

Curry County Democrats

PCP – CAMPAIGN TOOLBOX

1st Edition
10-1-2025

CANVASSING

Be Prepared

It is helpful to prepare yourself with answers to constituents' potential questions before canvassing

Some common questions from voters:

- How do I find out if I'm registered to vote?
- How do I register to vote?
- Where do I register to vote?
- Where do I vote?
- Can I vote online?
- Can I register online?
- What happens if I lose my ballot?
- What is my precinct number? How can I find out?
- Who's in charge of the precinct?
- When is the primary election?
- What do I have to do to vote in the primary?
- Can NAVs or other parties vote in the primary?
- When is the next general election? Can anyone vote in it?
- What does "non-partisan" election or office mean?
- For what does the Democratic Party stand?
- Who are the candidates?
- What are the candidate's qualifications/positions on topics of interest?
- For whom or what do you recommend I vote? Why? Against? Why?
- What can I do to help? (If they express interest in volunteering, tell the CCD campaign chair about this contact as soon as possible so they can be contacted about volunteer opportunities!)
- Are there any Democratic clubs around? How do I join?
- Where can I get bumper stickers, buttons, campaign literature, etc.?
- Who is the County Chair? When are meetings? Who can go to meetings?
- Is there an office where I can talk with someone?

Prepare A “Canvass Bag”:

A good kit for canvassing includes:

- Literature from CCD and/or campaigns, door hangers
- PCP badge/ID, CCD business cards
- Maps, clipboards, pens, and paper
- Water and snacks
- Voter Registration cards/absentee ballot requests
- Donation envelopes

Canvassing Dos and Don'ts

- If you encounter a “No Soliciting” sign posted, it is OK to knock on the door. **YOU ARE NOT SELLING ANYTHING!** Politely acknowledge the existence of the sign and proceed as normal.
- Verify who you are talking to.
- Be brief and be a good listener (don't rush your constituent).
- Be friendly! Keep your communication positive!
- If you receive a hostile reaction, apologize and leave.
- Have answers to potential questions prepared, in your head or in your literature. If you don't have an answer, be honest and promise to call back. That opens the door to a follow-up call or visit.
- DO leave appropriate literature if possible. (NEVER leave literature in a mail box.)
- Do leave the names and contact information of local leaders in the Democratic Party.
- Do not raise controversial issues, but be open to listening.
- Do not debate, argue, or antagonize.
- Do not make any claims about opposition candidates that cannot be proven.
- When the conversation is complete, disengage politely: “Can I count on your vote? When may I drop off some more information? May we leave a yard sign for you when we get them? Etc.”
- *You must follow up if you say you will!* The simple act of following up will demonstrate your sincerity in wanting to contact them and show that they are important to you.

Remember.....door slams are not the end of the world!!!

Sample Canvassing Scripts

(Non-Electoral Season)

“Hi! I’m _____, a neighbor on _____ Street. I’m the Democratic Committee Person for this precinct. I just wanted to introduce myself and give you my contact information. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about Democratic candidates, elections, roads, schools, government services, or how the people you elected are serving you. By the way, is there anyone in the household who needs to register to vote or change their registration status? I have some registration forms if you need them!”

(Electoral Season)

“Hi, I’m _____. I live down the street, and I’m the Democratic representative in the neighborhood. I just wanted to stop by to talk to you about the Democratic candidates running in this area. Have you heard about _____? It’s going to be a close election, so make sure you remember to vote!”

Here is an outline of what a productive conversation with voters might look like:
Establish a personal connection.

- Ask what issues they care about and take notes.
- Get them excited about voting and helping you build our organization.
- Identify them as possible volunteers.
- Show residents how you can be a resource.
- Provide contact information for legislators and community resources.
- Let them know about upcoming civic and Party events.
- Register any new voters in the household and welcome them to the Party.
- Update addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.
- Follow up on any topic you say you will.

Remember, you are the face of the Democratic Party when you’re at someone’s door or on the phone with them. Grassroots organizing is how progressives WIN!

Always take good notes so other volunteer staffers can use them to update the VAN information. Be sure you are operating from the latest version of your precinct list with notes from your prior contact work included.

Most Democrats will be thrilled that there is someone in their area available to answer questions about elections, public servants, and government. You can mail postcards and/or letters with contact and other information. (CCD has a bulk mail permit, and will help you produce the cards you want to send as well as assist with postage.) If someone isn't home during your canvass, you might consider leaving a card at the door with a handwritten message. For example, you could write: "Stopped by to say hello. Sorry I missed you!" Always remember to leave your contact information!

