

What to Say: Talking About Voter Registration

Asking the Voter Registration Question⁶

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.vote.org

It's Fast, Easy...and Convenient⁶

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. <u>Or:</u> 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^{1,3,4,5}

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^{2,6}

Client Response	Acknowledgement
<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.vote.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. <u>Or:</u> 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.

<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)

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2. Erkel, E. A., Schieffer, J., & Kenfield, M. (2017, February 25). *Talking about voting*. Paper presented at the IGNITE Texas State Conference, Dallas, TX.
3. Gerber, A. S., & Rogers, T. (2009). Descriptive social norms and motivation to vote: Everybody's voting and so should you. *The Journal of Politics*, 71(1), 178-191. Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/kf5d8x2>
4. Pew Research Center. (2016, January). 2: Measuring the likelihood to vote. *Can likely voter models be improved?* (pp. 7-13). Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/ycjctdth>
5. Segelken, H. R. (2014, March 13). Joy of voting early could boost turnout, study shows. *Cornell Chronicle*. Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/k56n7ld>
6. Texas Association of Community Health Centers. (2018, March). *Texas voter registration toolkit for community health centers*. Austin, TX: Author. Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/y939bsdo>