose any attempts to disarm law-abiding citizens.

We are deeply concerned about the poor state of the Central Firearms Registry, including chaotic administration and endemic corruption, resulting in backlogs in obtaining legitimate firearm licences and the proliferation of gun licence fraud. This has resulted in criminals accessing firearms and ammunition leaving citizens vulnerable to violent crime.

The ACDP will introduce an electronic system to enable the constant monitoring of the sale, transfer, and possession of firearms to ensure that it is easier to obtain a legitimate firearm licence, yet far more difficult for any corrupt person to cheat the system.





We will strengthen the capacity of law-enforcement agencies, and in particular the Anti-Gang Unit and the Hawks, to remove illegal firearms and ammunition from society, and bring the criminals to justice. We will also increase the capacity of Forensic Science Laboratories and in particular the Ballistics Unit to assist in the successful detection and prosecution of fire-arm related crimes. We will also strengthen border authorities and the South African Defence Force (SANDF) in order to protect our borders from the illegal smuggling of firearms. We will also prevent the theft and sale of arms used by the state, such as by the South African Police Service and the South African National Defence Force, by prosecuting those involved to the full extent of the law.

Steven Swart
ACDP MP
12 March 2024

SAGA





THE FREEDOM FRONT +

The Freedom Front + has responded to the poll as follows:

Question 1 – Protection of the Right to Self-Defence

5 – Strongly agree

Question 2 – Support for Sports Shooting, Hunting and Collections

5 – Strongly agree

Question 3 – Protection of Firearm Owners Rights

5 – Strongly agree

Question 4 – Opposition to Further Gun Control Measures

5 – Strongly agree

Below is an extract from our Manifesto (available on our website at <http://www.vfplus.org.za/policy/ff-plus-manifesto-2024/>) as proof of our commitment to firearms.

The FF Plus remains steadfast in its belief that competent and properly trained citizens have the right to own firearms and that they should be allowed use these weapons for self-defence or the protection of their property, should the situation warrant such action.

Dr Pieter Groenewald (MP)

Leader: FF Plus

14 March 2024





THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

The Democratic Alliance has responded to the poll as follows:

Question 1 – Protection of the Right to Self-Defence

5 – Strongly agree

Question 2 – Support for Sports Shooting, Hunting and Collections

5 – Strongly agree

Question 3 – Protection of Firearm Owners Rights

5 – Strongly agree

Question 4 – Opposition to Further Gun Control Measures

5 – Strongly agree

The gun control measures in South Africa are not the problem but rather the poor management of said measures and the shambolic state of the CFR. The DA has proposed on a number of occasions that the administration of firearm licenses, for example, be done online and by a public / private (non profit org) entity with oversight by the State and Parliament. If the management of existing gun control measures was done properly within existing legislation there would be an immediate and sharp decline in the circulation of illegal firearms. Law abiding citizens who own legally licensed fire arms for self defence and sporting purposes should not be demonised. Focus and effort should rather be applied to curtail the circulation of illegal firearms often due to corruption and/or inefficiencies in the management of firearms by SAPS.

Andrew Whitfield, MP
Shadow Minister of Police
24 April 2024





THE INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

The IFP chose not to answer the questions we asked but rather chose to make a statement on their policy.

The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) supports the right of citizens to lawfully own firearms in South Africa. This policy is grounded in the belief that lawful firearm ownership, under stringent regulations, contributes to the safety, security, and upholding of individual rights within our communities.

Background and Rationale

South Africa ranks consistently as one of the most violent countries in the world, with daily occurrences of murders, rapes, vehicle hijackings, robberies, violent assaults, and horrific farm attacks. The SAPS, while doing its best under challenging circumstances, is overburdened and under-resourced, making it difficult to provide adequate protection to all South Africans.

Moreover, the growing private security industry in the country is a clear indication that people cannot rely solely on the police for their timeous protection against criminals. It is important to note that firearm-related crimes are predominantly committed by individuals with illegal and unlicensed firearms, not by licensed, lawful firearm owners.

Conditions

In promoting responsible, lawful, and safe firearms use and ownership we support the stringent conditions and requirements as contained in the Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000 [The Firearms Act] before a firearm may be sold in South Africa.

- 1) Applicants for firearm ownership must pass a rigorous SAPS background check, including criminal records, and a competency test of knowledge of firearm laws and safety.
- 2) Mandatory training on the safe handling, storage, and use of firearms will be required for all new firearm license applicants.





THE INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

- 3) Lawful firearm owners must adhere to strict guidelines regarding the safe storage of firearms to prevent theft and accidental misuse.
- 4) Firearm licenses will be subject to regular review and renewal processes, including inspections to ensure compliance with safe storage regulations.
- 5) We support the principle of "Licence the Person, Register the Firearm" as an amendment to the Firearms Act. This principle will significantly reduce the unnecessary bureaucracy in the buying and selling of firearms, without compromising the fitness of individuals or business entities to own a firearm. The stringent competency requirements of gun ownership will remain intact.

Conclusion

The IFP believes that by supporting the right to lawfully own firearms within a framework of strict regulations, we can contribute to the safety and security of our communities while respecting the rights of individuals. This policy aligns with the spirit of promoting safety, security, and individual rights as enshrined in our Constitution.

Zandile Majozi, MP, Deputy Chief Whip of the IFP,
MP serving on the Portfolio Committee of Police
27 April 2024





END NOTE:

The South African Gunowners' Association (SAGA) extends its sincere appreciation to all political parties who participated in our survey and contributed to this report. Your engagement demonstrates a commitment to transparency and accountability, which are vital for an informed electorate.

With regard to those parties who did not respond, SAGA remains committed to seeking clarity on their positions regarding firearm ownership and regulation. We will continue our efforts to ensure that all voters, especially firearm owners, have access to the information they need to make informed decisions at the polls.

As South Africa prepares for the upcoming elections, we urge all citizens to consider the policies and perspectives outlined in this report carefully. Your vote is a powerful tool for shaping the future of our country, and your engagement in this critical issue is essential for upholding the rights and responsibilities of firearm owners while promoting safety and freedom in our society.

Thank you for your attention and participation. Together, we can work towards a safer and more prosperous South Africa.

Damian Enslin
SAGA Chairperson

