

## Community Rising Canvassing 101

### Dos, Don'ts, and Safety

Captain safety is a key priority for the Community Rising program. To that end, here are some basic Dos and Don'ts for canvassing, as well as some safety information. Please make sure to review this document before you knock on doors in your community!

| DO                                                                                                                                                                                                          | DO NOT                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Only knock on doors on your list                                                                                                                                                                            | Do not enter anyone's home, even if the conversation is going well and they invite you inside.                                                                   |
| Only mark data for voters on your list (If your voter is "Marcus" and "Tiana" answers the door, and Marcus isn't home and you have a great conversation with Tiana, you should record Marcus as "Not Home") | Don't leave anything in anyone's mail box - it's illegal!                                                                                                        |
| Give people time to answer the door!<br>Especially if you see a car in the driveway, hear a TV or radio, or see lights on.                                                                                  | Don't try to knock on any doors where there is an unleashed dog in a front yard - it's not safe! Mark that voter as "inaccessible" and try to call or text them. |
| Smile and be friendly - you're representing your community                                                                                                                                                  | Don't damage anyone's physical property. Be mindful of walking paths, flower beds, lawns, and any personal property that may be outside of the home.             |
| Wear your vest, lanyard, and button to ID yourself as a Community Rising Captain                                                                                                                            | If people refuse to speak to you or say you're a solicitor (even though you are not) don't argue. It's not productive and is not a good use of your time.        |
| Dress for the weather! If appropriate make sure you have sunscreen, a hat/visor, and water.                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Make sure your phone/tablet/device is fully charged                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Make sure your device's GPS is turned on                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                  |

## **Broad safety guidelines for door knocking**

- Your instincts are your best safety tool. If something feels off — a block, a house, an interaction — trust that feeling and move on.
- Make sure to wear your vest, lanyard, and button that ID you as a Community Rising Neighborhood Captain.
- Don't knock doors after it's dark out. This means that in the summer there will be more available hours to knock doors as compared to the fall. Plan your schedule accordingly.
- Always let your Organizing Manager know when you will be knocking on doors.
  - Text your Organizing Manager before you start knocking, and text again when you're done for the day
- You don't have to engage with people who are aggressive or threaten you. Calmly thank them for their time and move on. If you feel truly unsafe, call 911 if you feel it is appropriate to do so.
  - Also, if someone is aggressive, be sure to keep physical distance between you and them, both so you are safer and so they don't feel threatened.
- If you witness or experience a medical emergency, call 911
- If you encounter ICE Agents, remember the following:
  - You are not required to answer questions about your immigration status or anyone else's
  - You have the right to remain silent
  - Do not lie to federal agents, but you are not obligated to volunteer information or help ICE agents in any way
  - Do not physically obstruct or interfere with ICE agents
  - If ICE approaches you while canvassing, calmly disengage from whatever you're doing and contact your Organizing Manager immediately
  - Do not answer questions about the people on your turf list or share any voter information
- Flag any safety concerns, including difficult interactions, unsafe conditions, areas to avoid, etc, to your Organizing Manager.