

Donna Larkin-Mohr, Phone Banker

Ever make 100 phone calls, one right after the other, in less than two hours?

Well, knowing MI Sierra Club, MI Dems, other Dems, and UU the Vote all need help, I signed up. Sometimes I get a compelling email, and I want to share what one said:



“Dissent is powerful. Right now, we find the language of dissent embodied by folks working to shift resources.... We find it in folks caring for our spirits through powerful sermons, art, healing, and music to bring beauty and resilience into our lives. The legacy of principled dissent is one that will forever be associated with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.... Dissent is not about performance. It is a prophetic force that breaks through the despair of our realities and awakens us to new possibilities.”

My phone calls are a small form of dissent; I am stating my opposition to the status quo and working for change.

Most of my calls have been to folks here in Michigan, but one evening I made calls to people in Massachusetts. Fun listening to some of those Boston accents, as I reminded everyone to vote. Yes, making phone calls or writing postcards can help us break through the despair that has engulfed us. And, yes, it can awaken us to new possibilities. So, please find a cause, an issue that resonates with you, and begin calling or writing postcards to get folks to vote. Anxiously awaiting some of the new possibilities I expect to see following the next inauguration.

Donna

Harper West, Precinct Delegate

My official role is as a precinct delegate, an elected position that allows me to vote in certain party conventions and elections.

However, my job duties largely involve educating people about voting and candidates in a one-mile square area around my house.

To be a precinct delegate, you need to file paperwork with the county in spring of an even-numbered year with the election on the primary ballot. Even though my duties are not much different from when I wasn't a precinct delegate, I became a PD because I wanted voters to see an active party presence on the ballot. Many times the opposing party had a full slate of PDs and my party had none.



Currently, I have been phone banking and “contactless canvassing” in my precinct with information on how to vote and register to vote. Phone banking is easy because it is all through an online database and you are provided a script. People rarely answer the phone so I developed a 60-second script with information on voting and why I personally support my party’s candidates. Canvassing is merely attaching flyers to doors and occasionally talking to people who are out in their yards (if you want).

Even if you are not a Precinct Delegate, the concept holds: Talking to your neighbors is the best electioneering.

How to get involved:

- 1) Contact your local party chapter and they can fit you into volunteer activities that might be appropriate for your interests.
- 2) Contact the county party office as well. Currently, my party needs people to hand out signs one day a week at the county office or answer phones at the party office to answer questions.
- 3) Contact a specific candidate’s office to volunteer. Most are doing phone and text banking, with some flyering or sign delivery jobs as well. Some need office help.
- 4) Get out the vote efforts will ramp up closer to election day. Most campaigns need help delivering signs to polling places and standing outside polling places on election day.
- 5) Easiest? Put a sign in your yard. Or contact just three friends to urge them to vote.