CANDIDATES CLASH OVER GUN CONTROL PROPOSALS

BY KEN BREDEMEIER - OCTOBER 05, 2015, VOA NEWS.

Hillary Clinton, the leading 2016 Democratic Party U.S. presidential contender, called Monday for a «sensible» change of U.S. gun control laws in the aftermath of the country’s latest deadly mass shooting.

At a campaign appearance in New Hampshire, the former secretary of state vowed that if elected she would use her executive power to expand background checks of gun buyers at gun shows and online. «I will try every way I can to get those guns out of the hands of people who shouldn’t have them,» she said. «How many people have to die before we actually act, before we come together as a nation?»

Clinton’s foray into trying to change U.S. gun control laws puts her at odds with her Republican Party presidential opponents.

But for Republican candidates, the response to mass shootings is not to enact more laws they say would not stop the next shooter from obtaining a gun. Billionaire Donald Trump, who has led the Republican field for several months, told NBC’s Meet The Press on Sunday he could argue that if more people were armed at the community college where Thursday’s attack took place, then fewer people would have died. Republicans generally oppose legislation that restricts the ability of Americans to purchase and own guns, basing their position on the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that legitimizes «the right of the people to keep and bear arms.»

Much political debate and many legal cases have explored the precise meaning and its application more than 200 years after the Constitution was ratified.
**FBI: CRIME SURGE IN CITIES FUELED BY GUN VIOLENCE**


Democrat Hillary Clinton has called for stricter gun laws, while Republican Donald Trump has sought to portray Mrs Clinton as an opponent of Second Amendment gun rights. House Democrats staged a 26-hours sit-in on the House floor last week as part of the party’s push to force a vote on some gun-control measures. It isn’t clear, though that either party will be able to capitalize politically on the issue, given the sharp divisions surrounding guns. The National Rifle Association, a symbol of the gun-rights movement, saw little change in its public image after the Orlando shootings. A total of 42% of those polled had a positive image of the NR, while 36% viewed the group negatively. Those numbers aren’t much changed from a year ago, when the favorable- unfavorably split was 43% to 32%.

The report came just hours before Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican nominee Donald Trump were set to square off in their first debate of the general election campaign in which crime and the conduct of police have led the candidates to confront problems in Charlotte, Tulsa, and other communities. Trump has seized on violent crime spikes as part of recent proposals to bring back “stop and frisk” tactics in which police have engaged in routine stops of people for searches in part to seize illegal weapons. The practices have drawn the anger of civil rights advocates and some judges.

