

Dear Madam or Sir,

At the request of the members of the New Mexico Big Horn Gun Club, I would like to convey to the NRA their consternation and anger as a result of the NRA endorsements in the recent elections in New Mexico. This came as a formal proposal by a senior lifetime member and unanimous vote at the Nov. 4th club meeting.

Rather than taking the specific advice of the NRA, the NMBHGC members chose the broader source of wisdom to "Vote Freedom First".

Many issues impact our freedoms and firearms, such as the newly enacted healthcare and the unknowns in it that will influence gun ownership and use. These are the backdoor type laws the NRA constantly warns about and we will vote accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Howard
Secretary, NMBHGC

"100% NRA Membership"



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VA 22030-7400

December 07, 2010

Mr. Gary Howard and the members of the New Mexico Big Horn Club
1265 Highway 333
Tijeras, NM 87059

Thank you for your recent letter to NRA-ILA regarding our recent endorsements. We are always interested in feedback from our members and appreciate that you took the time to write us. I will be sure to pass your comments along for further review.

NRA is non-partisan in issuing its candidate grades and endorsements. We base our political decisions solely on gun-related issues, as we are a single-issue organization. By not taking into account political party affiliation or non-gun-related issues, we ensure we do not divide our base of support.

All endorsed candidate's pro-gun voting records can be found at www.nrapvf.org

We have a pro-gun incumbent-friendly policy that dictates our support for pro-gun incumbents seeking reelection over pro-gun challengers. We stand with our friends who stand with us in Congress or the state legislature. We would lose all credibility if we abandoned our friends. Of course, should a pro-gun challenger win his election, then he will be the beneficiary of this policy when he seeks re-election.

For candidates who are not incumbents, or who have not previously held elective office, we review answers to NRA's candidate questionnaires. NRA staff also interviews candidates, reviews campaign literature and candidate statements, and factors in intelligence from local NRA members.

All of this information is then reviewed and a grade of A to F is issued. Endorsements are not given in every race, as in addition to a candidate's positions on gun-related issues, NRA staff also has to take into account other factors like a candidate's viability and campaign organization. Our endorsement is not given lightly; it is something that is reserved for those candidates who meet certain criteria and thresholds. It must be earned.

Our endorsements are recommendations only. We understand and respect that voters will decide for themselves how important non-gun-related issues are, and on which issues they will base their final voting decisions. Our job is to provide the clearest information possible on a *candidate's stance on Second Amendment-related issues*.

Once again, we appreciate your feedback and hope that you will understand that we acted in a way that followed our own policy.



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Please let us know if you have further questions or concerns.

Best Regards,

Miranda Bond

Miranda Bond

NRA-ILA Grassroots Division