

## Best Practices for Canvassing



1. Work in pairs for safety, especially in unfamiliar neighborhoods. Based on your level of comfort, knock doors together. Otherwise, one person can work on the odd side of the street and the other can work even. Always stay in eyesight of one another.
2. Smile to show you're approachable and friendly.
3. At the door, knock and step back. Do not crowd the door, which may make you seem aggressive.
4. Be respectful to individuals and their beliefs/concerns.
5. Pay attention to yard signs, especially those supporting opposition candidates. Trust your gut.
6. Do not enter properties with "Beware of Dog" signs for your safety.
7. Walk on sidewalks and in driveways. Do not walk across someone's lawn. Respect others' property.
8. Do not enter anyone's home, even if invited.
9. Read body language. If a person is being rude/hostile, disengage or walk away from the person and property.
10. Respect "No Trespassing" signs. It is the law.
11. Keep in mind Ring cameras are recording your interactions at the doors, including what you're saying. You do not need to ring the doorbell for recording to begin. Movement near the camera can trigger recording.
12. Leave literature on doors, never in mailboxes. Putting anything in the mailbox is a federal crime. Do not remove other literature or signs.
13. Know your legal rights. Canvassing is NOT solicitation because you are not selling anything. Political canvassing has been ruled by the United States Supreme Court repeatedly to be protected by First Amendment free speech. If someone stops and asks you what you're doing, you can respond, "we're out here talking to folks in the neighborhood about their thoughts and feelings about the current political climate. Canvassing is an activity that helps us exercise our protected First Amendment right."
14. Stay hydrated and take necessary breaks.

## Know Your Rights in Public Areas



If you are stopped in public, reduce risk to yourself by staying calm and do not resist or obstruct the agents or officers. Do not lie or give false documents.

- Do not run if you see immigration officers or the police approaching you.
- You have the right to remain silent and not answer questions.
- In Washington State, you are not required to share your name or show ID to an officer unless officer has probable cause.
- In general, an officer needs a warrant to arrest you. In some situations, you could be arrested if the officer has evidence you do not have legal status.
- In some situations, officers have the right to search you to make sure you are not carrying weapons or illegal materials. Do not resist this inspection.

## What to do in the case of an ICE or police officer encounter:

- Step 1: Before you say anything, INCLUDING YOUR NAME, ask, "Am I free to go?"
- Step 2: If the officer says yes, walk away slowly. If they say no, do not walk away. Additionally, if the officer says no, you may ask them, "Am I under arrest?" If you are not under arrest, walk away slowly. If you are under arrest, do not try to leave.
- Step 3: You have the right to remain silent. Do not provide any information about your immigration status, where you were born, or how/when you came to the United States. Do not show any documents from your home country. Say out loud if you wish to remain silent or show the officer your Know Your Rights card.
- Step 4: If the officer searches you, arrests or detains you, remain calm. Do not resist or fight. If you are searched, say, "I do not consent to this search." If someone is with you, they can record interaction to bear witness.