



FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS ★ ★ ★ ★

CONVERSATION GUIDANCE

GOAL:

Build a relationship. Listen. Identify members who are willing to step up.

This is not a political debate or a conversation about which candidate someone supports.

We are organizing members around a simple principle:

Voters should choose our leaders, not the other way around.

We want to know who is willing to take action to protect the right to vote in free and democratic elections.

OVERALL MESSAGE:

We will not wait until democracy is in crisis to defend it.

We will stand up, speak out, and do our part to protect the right to vote and the right of people to participate peacefully in our democracy.

★ OPEN THE CONVERSATION

"I want to talk with you about something important—not just for IEA, but for all of us."

"We believe every eligible voter should be able to vote, every lawful vote should be counted, and voters—not politicians—should determine the outcome of our elections."

"IEA is organizing now because we don't want to wait until there is a crisis to figure out who is willing to step up."

ASK: *"What concerns you most about what could happen with voting and our elections?"*

LISTEN.

★ MAKE IT PERSONAL

ASK ONE OR TWO:

"Why do you think protecting the right to vote matters?"

"What do you think could happen if people are prevented from voting or their votes aren't counted?"

"Are there people in your family, school, or community who you worry could have a harder time making their voices heard?"

TALK ABOUT CONCERNS YOU MIGHT HAVE.

EXAMPLES

- People being prevented from voting
- Eligible votes not being counted
- Voter intimidation
- Interference with elections
- The will of voters being ignored
- Voters not being able to choose their leaders

Don't turn the conversation into a debate about candidates or political parties.

CONTINUED ON REVERSE >

★ CALL THEM IN

"IEA is building a network of members who are willing to step up if our elections or the right to vote are threatened."

"We don't know today exactly what circumstances may arise or what action may be necessary."

"Would you be willing to be one of those people?"

IF YES:

"Great. This card lets you tell us what you're willing to do. You don't have to commit to everything. Just check the things you're comfortable doing."

★ WALK THROUGH THE CARD

Talk with coworkers

"Would you be willing to talk with your voting coworkers?"

Talk with family and friends

"Would you be willing to talk with your voting friends and family?"

Door knocking / phone-banking

"Would you be willing to knock on doors or participate in a phonebank?"

Election training

"Would you be willing to organize or participate in a free and fair election training?"

Peaceful action

"Would you be willing to participate in a peaceful action to support and protect our democracy?"

Explain that checking this box does not commit the member to a particular action today.

"We don't know what action may be necessary in the future. You're letting us know that you're willing to hear about an action and consider participating if the moment calls for it."

★ IF THEY HESITATE

Don't pressure them.

ASK:

"What would you be comfortable doing?" or "Is there something on the card you would be willing to commit to?"

REMEMBER:

A member who is willing to talk with coworkers, talk with family, attend training, or make calls is still an important part of the organizing effort.

★ QUESTIONS FOR THE UNITED WE WIN CAMPAIGN

If you could change one thing to make your job more enjoyable, sustainable, or successful, what would it be?

If we were creating a commercial about public education, how would you answer this question:

What does every educator deserve?

★ CLOSE

Once the card is completed:

"Thank you. We're organizing now because we don't want to wait until something happens to figure out who is willing to stand up."

Then ask:

"Who else do you know who would be willing to have this conversation?"

If appropriate:

"Would you be willing to talk with them?"

★ IMPORTANT: WHAT TO DO WITH THE CARD

The person conducting the 1-on-1 turns completed cards to their local field office/Region office.

or
Cards can also be scanned and emailed to IEAfreeandfair@ieanea.org