USING VAN

The Voter Action Network (VAN) is a special database tool that you will use to help locate and keep track of voters in your precinct. This is a proprietary tool of the DPO, which is shared with local offices. It will help you connect with voters, learn their names, keep track of your interactions with them, and make notes about their needs and concerns. It also provides a valuable source of voter data to share with other Democrats so that the party can respond to the concerns of the people who comprise it. As part of your responsibilities as a PCP to do community outreach, you will receive training on how to use the information the VAN supplies.

MANAGE YOUR DATA

Record What You Learn

As a PCP, you will make notes about every interaction (or attempted contact) you make with residents. This includes notes about people who are not home, people who provide a “negative response,” people who receive a “lit-drop” (explained later), those who express a willingness to volunteer, or those who have changed residency, voter registration, party affiliation, etc. These notes will be used for future follow-ups and VAN updates. (One version of your voter list will have a quick “check-off blanks” to expedite your note-taking.)

In addition to the preformatted information on the voter lists, take notes regarding:

- Priority issues and concerns.
- Any newly registered voters in the residence.
- Questions for candidates or campaigns.
- Potential obstacles to useful interaction with the resident (including residents who request not to be contacted, have an unfriendly dog, whose house appears empty or has no accessible entrance, people who appear to have hearing, language, or comprehension impairments, etc.)
- If a voter is deceased, no longer lives at the address, or identifies as a supporter of the opposition party.
- Updated telephone numbers. (Also note if they are cell numbers and whether or not they can receive texts).
- Email addresses (which will not be used outside of the Democratic Party).
- Requests for a yard sign (only during primary election cycles).

Review and Submit Your Data

After your canvass work, take a few minutes to review your notes and data.

Be certain to:

- Get back to people who requested information, or forward their requests appropriately.
- Make special note of potential volunteers and flag them for your Campaign Coordinator.

- Re-write your notes (if necessary) so anyone doing data entry can translate them easily.

Know that this will help you keep your constituents informed on Democratic issues, events, candidates, local issues, and Election Day information.

As you contact potential voters throughout the year, it is important to give occasional updates to the CCDCC VAN Administrator of changes to voter data, as well as information about your precinct voters' thoughts and feelings regarding pertinent issues and candidates.

Remember that the CCDCC's chair, vice-chairs, secretary, as well as the entire DPO staff, are available to support your development of a good list of voters in your precinct.

DISTRIBUTE CANDIDATE LEAFLETS (LIT-DROP)

Brochures and yard signs from sponsored candidates will be given to you by CCD. Take the time to deliver them to your precinct's Democratic or Democratic-leaning voters. Organizing volunteers to distribute yard signs and give literature (sometimes known as "lit-drops") is a terrific method to engage other volunteers and make efficient use of time.

Lit-drops can take one of two forms: either leave the literature with the voter after you have had a conversation with them, or place it in a secure location if the occupants are not home.

You can leave campaign brochures or other political information drop-offs at a voter's doorstep or another location on their property if they request it.

It is a federal offense to leave literature in a mail box.

RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

Finding other driven Democrats who want to do more for the Party than just vote is one of PCPs' most productive responsibilities. Express your satisfaction of being involved in Democratic Party politics to your constituents. Find out whether they want to get engaged in any way, such as volunteering. Pay attention to their interests and find out what skills they have. This person can prove to be a very useful volunteer for the local Party!

How To Identify and Cultivate Potential Party Workers:

- Identify people from your precinct who have attended a fundraiser or other Democratic meetings, as these folks may be more likely to volunteer for greater responsibilities.
- Be sensitive to what is happening in a person's life. If they are overwhelmed at work, for example, they may be unwilling to put more on their plate.
- Note people who demonstrate an "above average" interest in Democratic politics.
- Maintain a list of people who have become active in a cause or organization supported by the Democratic Party.
- Capitalize on the increased energy generated by presidential campaigns. (Presidential election years create more voter interest/awareness and are the best time to meet new activists and reinvigorate old activists.)
- Host a precinct social event, such as a Saturday morning coffee, potluck, or an after-work get-together with your neighborhood Democrats.
- Welcome people to Democratic meetings, events, or fundraisers as your guests. Introduce them to other members and to the workings of the local Party. Let them know they are valuable additions to the Party and show appreciation for their attendance and involvement.
- Provide information on issues the Democrats are supporting or opposing. (Help them become passionate about the issues, and they may become more involved.)
- Thank people who have helped in the past. A written thank-you note, personal call, or drop-by can be tremendously effective. (People whose efforts go unrecognized may cease volunteering.)

All of these actions will encourage potential volunteers to feel like essential parts of a larger community.