**CONSSENSUS IS LACKING ON GUN LAWS**

BY PETER NICHOLAS, NEWSWEEK, JUNE 27TH, 2016.
Britain’s decision to leave the European Union opens an era of political disruption but along with it comes opportunity. In this moment of uncertainty it’s high time for the US to reassert its leadership of the Western Alliance of free Nations. An important first signal would be for the US to invite the UK to begin bilateral free-trade talks that run alongside current talks with the EU. Whether or not Mr. Obama leads, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump should. Republicans, in particular, have a great opportunity to show up a crucial Alliance. The trade deal with the world’s fifth-largest economy - and one of Europe’s healthiest - is in America’s interest for its own sake. Mr. Trump says he’s not against trade only against bad trade deals. Here is a moment to show he means it. He could also say he will meet with the new British Prime Minister as soon as possible if he’s elected and that America’s relationship with the UK is as important as any in the world.
The leading presidential candidates condemned the terrorist attacks in Brussels on Tuesday but differed sharply on how they would handle security threats and treat future immigrants. Donald J. Trump retweeted his call to prevent Muslims immigrants from entering the United States. He also wished to expand international laws to allow forms of torture. He bluntly predicted on Fox News that such attacks were to be expected in the United States. Hillary Clinton vowed to «defeat terrorism and radical jihadism» but urged caution. She declared that it was «unrealistic to say we’re going to completely shut down our borders to everyone» in an interview with NBC. «That’s not in anybody’s interest as it would stop commerce and undermine American relationship with Europe and the Middle East. Trump said this type of barbarism cannot be allowed to continue. Mrs. Clinton called for reaffirming our solidarity with our European friends as Trump told the Washington Post that the United States should rethink its role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Donald Trump advocated allowing torture while Hillary Clinton cautioned about shutting borders. The terrorists are trying to undermine the democratic values that are at the root of our way of life, Clinton said, «we cannot let them succeed so we have to keep America safe and to work with our friends and allies to help them be safe.» She also cautioned against tactics like waterboarding. Mr Trump added «you have to be very vigilant as assimilation is very very difficult and in some cases impossible. Muslims, he said, have to become part of the community. He eventually called for tighter borders with regard to Muslim immigrants.
The United States is the proud home of «the mother of exiles,» the Statue of Liberty. But of the millions of exiles from the Syrian war, only about 10,000 have reached U.S. shores. Other countries are taking in more, though vast numbers of Syrians remain dispossessed. And even the limited number of Syrians coming to America is a source of hot contention in the presidential campaign as humanitarian impulses tangle with security worries in the debate. «We don’t know where their parents come from, they have no documentation whatsoever,» the bombastic billionaire said during a town hall in New Hampshire just a day before the state’s first-in-the-nation primary. I’ve talked to the greatest legal people, spoken to the greatest security people. There’s absolutely no way of saying where these people come from. They may be from Syria, they may be ISIS, they may be ISIS related,” Trump said. When asked by a man in attendance at the town hall whether he would allow children from Syria into the U.S. who simply wanted a better life and to attend school, Trump said he’d be able to tell them they couldn’t come. I can look in their faces and say, ‘You can’t come here,’” he said. Trump, as well as other GOP presidential candidates, has also called on Congress to limit, or prevent altogether, the resettlement of refugees from Muslim countries like Iraq and Syria in the U.S., citing potential security risks. Democrat Hillary Clinton has said she would expand President Barack Obama’s refugee program to accept about 65,000 Syrian refugees, while Republican Donald Trump has called for an all out moratorium.
Over the course of their presidential campaigns, the GOP’s 2016 front-runner and the former Secretary of State have been exchanging fierce views on immigration. Donald J. Trump has called Mexican immigrants “rapists” and has called for the U.S. to ban all Muslims from entering the nation. Other GOP presidential candidates have also called on Congress to limit, or prevent altogether, the resettlement of refugees from Muslim countries like Iraq and Syria in the U.S., citing potential security risks. “There were 351,000 criminal illegal aliens in our prisons—that number does not include the crime of crossing our borders. It costs us more than a billion dollars a year just to keep these people in prison. We have to limit new immigration; focus on people already here!” they declared. Trump was firm concerning restrictions in immigration. “I’m opposed to new people coming in,” he said. “We have to take care of the people who are here.” For Mrs Clinton and the Democrats, immigrants keep America young and dynamic. In 2009, more than 55 million Americans were immigrants or the children of immigrants. These first- or second-generation Americans were valuable links back to their home countries and also significant contributors to our own country’s economic, cultural, and political life. In an interview with CNN Jake Tapper, she insisted: « Deporting all illegal immigrants is unrealistic. People are nervous about immigration, and for the reasons that the economy isn’t working for people. The average American family has lost $1,000 in income. They’re looking for some explanation as to why this is happening and they tend to blame undocumented immigrants.» In fact, immigration helps keep the US population young and dynamic. Statistics prove and it is now widely agreed that immigration played a role in making our economy stronger. That’s why for Democrats undocumented immigrant kids should have access to healthcare coverage. Clinton indicated « I helped create the Children’s Health Insurance Program. I want to support states that are expanding health care and including undocumented children and others. I want to open up the opportunity for immigrants, such a programme should be part of a comprehensive immigration reform.»
Mr Trump is focusing on cutting taxes, eliminating regulation and ending trade deals. Both candidates have proposed closing tax loopholes that typically favour the rich. An analysis performed by Tax Foundation last month found that while Mr Trump’s plan would lower taxes for all Americans it would lower them most for the highest earners. Mrs Clinton, on the other hand, wants to raise taxes on the wealthy, increase spending on job training and lower taxes on companies that hire more Americans. Mrs Clinton would keep taxes the same for most Americans but add an additional bracket for the highest earners. The income from that would be used to pay for programmes like free university education for students from low- and middle-income families. Her campaign is calling the higher taxes on the wealthy - 4% on people who earn more than $5m - the «fair share surcharge». As for intentional trade agreements, Mr Trump has called for a 35% tariff on Mexican goods and a 45% tariff on Chinese goods. That would mean a $100 television from Mexico would cost $135. This could encourage US consumers to buy more products made in America, but it would also likely encourage Mexico to place an import tax on US goods, making it hard for US companies to sell their goods abroad. Mexico purchased $267.2bn in US goods in 2015, making it the second largest export partner for the US. Mrs Clinton has said these tariffs will lead to a trade war making it harder for the US to compete on a global stage. Clinton has gone back and forth on trade. She previously supported the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) but has said in her campaign that she doesn’t think it’s the best deal for America. Her plan focuses more on increasing production in the US by offering tax incentives to companies that build there rather than barring imports out. While she has criticised some trade deals, she hasn’t ruled out signing new ones if elected.

