



Kid-Friendly Canvassing

Canvassing—i.e., knocking on doors—is proven to be the most effective way for campaigns to get their supporters to the polls and persuade undecided voters. It’s hard work, but you can definitely do it with your kids. Moreover, bringing your kids can actually make your canvassing efforts even more effective—and teach them about civics and public speaking in the process. Here are some tips (results may vary depending on your kids’ ages and personalities):

Planning ahead:

- Contact the campaign in advance. Make sure you know the time and place to pick up your canvassing packet. And maybe ask them to save you a kid-friendly packet or two (see below).
- Pack wisely: lots of water and snacks, an extra pen
- Check the weather ahead of time—wear comfortable clothes and footwear.
- **Invite your friends! Canvassing is WAY more fun in small groups, and a great way to introduce someone to political activism.**
- Plan a fun activity for your kids after canvassing is done. They deserve a reward for a job well done, so google ice cream shops, water parks, bounce houses, etc. in the vicinity of your canvassing turf.

When you get to campaign HQ (or staging area):

- You will be given a canvassing packet—clipboard, script, map of the neighborhood, list of names and addresses, and campaign literature to hand out. **Note: you will almost certainly be talking to people who are identified as Democrats or potential undecided voters. That doesn’t mean you won’t occasionally get a hostile response, but that should be the exception and not the norm.**
- Ask for a kid-friendly canvassing packet. This could mean: a denser neighborhood (less walking); close to the staging area (less driving); fewer doors (less knocking); and/or close to the local elementary school (more families in the area).

When you are knocking on doors:

- Before you start, divide up the work and give your kids tasks: introducing yourselves, navigating to the next house, handing out literature, recording responses.
- Always be friendly and polite. We’re not doing this to get into arguments; we’re talking up the candidates, gathering information for the campaign, and raising awareness.
- The campaign’s scripts are a good starting point, but don’t feel bound by them. Be yourself and speak from the heart.
- Your kids are your best allies. Put them front and center. People are nicer to families, more willing to have their days interrupted, and more appreciative of the effort.
- Consider turning your canvassing into a game—e.g., award yourselves bonus points for each positive voter interaction.

When you are done:

- Don’t forget to return your finished packet to the campaign HQ or staging area. The data you gather is pure gold for campaigns.
- Don’t forget to reward your kids with something fun afterwards (see above). Canvassing is hard work even at its easiest, and you want to make sure your kids view it as a positive experience so you can get them out there next time and keep them politically engaged.