



CANVASS CHEAT SHEET

RESULTS:

Not Home	No one answers, person on your list is not available, or person on your list answers, but “not a good time to talk”
Moved	Someone answers and says that person has moved or don’t know that person
Refused	Refuses to answer any questions, tells you not to come back, or slams door
Deceased	* RARE, but it does happen occasionally *
Lang. Barrier	English is not an accessible language option for this voter
Inaccessible	Physically unable to knock (E.g. locked gate, vacant lot where address should be)

DO’s & DON’Ts:

DO	DON’T
Finish your packet & sync results/return your physical packet immediately.	Put campaign literature in mailboxes. It’s against the law.
Use the script & talking points – they’re there to help you have the most effective conversations possible.	Don’t spend too long at any one door. A good rule of thumb is to spend no more than 5 min/door.
Actively listen to voters & talk to them like a person – because you are!	Steer clear from using language like, “Do you have a minute to talk” or “are you busy?” as these make it easy for someone to tell you ‘no’ & shut down the conversation.
Have fun!	

CANVASSING ≠ SOLICITING:

If you see “no soliciting” signs while canvassing, do not be discouraged! **We are exempt from solicitation laws** because we are not asking for donations or selling anything. The only limits that can be placed on political canvassing are hours: in Virginia, we can legally canvass from 9am to 9pm.

The Supreme Court has reaffirmed the right of individuals to go door-to-door for political activity repeatedly: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York v. Village of Stratton (2002), 536 U.S. 150; Martin v. City of Struthers (1943), 319 U.S. 141; Thomas v. Collins (1945), 323 U.S. 516, 540-41; Hynes v. Mayor and Council of Oradell (1976), 425 U.S. 610; Murdock v. Pennsylvania (1943), 319 U.S. 105; Jamison v. Texas (1943), 318 U.S. 413; Cantwell v. Connecticut (1940), 310 U.S. 296; Schneider v. State (Town of Irvington)(1939), 308 U.S. 147; Lovell v. City of Griffin (1938), 303 U.S. 444.

HOWEVER, your safety comes first! If someone displays a threatening version of a “no solicitation” sign or behaves aggressively towards you (even though we have every right to knock), feel free to walk away.

Have questions about your rights as a canvasser? Call (844) 4VA-VOTE or (844) 482-8683.