DONALD TRUMP AND HILARY CLINTON HAVE LAID OUT THEIR VISIONS FOR THE US ECONOMY AND, UNSURPRISINGLY, THEY ARE VERY DIFFERENT.
IF EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS ARE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE, WHO IS BEST EQUIPPED TO FIX THE PROBLEM—HILLARY CLINTON OR DONALD TRUMP?

CLINTON HAS A HISTORY OF SUPPORTING HIGHER MINIMUM WAGES WHILE TRUMP’S POSITION ON THE MINIMUM WAGE HAS CHANGED QUITE FREQUENTLY.

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS

VICKY VALET, FROBES, SEPTEMBER 2016.

From the deficit to education to immigration, countless issues polarize America’s two major political parties. But Democrat and Republican voters do agree on the importance of a handful of issues, and employment and jobs is a big one. Given the weakness of wage growth and job creation since the Great Recession, it’s obvious why both sides of the aisle agree on the magnitude of this issue. At the top of Clinton’s first-term to-do list is revitalizing the employment market, an undertaking she hopes to accomplish with her 100-Days Jobs Plan. The strategy, which she has touted as “the biggest investment in new good-paying jobs since World War II,” would create 10.4 million jobs during her first term, according to Moody’s Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi. With this strategy, Clinton has vowed to: invest in infrastructure, manufacturing and clean energy, putting Americans back to work in industries that rebuild the country. She also promised to keep U.S. jobs from moving overseas. In her view, it is of key importance to dedicate resources to research and innovation that will create new industries of the future.

Trump, who prides himself on having created thousands of jobs as a businessman—upwards of 34,000, according to a CNNMoney analysis—has sworn to be “the greatest jobs president that God ever created.” During a September 15, 2016, speech at the Detroit Economic Club, he shared his plan to add 25 million jobs to the market over the next 10 years. His strategy, albeit devoid of many details, involves: negotiating fair trade deals that will lead to more jobs on U.S. soil. He also plans to narrow America’s trade deficit and increase domestic production.

Clinton has cosponsored or introduced bills to raise the minimum wage in every session of Congress from 2001 to 2008 as a New York senator. As president, she would push for a $12 federal minimum wage and encourage states and cities where it makes sense to go as high as $15. According to representatives from Trump’s campaign, his current stance favors a $10 federal minimum wage and supports the states’ right to set the amount higher if they desire. In addition to increasing the minimum wage, Clinton has also endorsed closing the gender pay gap. In 2009, she cosponsored the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which provided women with resources to fight workplace discrimination. As president she would work to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill she first brought to the table as a senator that would mandate equal pay for women. Trump has sent mixed messages on equal pay. During the Republican National Convention, his daughter Ivanka Trump addressed the country describing her father’s drive to make equal pay for equal work a reality in the workplace. However, in January 2016 a former Trump field organizer accused the campaign of gender discrimination in pay, an allegation that Trump has denied.

CLINTON HAS A HISTORY OF SUPPORTING HIGHER MINIMUM WAGES WHILE TRUMP’S POSITION ON THE MINIMUM WAGE HAS CHANGED QUITE FREQUENTLY.
Clinton wrote to NASA as a child asking how to become an astronaut. They replied that girls that girls could not be astronauts.

Initially Bill Clinton’s adornment as first lady of Arkansas and first lady of the United States. Hillary became the first female senator from New York and later America’s chief diplomat. Her style is so well-known and her reach into Democratic politics so profound that the historical nature of her campaign is sometimes forgotten: the United States has never even had a major political party nominate a woman for president. Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign effectively began in June 2008 when she conceded the Democratic nomination to Junior senator Barack Obama. Narrowly robbed of the chance to represent the Democratic Party on that occasion, Hillary vowed to return. Though she would serve fruitfully as Obama’s secretary of state during his first term, the former senator and first lady resolved to return to the White House as president. Her entire political life has been a slow build of increasing responsibility and power.

