

Guidelines for Driving Candidates to Doors

First of all, thank you for driving with your candidate! There really is **nothing** more important than meeting people face to face – and your driving is a huge help with that! Here are a few tips so you can be prepared to have a good experience and be as helpful as possible for your candidate.

- ⇒ **Please be flexible!** Candidates are incredibly busy and they knock on thousands of doors during the campaign. They may have to make last-minute changes to their door-knocking schedule. Please be understanding if they aren't able to meet you at the planned time or need to adjust the shift in some way.
- ⇒ **Be sensitive to the demands on your candidate's attention** while they're visiting with voters. Candidates may need to focus on just getting through the list of voters to visit, while others may enjoy chatting about other things during your time in the car with them. Don't insist on talking about challenging issues while the candidate is concentrating on doors.
- ⇒ **Bring a book, a snack and something to drink.** It helps make you more comfortable when your candidate is engaged in long, meaningful conversations with the voters.
- ⇒ **Some candidates use voter lists on their phones (through an app called the MiniVAN,** while some use printed lists. If you are able to, consider downloading the MiniVAN app to your phone – WCDC or your candidate can provide more information.
- ⇒ **Be prepared to help navigate** to the doors on your candidate's list, if you can. GPS in your car or on your phone, a detailed map, the MiniVAN app, or the printed list of doors your candidate is using can all be helpful.
- ⇒ **Use the time the candidate is at the door to turn your car around** so you're ready to head out the driveway and onto the next door.
- ⇒ **Generally, you'll want to turn off your car's engine** while the candidate is talking (unless you need it for heat or you're driving an EV, of course!).
- ⇒ **Keep in mind that some highly-partisan bumper stickers can cause offense** to some of the voters that your candidate will be visiting.
- ⇒ **Your candidate may want you to get out of the car and visit at a house where you have a connection.** This really helps cement your candidate in people's mind as a local.

- ⇒ **Discuss a “rescue plan”** with the candidate so you’re prepared to help if a visit is taking a really long time. For example, your candidate might want you to come up to the door and remind them that **YOU** need to be somewhere, to give them a graceful way to end the conversation.
- ⇒ **Help your candidate by taking notes about the visit.** Your candidate will have comments about the voter to help them remember the voter and follow up with later. For example, “Navy veteran; cares about gerrymandering; strong D; dog named Fluffy; nice flower garden.” If asked to do so, write them down on the list of doors or on a notepad.
- ⇒ **About palm cards and clincher cards --**
 - Palm cards are the candidate’s brochure or handout with their name, picture, and information about their campaign. Candidates usually leave a palm card with the voter they’re visiting, or leave one on the door for people who aren’t home.
 - Your candidate may ask you to write a message on the cards left on the doors such as, ““Sorry I missed you, hope you have a chance to read about my campaign. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. Have a great summer! (*name of candidate*)”
 - Some candidates will ask you to help them punch holes in cards to string a rubber band through so they can hang them on a doorknob.
 - Clincher cards are palm cards or postcards that candidates mail shortly after the visit, to “clinch” the contact they made at the door.
 - Your candidate may want you to address clincher cards while you sit and wait for your candidate to speak with the voter.
 - Some candidates will ask you to address two cards for each household, one to go out right after the visit and another to send out shortly before the election.
 - You usually do not need a separate card for each voter. If there is more than one voter in the house, you can write just the last name (for example, a household with three voters, all having the last name Fuller, you can write “*The Fullers.*”

Thank you again for supporting our candidates in such an important way!