

GUNNING FOR VOTES: AN ANALYSIS OF VOTING BEHAVIOR IN THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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In 2010, the Georgia Assembly passed two significant legislative measures relaxing restrictions on the carry of concealed handguns and weapons. This study first explores the rationale used by gun advocates and lobbying groups, then investigates the voting behavior of the Assembly relative to bills enacted that same year. House and Senate roll call votes on Senate Bills 308 and 291 are analyzed using the following independent variables: chamber, party affiliation, race, gender, urban or rural district, campaign contributions received from the lobbying group, Georgia Public Strategies, Inc., and endorsement ratings of members issued by the National Rifle Association (NRA). All variables are statistically significant with the exception of chamber. Endorsements members received from the NRA resulted in the highest statistical significance followed by party affiliation and then race. Results are most relevant given similar legislation in the Georgia Assembly is scheduled for vote in 2012.