On 16 June 2015, Donald J. Trump, accompanied by his wife, Melania, trundled down the gold-plated escalator in the iconic New York City Trump Tower and announced his presidential bid. For all the towers, hotels, casinos, headlines, women and bankruptcies, Trump would not be where he is today without his decade (and more) in reality TV, something that has propellled him to the stage while subtly undermining his place there. He takes himself seriously – very seriously – and yet there is more than a trace of self-parody about his performance, which the fans and followers who have watched the evolution of his media image over the years, understand very well. Trump is unashamedly brash and frequently caustic in his rhetoric. Despite his refusal to self-censor. Trump led the Republican polls throughout the primaries and dispatched his 16 opponents. Trump’s clever manipulation of the US media, powerful putdown putdowns in debates, and his ability to tap in to the deepest fears and anxieties of many Americans allowed him to conquer ailing Republican party and secure the nomination (…) his supporters will be confident that he will « Make America Great Again ».

CLINTON WROTE TO NASA AS A CHILD ASKING HOW TO BECOME AN ASTRONAUT. THEY REPLIED THAT GIRLS THAT GIRLS COULD NOT BE ASTRONAUTS.
LET THE TRASH TALK BEGIN!

BY CHRISTINE WANG, CNBC, SEPTEMBER 2016.

DONALD TRUMP SAID HE WILL RELEASE HIS TAX RETURNS ... ON ONE CONDITION.

I will release my tax returns — against my lawyer’s wishes — when [Hillary Clinton] releases her 33,000 emails that have been deleted,” he said at Monday night’s debate, prompting cheers from some members of the crowd. Clinton and other Democrats have called on Trump to release his tax returns, which most Republican nominees since 1970 have done. Recent polls have shown most voters think Trump should release his tax returns, as well. The documents could cast light on how much Trump has really given to charity and resolve questions about whether he received a discounted tax rate in the past. March 2015, Hillary Clinton publicly admitted that she used a private email server to handle all her official emails while Secretary of State.

A little more than a year later, the FBI recommended against pursuing charges against Clinton. In between those two events, the scandal raised serious questions about why Clinton set up the private system in the first place, whether she knowingly sent or received classified material on her unsecured email system, whether she harmed national security, and whether she turned over all her work emails. As the scandal unfolded, it became clear that Clinton had been misleading or dishonest about a number of claims she made to defend herself. She hadn’t turned over all her work emails; she had sent and received highly classified documents; she never had approval from the State Department’s IT experts for her set up.

THE MESSAGES BEHIND THE FASHION

BY MARYSIA NOWAK, BBC NEWS, JULY 2016.

HILLARY CLINTON WORE A WHITE PANTSUIT AS THE RACE TO THE WHITE HOUSE PASSED A KEY STAGE. MUCH HAS BEEN POSTED ON THE IMAGE OF THE CANDIDATES AND THEIR SPOUSES, ALMOST AS MUCH AS ON THEIR POLITICAL MESSAGE. SO WHAT WERE THEY TRYING TO SAY, AND DID IT WORK?

In her Twitter biography, Mrs Clinton describes herself as a «pantsuit aficionado». She will mostly be seen in trouser suits - a businesslike style that would do as well in a boardroom as in the White House. White for purity, white for angelic, white for new and fresh, white for White House. But also the colour of the suffragettes, as social media users were quick to point out. Mr Trump has a penchant for expensive designer suits. One of his favourite labels is said to be Brioni, one of the world’s most prestigious couture houses. You may not be able to tell, but his hair is the product of intensive, expensive styling. As most politicians know, it is not advisable to spend a lot of money on clothes. And those that do, tend to be criticised for it. «If a politician wears expensive labels, the public will absolutely eat them alive,” stylist Corey Roche told The Business of Fashion magazine. Hillary Clinton certainly got a dressing down for wearing a $12,485 (£10,000) Giorgio Armani jacket at the New York Primary, revealing her «disconnect from the everyday woman», the New York Post complained. Melania Trump wore a figure-hugging white dress as she spoke to the Republican Convention last week. She got it on the internet for just over $2,000 (a bargain for some). The style appealed and it sold out minutes after she spoke. Much has been made of the shape of the dress. The Trumps are not afraid of using her sexuality if it helps to win votes,” Lisa Armstrong says, pointing at Donald Trump’s pride in his wife’s breasts, and Melania’s history on the catwalk and posing nude for GQ Magazine. A candidate’s wife clearly has a lot more freedom than a female candidate. Perhaps the most striking thing was that the dress was not by a US designer, but by Roksanda Ilincic, a Serbian-born designer based in London. It was described as a fauxpas. Bill Clinton was dressed in simple blue as he made his speech in support of his wife. “I am with her” his suit said. Other details in his attire included a cobalt blue tie, and a little lapel badge spelling Hillary in Hebrew. Smart, but not overpowering was the verdict on social media.