

Senators Bought by NRA

Many Americans believe in the right to own guns. After all, it is in the Bill of Rights. How it got there is another story, and *not a noble one at all*, but it is there, and as a result we have almost as many guns as people, a fact that will not change anytime soon.

But almost all of us, around 90%, believe that right belongs to responsible, sane people-- those least likely to do harm with a weapon, and that there should be background checks for every gun sale, without wide-open loopholes like sales at gun shows.

As we know, the people who elect Senators and Representatives are not the only influence on them. Unfortunately, money and private interest lobbies also affect their votes, and often win, while the people lose.

A perfect example of this is yesterday's Senate vote on gun purchase background checks.

Gabby Giffords believes in the 2nd Amendment. She and her husband are both gun owners. She knows all too well what can happen when it is too easy to get deadly weapons.

[A Senate in the Gun Lobby's Grip](#)

By GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

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"Shame on them.

I watch TV and read the papers like everyone else. We know what we're going to hear: vague platitudes like "tough vote" and "complicated issue." I was elected six times to represent southern Arizona, in the State Legislature and then in Congress. I know what a complicated issue is; I know what it feels like to take a tough vote. This was neither. These senators made their decision based on political fear and on cold calculations about the money of special interests like the National Rifle Association, which in the last election cycle spent around \$25 million on contributions, lobbying and outside spending.

Speaking is physically difficult for me. But my feelings are clear: I'm furious. I will not rest until we have righted the wrong these senators have done..."

Read her whole article at the link.

Here is the list of Senators and their votes. Remember the "no" votes, and if they are your Senator, let them know they were wrong, and that you'll remember that next election.

AK: Begich, Mark No Murkowski, Lisa No AL: Sessions, Jeff No Shelby, Richard C. No AR: Boozman, John No Pryor, Mark L. No
AZ: Flake, Jeff No McCain, John **Yes** CA: Boxer, Barbara **Yes** Feinstein, Dianne **Yes** CO: Bennet, Michael F. **Yes** Udall, Mark **Yes**
CT: Blumenthal, Richard **Yes** Murphy, Chris **Yes** DE: Carper, Thomas R. **Yes** Coons, Christopher A. **Yes** FL: Nelson, Bill **Yes**
Rubio, Marco No GA: Chambliss, Saxby No Isakson, Johnny No HI: Hirono, Mazie **Yes** Schatz, Brian **Yes** IA: Grassley, Chuck No
Harkin, Tom **Yes** ID: Crapo, Mike No Risch, James E. No IL: Durbin, Richard J. **Yes** Kirk, Mark **Yes** IN: Coats, Daniel No

Donnelly, Joe **Yes** KS: Moran, Jerry No Roberts, Pat No KY: McConnell, Mitch No Paul, Rand No LA: Landrieu, Mary L. **Yes**
Vitter, David No MA: Cowan, William **Yes** Warren, Elizabeth **Yes** MD: Cardin, Benjamin L. **Yes** Mikulski, Barbara A. **Yes**
ME: Collins, Susan M. **Yes** King, Angus **Yes** MI: Levin, Carl **Yes** Stabenow, Debbie **Yes** MN: Franken, Al **Yes** Klobuchar, Amy **Yes**
MO: Blunt, Roy No McCaskill, Claire **Yes** MS: Cochran, Thad No Wicker, Roger F. No MT: Baucus, Max No Tester, Jon **Yes**
NC: Burr, Richard No Hagan, Kay R. **Yes** ND: Heitkamp, Heidi No Hoeven, John No NE: Fischer, Deb No Johanns, Mike No
NH: Ayotte, Kelly No Shaheen, Jeanne **Yes** NJ: Lautenberg, Frank R. **Yes** Menendez, Robert **Yes** NM: Heinrich, Martin **Yes**

Udall, Tom **Yes** NV: Heller, Dean No Reid, Harry No*

* "The final vote was, 54-46, after Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) switched his vote to no, a procedural move that allows him to bring the measure up for another vote." (The LA Times)

NY: Gillibrand, Kirsten E. **Yes** Schumer, Charles E. **Yes** OH: Brown, Sherrod **Yes** Portman, Rob No OK: Coburn, Tom No
Inhofe, James M. No OR: Merkley, Jeff **Yes** Wyden, Ron **Yes** PA: Casey, Robert P., Jr. **Yes** Toomey, Patrick J. **Yes** RI: Reed, Jack **Yes**
Whitehouse, Sheldon **Yes** SC: Graham, Lindsey No Scott, Tim No SD: Johnson, Tim **Yes** Thune, John No TN: Alexander, Lamar No
Corker, Bob No TX: Cornyn, John No Cruz, Ted No UT: Hatch, Orrin G. No Lee, Mike No VA: Kaine, Tim **Yes** Warner, Mark R. **Yes**
VT: Leahy, Patrick J. **Yes** Sanders, Bernard **Yes** WA: Cantwell, Maria **Yes** Murray, Patty **Yes** WI: Baldwin, Tammy **Yes** Johnson, Ron No
WV: Manchin, Joe, III **Yes** Rockefeller, John D., IV **Yes** WY: Barrasso, John No Enzi, Michael B. No

--cosmicrat April 18 2013