

## **Arapahoe County Democrats**

### **Canvassing your Precinct**

**Why must we win this upcoming election? This election is the most historically important campaign in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Our opponents are attacking the very foundations of our Freedom and Democracy. Legislative assaults have been launched both nationally and within Colorado against public education, Social Security and PERA retirement plans, immigrants, minorities, the environment, the Internet, free press, and public legislative oversight.**

As a Precinct Committee Person you'll need to convey party information to the Democratic voters within your precinct. You'll wish to inform them about meetings, special events, fundraisers, volunteer opportunities, caucuses and elections. It's advisable to team up with another person when canvassing, you may want to work with another PCP and work both of your precincts together. Exchange phone numbers with your canvassing partner or partners so you can stay in touch and be available if someone gets delayed, lost, or runs into difficulty.

Wear comfortable clothes, walking shoes, and bring along plenty of water to stay hydrated. It would be best to plan on working two hour shifts at a time. Before setting out - take note of possible locations to rest, have a snack and a bathroom break at the end of your two hours.

VAN is a sophisticated database we use to generate canvassing lists. The VAN database takes time to learn and is not "user-friendly". Until such time as you consider yourself a seasoned VAN user, we recommend that you ask your House Chair, Organizer, or Democratic County officer to assist you in generating a canvassing list. (VAN training classes are offered periodically and you are welcome to learn more about how to use the data base.)

Determine what message you'd like to convey to the people you speak with prior to canvassing. You may have a script for a specific campaign and/or you could also be gathering information and passing out literature. If you are following a script and gathering information please be aware that reporting good data and keeping good notes from your canvassing is just as important as talking to voters.

Make sure you have enough fliers, campaign literature, and questionnaires to cover the Democratic voters in your precinct. You may need to work out logistics such as parking your car mid-way in your canvassing area so you can re-hydrate and re-stock on materials needed in your canvas.

## **Canvassing Tips:**

Follow your walk list and knock on every door identified on the list

Smile! This is the most basic rule of voter contact. If you look and sound like you're enjoying yourself, people will be more interested in engaging in conversation and discussing what issues are important to them.

Stay positive! As a volunteer you're there to excite voters about changes to be made in 2018!

Use your judgment about how long to stay at the door – if you have an engaging conversation with a potential volunteer or supporter take the time needed to engage with them. If you have a brief exchange with a voter, don't linger and move on.

Stay Safe! Don't go inside houses even as a group!

Don't knock on a door you feel uneasy about

Leave literature at every listed door – even if the person is not home

Try to talk to the voter listed on the sheet and only visit houses on the list

Try not to get involved in complaints about the opposition or the viewpoints of the opposition

Comparisons are good but keep a positive focus on 2018 goals

Don't argue with people who disagree with you – thank them for their time and move on

Don't pretend to be a policy expert –Never be afraid to admit you don't know the details of policies – if you're not sure- say just that

Use the script as a guide but speak from the heart

Feel free to explain what inspired you today

Your personal story will always be the most effective way to engage with voters

If you talk with a voter about issues beyond the script – great!

Having a conversation is the best way to help the party re-engage and rebuild

Make sure you record answers to questions on the script and take note of other remarks of interest

## **Other ways to contact Democrats in your precinct:**

Contact your precinct Democrats via email or phone make sure your list has email addresses and phone#