

What to Say: Talking About Voter Registration

Asking the Voter Registration Question¹

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| Make a transition to voter registration. | Another important service we offer is helping you register to vote or update your registration. Your being a voter really matters to your community. I can help you quickly register to vote or update your registration right now. |
| Start with this question. | Can I update your voter registration? This has proven more effective than asking, "Do you want to register to vote?" |
| If the person says that they are already registered, be sure to ask: | Have you moved recently? Many people move & need to update their voter registration or they will be unable to vote. Would you like to sign up for voting and election reminders? Provide website: www.LWVTexas.org |

It's Fast, Easy...and Convenient¹

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| Assure the person it's easy to do and can be done quickly. | It'll just take a few minutes. Here, let me show you how easy it is. Show the form and the sections to be filled out. |
| Remind them doing it now saves the time and the trouble of doing it later. | Doing it here will save you time. We already have a postage paid form for you to fill out and for you to pop in the mail. <i>Or:</i> Doing it here will save you time. We already have the form, and as a volunteer deputy registrar, I'll return it for you to the correct election office. |

It's Important

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| If people hesitate, talk about voting. ^{2,3,4,5} | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Others have been telling me that they are definitely voting in this election. How important is it for you to be a voter? We're expecting a high turnout this election. This is going to be a close election, so being a voter is very important in the outcome. Voting early shows your commitment to being a voter and lets you anticipate the outcome without worrying how you'll make it to the polls on a busy Tuesday. And you'll be bothered by fewer phone calls!⁶ |
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Acknowledging Client Responses^{1,7}

| Client Response | Acknowledgement |
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| <i>Yes, I'm already registered and my information is correct.</i> | That's great! Please remind your family and friends to register, too. Would you like to sign up for election reminders? Provide website: www.LWVTexas.org |
| <i>Yes, but I moved recently.</i> | Updating your address now will save you time. We already have a postage paid form for you to fill out and for you to pop in the mail. <i>Or:</i> Updating your address here will save you time. We already have the form, and as a volunteer deputy registrar, I'll return it for you to the correct election office. |

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| <i>I don't want to list my phone number.</i> | It's not a required field. But it's really helpful to list your phone number in case the local board of elections has a problem with your registration and needs to contact you. |
| <i>I don't have time.</i> | I understand you are really busy. You can save time by registering with me today. Filling out this form takes only a couple minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We already have a postage paid form for you to fill out and for you to pop in the mail. • <i>Or:</i> We already have the form, and as a volunteer deputy registrar, I'll return it for you to the correct election office. |
| <i>Why are you asking me that?</i> | We're expecting a high turnout in the upcoming election. So being a voter is very important in the outcome. I'd be glad to help you register or update your registration right now. It'll only take a few minutes. |
| <i>I can't register to vote. I'm not eligible.</i> <i>Not old enough</i> <i>Have a felony conviction</i> <i>Not a citizen</i> | May I ask why not? I have training on registering people to vote and may be able to answer questions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will you be 18 by Election Day? If so, I can help you register today. • In Texas you can vote if you have completed your sentence, probation, and parole. • I understand. You can make a difference by making sure friends and family members are registered. |
| <i>I'm not interested or I don't vote.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I understand. Voting can be challenging. We want to register as many as possible because it's important that the voices in our community be heard. • OK, what other information can I provide to you to help make voting a little easier. I'd be happy to tell you a little more about what to expect at the polls.... • If you change your mind, we'll be here.... |
| <i>I'm not well enough informed or I don't know the candidates.</i> | Figuring out what's on the ballot and whom to vote for can be mind-boggling, but there are some shortcuts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you know about VOTE411? (Explain) • The local League of Women Voters is holding a nonpartisan candidates forum.... |
| <i>Who should I vote for?</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our organization does not endorse or oppose candidates or political parties. But you can find unbiased information about the candidates at VOTE411. (Explain) |

1. Texas Association of Community Health Centers. Texas voter registration toolkit for community health centers. Austin, TX: Author; 2016, December. Available from: <http://tinyurl.com/ybekxf2y>
2. Analyst Institute. 2016 GOTV recommendations. Mobilization and turnout. 2016. Available from: <https://analystinstitute.org>
3. Analyst Institute. 2016 sample GOTV language and scripts. Mobilization and turnout. 2016. Available from: <https://analystinstitute.org>
4. Analyst Institute. 2016 GOTV training video. Mobilization and turnout. 2016. Available from: <https://analystinstitute.org>
5. Analyst Institute. Sample GOTV script. Mobilization and turnout. 2016. Available from: <https://analystinstitute.org>
6. Segelken HR. Joy of voting early could boost turnout, study shows. Cornell Chronicle. 2014, March 13. Available from: <http://tinyurl.com/lc44o7n>
7. Schieffer J, Erkel E, Kenfield M. Talking about voting. IGNITE Texas State Conference, Dallas, TX. 2017, Feb. 25.