Remember to provide the names of potential recruits to the CCD campaign committee chair. Keep in mind that any new volunteer may be a potential PCP, candidate for political office, or new friend and ally!

****Application forms will be provided in your kit.**

REGISTER AND RECRUIT NEW DEMOCRATIC VOTERS

Generating votes is how elections are won! You can help your local party's voter registration effort by contacting each Democratic household in your precinct and inquiring as to the registration status of additional household members, including any absentee voters. If you locate any unregistered voters, help them register. Make note of your new registrants and place them on your list of Democrats to call before an election. Always carry voter registration cards for any eligible unregistered voters you may encounter.

Determining Voter Eligibility:

A legal voter:

- Must be a U.S. citizen for at least 30 days before the next election.
- Must be a resident of Oregon and the district in which you wish to vote for at least 30 days before the next election.
- Must be 16 years old. When 16-year-olds register, they will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after their 18th birthday.

Registering Voters

Voters in Oregon can register in-person at:

- The Department of Motor Vehicles, when registering a vehicle or obtaining an Oregon State driver's license. (Note: You cannot select Party Affiliation at the DMV)
- Curry County Clerks' Office in Gold Beach, located at 94235 Moore Street, Suite 212, Gold Beach
- Or online at:
<https://sos.oregon.gov> (My Vote Oregon)

Voter registration cards can be obtained from local libraries, U.S. Post Offices, and the CCD office.

Be mindful of the rules and deadlines for properly registering to vote in the state of Oregon.

From the Secretary of State's office:

"A completed registration form must be postmarked or delivered to a county elections office or voter registration agency (e.g., DMV) no later than 21 days before the election. Electronic registrations must be completed no later than 11:59 p.m. 21 days before the election. Oregon residents who are not U.S. citizens by the deadline to register to vote, but who will be citizens by election day, should contact their county elections office for information about how to register to vote. Persons who become residents of Oregon after the deadline to register for a U.S. presidential election may be eligible to vote for U.S. president and vice-president. Contact your county elections office for more information."

Other Registration Information

- The homeless can register to vote! According to the Secretary of State, "The voter must provide their current address of residence on the voter registration form. Residence is considered to be the place where the voter sleeps. This could include a shelter, a friend's home, or other identifiable location." The mailing address of a person who is homeless or who resides where mail service is unavailable can be the office of the county clerk. Voters can pick up their ballot at the county elections office. Additionally, registrants may utilize "General Delivery" as a mailing address if they do not have another reliable mailing address. The registrant must apply at the local post office branch for this service.
- People with past felony convictions can vote! Unlike some other states, people may register to vote regardless of past convictions – even if they are on probation or parole. Only those currently in custody of the Department of Corrections cannot vote.
- You cannot fill in any information on another person's registration form.
- You cannot give stamps to anyone to put on their voter registration card (as this could be considered bribery, though you can take the stamped card and mail it for them).

Oregon Voter Registration Card

you may use this form to

- register to vote
- update your information

1 Print with a black or blue pen to complete the form.

2 Sign the form.

3 Mail or drop off the form at your County Elections Office.

Your County Elections Office will mail you a Voter Notification Card to confirm your registration.

1 oregonvotes.gov

1 866 673 8683
se habla español

TTY 1 800 735 2900
for the hearing impaired

information disclosure

Information submitted on an Oregon Voter Registration Card is public record. However, information submitted in the Oregon Driver's License section is, by law, held confidential.

assistance

If you need assistance registering to vote or voting please contact your County Elections Official. See reverse for contact info.

If you are not yet 18 years of age, you will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after your 18th birthday.

The deadline to register to vote is the 21st day before an election.

Only registered voters are eligible to sign petitions.

You must provide your valid Oregon Driver's License, Permit or ID number.

A suspended Driver's License is valid, a revoked Driver's License is not valid.

-or-

If you do not have valid Oregon ID, provide the last four digits of your Social Security number.

-or-

If you do not have valid Oregon ID or Social Security number, provide a copy of one of the following that shows your name and current address.

acceptable identification

- valid photo identification
- a paycheck stub
- a utility bill
- a bank statement
- a government document
- proof of eligibility under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) or the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (VAEH).



