



Voter Registration Script

For staff and volunteers who are registering other folks to vote for the first time, it can be challenging to know how to make the ask. A script can help first time volunteers feel more comfortable talking to potential voters. However, the best way for them to get better at doing voter registration is to practice doing it. The following script format is great for either in-person tabling events or for phone banking.

On Training

One way to help staff and volunteers is through interactive trainings where they ask each other to register to vote and are confronted with different situations. During the training, encourage those role-playing as potential voters to say “no” or come up with other excuses. The staff or volunteer person attempting to register them to vote will then have to try and change their mind. This kind of training is a great way to test knowledge and to get staff and volunteers used to persuading potential voters.

Voter Registration Script

Introduction

The introduction is a great way to get folks interested and to let them know you’re there to help them register to vote. The introduction may change depending on the setting.

Sample Responses:

Hi, my name is (*your name*). It’s important for us at (*insert group name*) to make sure everyone we serve is active and engaged. That’s why we are helping people register or update their voter registration. Can I help you update your voter registration today?

Hi! I’m (*your name*), and I’m registering people to vote today. Are you registered to vote at your current address?

If “yes” they want to register to vote

Congratulations! They’re ready to register, but your job isn’t done yet

If they are already registered to vote

That is great. Sometimes though, folks may think they are registered, and they may not be. It’s always good to ask a confirmation question or two. If you have pledge to vote cards or other voter education materials, now is a great time to share them with the voter.

Sample Responses:

I’m glad you’re registered to vote. Have you moved or changed your name since you last updated your voter registration?

Thank you for being a registered voter! You can double check your voter registration at (*your state*)’s voter registration tool online. You can find it at www.canivote.org.

If they indicate that they don’t want to register to vote

There could be many reasons they don’t want to register. They may say “no”, “I can’t”, “I don’t have the time”, “I’m not interested”, etc. Staff and volunteers should ask follow up questions to encourage them to register to vote if they are eligible.



Voter Registration Script

Sample Response to "I'm not interested":

May I ask why you're not interested? There are a lot of offices on the ballot in the upcoming election. Many of them are local and relevant to day-to-day activities (*Insert specific issues or offices that are on the ballot*).

Sample Responses to "I don't think I can":

If you are 18 and a US citizen, it is likely you are able to register to vote. I can help you figure out your options.

Sample Responses to "I don't have time":

Registering to vote only takes a few minutes, and I can help walk you through the form.

We will be tabling again (*insert time*). We hope you can stop by them! OR You can reach us at (*insert contact information*) for more information when you have more time.

Samples responses to "no":

May I ask why you don't want to register to vote?

If you change your mind, you can reach us at (*insert contact information*) for more information.

After someone registers to vote

For in person conversations, it is important that after they hand back the voter registration form the staff member or volunteer looks over the voter registration form to make sure it is complete before the registrant walks away. Their phone number is not required, but ask them to include it if they have not. This is to help the elections office if they have questions about the form.

Closing

End with excitement about getting them registered to vote.

Sample Response:

Thank you for registering to vote! We will get this turned into the local elections office within a few days and you should receive a confirmation in the mail in a few weeks.

Additional Tips

Nonprofit VOTE's [Voter Registration Checklist document](#) has tips for setting up and hosting a voter registration drive.

Have Pledge-to-Vote cards or other voter education materials on hand for those who are already registered to vote. Making a commitment to vote increases the likelihood they will cast their ballot.