

Q & A on the Grassroots Organizing (GO) Team

What is the GO Team?

The GO Team is a group of volunteers who canvass prospective voters to inform them of candidates and propositions supported by the national, state and county Democratic Parties. Our purpose is to increase voter turnout and to increase the election of Democratic candidates and passage of propositions we support.

How does the GO Team work?

After participating in orientation and training, volunteers serve as precinct leaders and canvass voters in their own neighborhoods or another targeted neighborhood depending on their preference. Precinct leaders engage in conversations to inform and possibly persuade voters to vote for endorsed candidates and propositions. "Voter Guides" are given out at every door that precinct leaders visit (even if no one is home). Voters really appreciate this information.

Would I have to talk to Republicans?

No. Precinct leaders' lists contain the names and information of voters who are registered Democrats or Democrat-leaning independents. Sometimes you will see the name of a person who is a registered Republican on a list but this occurs only when the voter lives in the same home as a registered Democrat or Democrat-leaning independent.

How do I contact voters on my list?

You may "walk" your precinct, i.e. go door to door to speak to voters face to face, or phone voters. Research shows that face to face conversations are the most effective way of getting voters out to vote, however, if you are unable to walk your precinct, you can phone the voters on your list.

What are the results of the GO Team?

Precincts that are canvassed by precinct leaders in San Diego County have a 10% greater Democratic voter turnout than precincts that are not canvassed. Precinct leaders who canvass their neighborhood election after election develop lasting personal connections which builds on our Democratic community including increased numbers of volunteers and club members. All of these lead to **ELECTING MORE DEMOCRATS!**

What if I want to help in a candidate's campaign?

Precinct leaders usually work with candidate campaigns as well. The orientation and training for GO Team members is very helpful for canvassers of candidates too. GO Team precinct leaders speak for all endorsed candidates and will distribute any campaign literature provided by these candidates. A goal of the GO Team is to speak to or otherwise inform all voters of the endorsed candidates and propositions before any voting begins. Vote by mail voters which is now more than half of all registered voters, receive their ballots approximately one month before the election. Therefore, precinct leaders are strongly expected to complete their canvassing before mail ballots are received. This leaves about a month before the election to focus on candidates' campaigns.

Is there a difference between GO Team and GOTV?

Yes. The GO Team is the volunteers who work on grassroots organizing as described above. GOTV is "Get Out The Vote" which occurs close to the election and is comprised of the last minute push to get voters out to vote. During GOTV you might be calling or visiting/revisiting voters who haven't voted yet, answering questions about where to vote, etc., or helping voters get to their correct polling place.