Clear Form

Print

Save As

SEL 500 rev 11/19

qualifications

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? ☐ yes ☐ no
Are you at least 16 years of age? ☐ yes ☐ no

If you mark no in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form.

personal information *required information

last name* first* middle

Oregon residence address, city and zip code (include apt. or space number)*

date of birth (month/day/year)* county of residence

phone email

mailing address, including city, state and zip code (required if different than residence)

Oregon Driver's License/ID number

Provide a valid Oregon Driver's License, Permit or ID:

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

☐ I do not have a valid Oregon Driver's License/Permit/ID. The last 4 digits of my Social Security Number (SSN) are:

x x x - x x - ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

☐ I do not have a valid Oregon Driver's License/Permit/ID or a SSN. I have attached a copy of acceptable identification.

political party

Not a member of a party ☐

☐ Constitution
☐ Democratic
☐ Independent
☐ Libertarian
☐ Pacific Green
☐ Progressive
☐ Republican
☐ Working Families
☐ Other

signature I swear or affirm that I am qualified to be an elector and I have told the truth on this registration.

sign here date today

If you sign this card and know it to be false, you can be fined up to \$125,000 and/or imprisoned for up to 5 years.

registration updates Complete this section if you are updating your information.

previous registration name

previous county and state

home address on previous registration

date of birth (month/day/year)

Oregon Absentee Ballot Request Form

you may use this form if

- you are registered to vote
- and
- you will be away from your home address during an election

1 Print with a black or blue pen to complete the form.

2 Sign the form.

3 Mail or drop off the form at your County Elections Office.

Your County Elections Office will mail you a Voter Notification Card to confirm your updated information..

oregonvotes.gov

1 866 673 8683
se habla español

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information disclosure

Information submitted on this form is public record.

assistance

If you need assistance registering to vote or voting please contact your County Elections Official. See reverse for contact info.



If you are serving in the Armed Forces, the Merchant Marine or are temporarily living outside the territorial limits of the United States, you must fill out a:

Federal Absentee Ballot

Request Form

available at:

www.fvap.gov

possible reasons for requesting an absentee ballot include:

- you will be on vacation during an election
- you are a college student living away from home
- you live part of the year in another state (e.g. snow bird)
- you are temporarily displaced due to natural disaster



SEL 111 rev 9/20

current voter information *required information

last name* first* middle

Oregon residence address, city and zip code (include apt. or space number)*

date of birth (month/day/year)* county of residence

phone email

mailing address, including city, state and zip code (required if different than residence)

absentee ballot request your ballot will be mailed to this address

I will be away from home in: ☐ mar ☐ may ☐ sept ☐ nov

absentee address, city and zip code (include apt. or space number)

additional request To receive an absentee ballot for more than one election, please list or explain:

signature

sign here _____ date today _____



Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage
Paid
Portland OR
Permit NO 670

Returned Service Requested

See Reverse Side for Important Information



Voter Number
Date Issued
Political Party
Precinct

Voting	Districts
US Congress	
State Senate	
State	
County Comm	
City	
School	

Voter Notification Card

Residential Address
1040 SE Morrison St.

First Middle Last Name
1040 SE Morrison St.
Portland, OR 97214

What is the Voter Notification Card that I just received?

The Voter Notification Card provides you with the state elected districts that you'll be voting on in future elections. It also shows your name and residence or mailing address information. The card also shows your precinct number, which is only used for administrative purposes.

ON-LINE REGISTRATION VERIFICATION/UPDATE

1. Access the Secretary of State website
2. Select “My Vote”
3. Select language if you DO NOT want English
4. Select “Go to my vote”
5. Fill in Name & Birthdate
6. Review “My Vote” if the information is correct..... select “submit”
7. If the information is NOT correct (e.g., Party Affiliation is NAV and you want to change), select “Update Registration”
8. Go to the screen that says “Yes” (I am a) citizen over 16
9. Select continue
10. Complete “My Vote” identification, including Driver’s License Number, and check the box “I am not a robot”
11. Select continue
12. Go to the next screen and update any incorrect information
13. Select continue
14. Review your changes..... select “Done”
15. Select “Submit Registration”

SOLICITING CONTRIBUTIONS

Some residents may be willing to support the Party financially. When speaking with your constituents, you will likely be telling them why you are involved in the CCDCC. After describing some of the functions the CCDCC performs and how volunteers contribute, take the opportunity to introduce some options for potential contributions. For example, you might say, “Many people don’t presently have time to volunteer, but they make financial contributions to support the work that others do.”

Some supporters might jump in and give a monetary donation. A fundraising ask is most effective when you explain its use (e.g., for keeping the office open or for purchasing postage, etc.). Also, remember that people will contribute a comfortable amount for them, which could change over time.

When completing the donation envelope, email and phone number are optional. The required fields are:

- Date
- Donation \$
- Donor Name
- Street Address PO Box, City, Zip
- Occupation/employer
- Retired? Y/N

****Donation Envelopes will be provided in your kit.**