



## Talk to Your Friends About Voting

A lot of your friends voted in 2020 but have no intention of voting for city and school board races this year. And do we blame them? Heck no! Local elections are hard. When there aren't political parties on the ballot, most people feel like they need to do more research, but where are the resources?

Chances are, your friends and family understand why voting in a local election is important, but they're going to need some hand holding.

If you're unsure what to say to motivate your friends, try sticking with a simple message about how their participation is important to you. Because if they're not regular voters, and don't yet see how their voter matters, they need to feel accountable to you.

Below are some sample scripts to get you started talking to your friends. Notice all of them include a question that should prompt a conversation. **Hot tip: don't text people you don't really want to talk to :)**

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### Assume they already know about the election.

"Hey there. Have you been able to find out much about the candidates running in these local elections? *Do you want to vote by mail with me?*"

### Use the gym-buddy method.

"Hey there - elections for school board/city council are coming up. Do you know where you need to go to vote? Let me know if you need help finding your polling place or a sample ballot. I'm going to head over to the [courthouse/election office/community center, etc.] on Saturday to vote early. *Let me know if you're around and maybe we can go together?*"

**(Next level) Add a bribe!**

"Hi [name]. Just texting to remind you of the election happening Tuesday, Nov. 2 for the Manhattan School Board. I'm actually planning to vote early. *Do you want to go with me on Saturday and then I'll buy you a cup of coffee/bloody mary?*"

**Use the Voter to Voter project as your excuse for reaching out.**

"Hi there! I'm really excited about local elections happening on November 2 this year! I'm volunteering with a cool voter turnout project where I'm getting in touch with people I know to see if they're going to vote. I think I'm going to vote by mail this year. You can just fill out an application online at [ksvotes.org](http://ksvotes.org). *Have you heard anything about these races?* I can send you what I know about these candidates."

"Hey there. I've volunteered to be part of a project called Voter to Voter, where we get in touch with a handful of people we know to help get out the vote for local elections this year. *Is it okay if I stay in touch with you through the election, and we'll figure this out together?!*" (We love this line for acknowledging that local elections are hard!)

**(Next level) Tell them your actual goal.**

"Hey. I signed up for this thing and agreed to get 10 of my friends to vote. *Will you be one of my ten? I promise I'll walk you through it!*"

**(Next level 2) Tell them it's a competition, which now makes them accountable to you *and* your team.**

"I'm volunteering with a voter turnout project, so your vote is not only important for the future of Kansas . . . it's also important because my team gets more points if you show up! *Will you help me by voting on November 2?!*"

**Share resources. Most people won't know about them.**

"Hey, there's a local election coming up and I'm volunteering with a voter turnout project so I wanted to reach out! If you go to [KSVotes.org](http://KSVotes.org) you can fill out a form online and they'll send your ballot in the mail. I know you've been busy lately, so I thought you might like this! *Can you get it done before the Sunday night deadline?* Once it comes, you can find out more info about your candidates at [ksballot.org](http://ksballot.org)."

"Hi \_\_\_\_\_. There are a bunch of important elections happening in Kansas this year for city positions and school board members, and I want to make sure all my friends are registered to vote. You can register to vote, or check your registration, at [ksvotes.org](http://ksvotes.org). It should just take a couple of minutes and can all be done online. You can also sign up to vote by mail at that site! If you end up requesting a ballot, they'll just mail it to you a couple of weeks before the election and you can mail it back in. *What do you think?"*

"Hi \_\_\_\_\_. There are city council elections in Wichita coming up on November 2 and I'm reaching out to my friends as a heads up! If you want to see what's on your ballot there's a new, online candidate guide called [ksballot.org](http://ksballot.org). You can see who's running, and see their websites or Facebook pages. Plus, you can find out where and when to vote, and get reminders. *Let me know what you think!"*

**Shorter, but still effective, versions.**

"Hi [name]. There are primary elections on Tuesday, Nov. 2 for the Olathe School Board. I just signed up to vote by mail at [KSVotes.org](http://KSVotes.org). *Do you want me to help you get signed up?"*

"Hey, there are like 10 million candidates running for Lawrence City Commission this year. *Do you want to vote by mail with me so we can look them all up online before we vote?* You can fill out a request form at [KSVotes.org](http://KSVotes.org)."

"Hey, I just found out about this cool website! If you go to [KSVotes.org](http://KSVotes.org) you can fill out a form online and they'll send your ballot for this upcoming election in the mail. I know you've been busy lately, so I thought you might like this! *Did you vote by mail last year?"*