

Jared Golden Said He Was A Strong Supporter Of The Second Amendment, But He Went Back On His Word, And Now Golden Wants To Take Away The Second Amendment Rights Of Maine Gun Owners

Following A Mass Shooting That Took Place In Lewiston Maine In October 2023, Golden Reversed His Stance On Assault Weapons, And Announced His Intention To Support Legislation To Ban Them

In October 2023 Following A Mass Shooting That Occurred In Lewiston, Maine, Golden Announced That He Would Be Reversing His Position On Assault Weapons And Would Favor A National Ban. “In a major reversal, Democratic Rep. Jared Golden of Maine called on Congress to ban assault weapons in the wake of the two mass shootings in Lewiston. ‘I have opposed efforts to ban deadly weapons of war, like the assault rifle used to carry out this crime,’ Golden said at a news conference Thursday. ‘The time has now come for me to take responsibility for this failure, which is why I now call on the United States Congress to ban assault rifles like the one used by the sick perpetrator of this mass killing in my hometown of Lewiston, Maine.’” (Caitlin Yilek, “Democratic Rep. Jared Golden Reverses Course, Now In Favor Of Assault Weapons Ban After Maine Mass Shooting,” [CBS News](#), 10/27/23)

- **"For The Good Of My Community, I Will Work With Any Colleague To Get This Done In The Time That I Have Left In Congress," He Said.** (Caitlin Yilek, “Democratic Rep. Jared Golden Reverses Course, Now In Favor Of Assault Weapons Ban After Maine Mass Shooting,” [CBS News](#), 10/27/23)

In His 2018 Campaign For Congress Golden Pushed Back Against The “D” Rating Given To Him By The NRA, Calling The NRA An “Extension Of The Republican Party” And Offered To Shoot AR-15s With Then US Rep. Bruce Poliquin To “See Which Of Us Knows His Way Around Them.” “Lars Dalseide of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action said Golden's record in Augusta, which earned him a D rating from the NRA, ‘has demonstrated an open hostility toward the Second Amendment and law-abiding gun owners throughout his tenure in the Maine Legislature.’ ‘His votes to deny Maine residents their constitutional right to self-protection and punish law-abiding gun owners for the criminal actions of others are just two of the many reasons why voters should reject his run,’ Dalseide said. Golden, a two-term lawmaker who serves as the Democratic whip in the House, said the NRA is ‘just an extension of the Republican Party.’ He said he supported the NRA's position on its top three bills this year and many others in earlier sessions. He said he enjoys shooting with friends and is comfortable around guns. Golden said he'd love to go shooting with Poliquin. ‘We can go shoot with AR-15s,’ he said, ‘and see which of us knows his way around them.’” (Steve Collins, “As Jared Golden Enters Congressional Race, GOP Bashes Him,” [Lewiston Sun Journal](#), 8/24/17)

Golden Has Previously Said That “Access To Firearms Is A Necessary Part Of Daily Life” In Reference To His Constituency. “Golden, one of two Democrats to oppose expanded background checks, said in a prepared statement he voted against them because the proposal is nearly the same as a 2016 Maine ballot question opposed by constituents in all of the counties he represents. ‘Maine isn’t Chicago, Washington or New York,’ he said. “For many of my constituents, access to firearms is a necessary part of daily life and we have a tradition of responsible gun ownership.” (Steve Collins, “Activists Take Aim At Golden For Pro-Gun, Pro-ICE Votes,” [Lewiston Sun Journal](#), 3/4/19)

Golden Received Praise From The Far Left For His Response To The Lewiston Shooting And His Reversal On Assault Weapons

REP. ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ: “Powerful, Brave, And Moving. This Is Leadership. Thank You, @RepGolden. Our Community Stands With Yours Throughout This Tragedy And In The Work Ahead.” (Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, [Twitter](#), 10/26/23)



(Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, [Twitter](#), 10/26/23)

