

Quick Guide* Activists and Campaigns

Be Prepared. Don't let all your hard work go to waste. If they know they can't win it, they might try to steal it.

At the Doors:

- Use your data to help maintain the voter rolls. When you encounter a homeowner, who tells you voters on your list are deceased or have moved, record that information. You can then use it to contest that voter's voter registration. The process is easy and most political party County Chairs can assist you in the process.
- Know the facts about voting in person and by mail (see Quick Guides for Voters).

At the Polls:

- Campaign Staff:
 - o Have at least one person on staff that has read and is familiar with both the Handbook for Election Judges and Clerks as well as the Handbook for Poll Watchers. Both are available from the Secretary of State Website. Ensure that your staff and volunteers have that person's contact information in case they encounter issues.
- Poll Greeters:
 - o Have a basic understanding of the Election Laws for the polling places.
 - No electioneering inside the 100' line, but it cannot be restricted outside the line. Election Judges and other officials can institute "reasonable" restrictions that are usually aimed at keeping cars from hitting pedestrians.
 - Don't give the officials at any polling location an excuse to throw you out. Use good judgment. A frightened voter won't vote for your candidate.
 - Mailers/handouts/push cards may be taken into the polling location for personal use while voting. In fact, encourage people to write down their choices, especially for non-partisan races. Phones cannot be used inside the polling location.
 - Slate Cards are a useful tool. Many voters research the top of the ticket, but not the down ballot. If voters like your top choices, they may vote with you on the rest.

• Poll Watchers:

- o Training, Training, Training. Every Poll watcher should consult our Poll Watcher Quick Guide.
- o 2 Poll Watchers should be at each polling location, Central Count, and the Ballot Board.
- o Consult with your Party's County Chair about volunteering as a Poll Watcher.
- o Campaigns, you don't have to cover every location. That responsibility can be shared. Just remember that it makes no sense to have 5 volunteers outside the polling location and no one inside where shenanigans can happen that can cost you the election.

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*This document is just a guide. Advancing Integrity is not a legal firm and cannot give legal advice. Always refer to the Texas Election Code, Texas Secretary of State, and your County Elections Office.



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Voting by Mail

BEWARE:

- If you or your campaign wants to engage in any kind of voter assistance with ballot by mail, **USE EXTREME CAUTION**. If assistance is not done properly, it can be a violation of the law with penalties that include **felonies**.
- If you are the candidate or you are being paid or compensated in any way, do **NOT** assist with a voter's ballot. If you are aware that a voter has a ballot in his or her possession, walk away. You must treat any residence containing a voter and a ballot as a polling place. No electioneering.

Assistant for Ballot by Mail:

- **Application**: If all you do is hand a voter a blank application form, this section does not apply. If you, however, make any marks on the application, assist the voter with completion of the application, or even take the application to the mailbox, you are now an assistant according to the Election Code. This means you must provide your name, address, and signature on the application.
- Ballot: If you assist in ANY way with a voter's ballot, you must provide your name, address, and signature on the ballot's carrier envelope.
- This is not required for close blood relatives (parents, children, grandchildren), spouses, or those that live in the same household, but is still recommended.

Witness on Application for Ballot by Mail:

- If the voter is unable to sign his or her name due to disability or illiteracy, that voter may have a witness.
- If you act as a witness for a voter you must leave the voter signature spot blank, indicate the voter is unable to sign, and provide your name, address, and signature.
- You may only act as a witness for one voter's application per election or, if it is an annual application, per calendar year. This is not required for close blood relatives (parents, children, grandchildren), spouses, or those that live in the same household, but is still recommended.

Possession:

• You may NOT possess someone else's carrier envelope (containing a voted ballot) unless you are related to the voter, registered to vote at the same address, or in the process of dropping it in the mail and have completed the requirement of assistants.

If you have questions, contact us at info@advancingintegrity.com.

To report fraud, use our hotline: 877-267-VOTE (8683).

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