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Subject: Gov. Malloy's Support for Background Checks Critical to Re-Election Win

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One of the biggest bright spots in the country for Democrats Tuesday night was the hard-fought re-election victory of Gov. Dan Malloy in Connecticut, by a 51 percent to 48 percent margin in a rematch with 2010 opponent Tom Foley.

A postelection survey conducted by PPP Tuesday and Wednesday among actual voters in Connecticut found that Gov. Malloy's work passing a background checks bill on gun purchases in the state was one of the accomplishments that helped put him over the top in his re-election bid:

- **82 percent of voters in the state** support requiring a background check for all gun purchases, compared with just 11 percent who are opposed. Background checks remain universally popular across party lines: 88 percent of Democrats, 79 percent of Republicans, and 73 percent of independents are in favor of them. And even among gun owners, there is 77 percent to 16 percent support for background checks. It's very unusual these days to find an issue with such across-the-board support.
- **By a 12-percentage-point margin**, Connecticut voters said that Gov. Malloy's support for the gun bill made them more likely to vote for him this fall. Forty-three percent said it made them more likely to vote for him, compared with just 31 percent who said it made them less likely to vote for him. In an election that was so closely contested, this is one of the key issues that helped put him over the top.
- Gov. Malloy's support for background checks proved to be **especially crucial with women**. Fifty percent said it made them more likely to vote for him, while only 19 percent considered it a negative. Overall, Gov. Malloy won female voters by 56 percent to 43 percent, and that was critical to allowing his narrow victory.



Background checks for all gun purchases continue to be popular all over the country. Gov. Malloy had the backbone that many politicians have lacked to take action on this issue, and it helped him win a second term on Tuesday night.

PPP surveyed 698 Connecticut voters who participated in the 2014 election on November 4 and 5 on behalf of the Center for American Progress Action Fund. The survey's margin of error is +/- 3.7 percent.