REP. BARBARA LEE: “Thank You, @RepGolden. If More Members Of Congress Had Your Courage, We Could Finally Get These Weapons Of War Off The Streets And Out Of Our Communities.” (Rep. Barbara Lee, [Twitter](#), 10/27/23)



(Rep. Barbara Lee, [Twitter](#), 10/27/23)

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM: “I Have Opposed Efforts To Ban Deadly Weapons Of War... The Time Has Now Come For Me To Take Responsibility For This Failure. Which Is Why I Now Call On The United States Congress To Ban Assault Rifles.’ Thank You For Your Courage, @RepGolden.” (Governor Gavin Newsom, [Twitter](#), 10/27/23)



(Governor Gavin Newsom, [Twitter](#), 10/27/23)

REP. PRAMILA JAYAPAL: “This Is So Powerful From My Colleague @RepGolden. Thank You For Your Humility And For Giving Everything You Have To This Fight To Ban Assault Rifles. My Heart Grieves For Every Lost Life In Your Community And All Those Who Are Hurting And Afraid. We Must Respond With Action.” (Rep. Pramila Jayapal, [Twitter](#), 10/26/23)



(Rep. Pramila Jayapal, [Twitter](#), 10/26/23)

REP. MAXWELL FROST: “It Takes A Lot Of Courage To Go On National Television And Admit That You Were Wrong About Something. Thank You @RepGolden. Time To #BanAssaultWeapons” (Rep. Maxwell Frost, [Twitter](#), 10/26/23)



(Rep. Maxwell Frost, [Twitter](#), 10/26/23)

After Governor Mills Introduced Her Gun Control Plan Following The Lewiston Shooting, Golden Announced His Opposition To The Plan, Saying It would Have Has Little Effect In preventing The Shooting. “U.S. Rep. Jared Golden of Maine’s 2nd District came out against Gov. Janet Mills’ main response to the Lewiston shooting this week, saying it would have had little effect in preventing the tragedy. His criticism of the bill showed a divide between two of Maine’s top Democrats. It also drew sharp rebukes from both the governor’s office and the head of a top gun-rights group, illustrating how the third-term congressman is in a category of his own on the fraught topic of guns.” (Michael Shepherd, “Jared Golden Comes Out Against Janet Mills’ Signature Gun Reform Package,” [Bangor Daily News](#), 2/23/24)

- **Mills’ Spokesperson Responded To Golden’s Criticism, Saying He “Does Not Appear To Understand The Proposal.”** “On Thursday, the governor’s spokesperson, Scott Ogden, said Golden ‘does not appear to understand the proposal.’ Relatively few gun owners would be affected by the private sale restrictions, Ogden said, and he also said that police may have been able to detain Card if the changes to the yellow flag law had been in effect months before the shooting. ‘His apparent opposition to these measures is puzzling,’ he said of Golden.” (Michael Shepherd, “Jared Golden Comes Out Against Janet Mills’ Signature Gun Reform Package,” [Bangor Daily News](#), 2/23/24)

In A March 7, 2024 Bangor Daily News Op-Ed, Golden Proposed That Current Owners Of AR-Style Rifles “Should Accept A Regular Review Process” In Order To Maintain Ownership Of Their Firearm. “That’s why my proposal is straightforward: We should end the sale of new AR-style rifles in Maine and regulate those already in circulation, similar to permitting laws that have been required in Maine before. The Lewiston shootings ushered in a sad new reality for Maine. We who want to own the most lethal weapons should accept a regular review process that could screen out those with evil intent or who have lost control of their mind, such that they are capable of a mass shooting. Some gun owners will say my proposal goes too far or that nothing should be done at all. Others will say it’s too narrow. But the calculus is simple: Maine must find a balance

between protecting individual rights and protecting our community from the destructiveness of mass shootings.” (Jared Golden, “Response To Lewiston Tragedy Should Focus On Gun Lethality,” [Bangor Daily News](#), 3/7/24)