



CA-45 - Jay Chen Information Library



Jay Chen is Lt. Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserves, a real estate small business owner, and President of the Board of Trustees for Mt. SAC. He is running for Congress in California's 45th Congressional district because he understands the challenges we face in the global economy and has dedicated himself to public service and education so that all of our children can have the opportunities that school and service in the Naval reserves provided him. As a child of immigrants from Taiwan, Jay attended Hacienda Heights public schools and earned a NAVY ROTC scholarship to Harvard University.

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QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding phone banking or phone bank links please contact

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Candidate Primer

Jay Chen is the Democrat running in CA-45

BACKGROUND

- Jay Chen is a freshman and is challenging incumbent Michelle Steel for the CA-45 Congressional seat. As the President of the Board of Trustees for Mt. San Antonio Community College and Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserves, Jay understands that there are many challenges that we face in the global economy. As a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, he understands that no matter if you are a Democrat or a Republican, you must work together to complete the mission.
- Jay has served honorably from the Korean peninsula to the Middle East. As part of Operation Inherent Resolve Lieutenant Commander Chen led an intelligence team and helped bring justice to the terror group ISIS. Meanwhile, he played a key role in the military's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Middle East.
- After earning a Navy ROTC Scholarship to attend Harvard University, Chen studied at Peking University on fellowship. He also joined a global strategy consulting firm, where he worked extensively with Fortune 500 businesses in the software and logistics industries to manage mergers, build new products, and streamline operations before starting his own local real estate business.
- As President of the School Board at Mt. SAC, he created innovative programs, including Mandarin immersion classes, a culinary arts program, and free SAT tutoring. He has also utilized his experience as a Harvard admissions interview to provide free college application workshops to students so they can improve their opportunities at higher education.
- Jay lives in Hacienda Heights with his wife and two children and celebrates protecting the environment and conserving public lands in his free time.

Jay Chen on the Issues

Jump to

[Taxes](#) | [Healthcare](#) | [Environment](#) | [Gun Reform](#) | [Education](#) | [LGBTQ Rights](#) | [Paid Family Leave](#) | [Veterans](#) | [Immigration](#) | [Housing](#) | [Seniors](#)

Taxes

Jay Chen will fight to overturn Trump's tax plan which raised taxes on middle-class families, slashed funding for Medicare and increased our nation's debt. He believes that what Americans need is tax reform that makes wealthy corporations pay their fair share and cuts taxes for the middle-class and small businesses.

Healthcare

Healthcare is a human right. That is why Jay will fight for a single-payer healthcare system and will stand up to the Trump efforts to gut protections for pre-existing conditions. No American should ever go bankrupt due to healthcare costs.

Environment

Our community values the environment and deserves a champion for our air, water, and beaches, not another vote for big oil. We must preserve this planet for our kids and the generations to come.

Common Sense Gun Reform

Jay will never accept a dime from the gun lobby and will work to pass common-sense laws to keep our schools and communities safe. Jay supports a ban on assault weapons, mandatory background checks on all gun sales, and a healthcare system that provides comprehensive mental health treatment.

Education

As President of the School Board, Jay believes that quality public education is the bedrock of the American dream. He supports investment in public education, expanding early childhood education, and making college more affordable so that every student who works hard can graduate from California's great public colleges and universities debt-free.

LGBTQ Rights

Equality under the law must apply to all of us, not just some of us. Jay will be at the forefront of the fight to end discrimination in schools and the workplace. No person should be turned away from healthcare, housing, or other services due to prejudice.

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Paid Family Leave

Jay understands the numerous challenges facing American households. As a father, he understands that being able to take time off to care for your loved ones should not be one of those challenges. He will fight for the over 40 million people who currently provide unpaid care every year and help get them the support they need.

Veterans

As a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy Reserves, Jay knows how much veterans sacrifice to serve this country. That is why in Congress, Jay will make sure to honor their service by ensuring they have access to great-paying jobs, access to housing, and top-notch healthcare.

Immigration

As a child of immigrants, Jay believes that we need comprehensive immigration reform that will provide a fair pathway to citizenship for those who are undocumented.

Housing

Jay is a strong advocate for using our tax code to encourage home ownership, and supports investments in programs that help first-time home buyers.

Seniors

Seniors are an important part of our community -- and everybody should have the ability to retire with dignity. Jay will always protect Social Security and fight to expand benefits. He will also do everything he can to lower prescription drug costs, including giving Medicare and Medicaid the ability to negotiate lower prices on behalf of our seniors.

Republican Michelle Steel on the Issues

For details on her stances, please view the talking points below.

Issue / Legislation	Stance
Supports gun violence prevention legislation?	AGAINST
Overturing 2020 Election Results	SUPPORT
Reproductive Rights/Abortion Access	AGAINST
Raising the federal minimum wage	OPPOSE
Takes money from the NRA?	YES
Protecting Voting Rights	OPPOSE
Affordable Healthcare	OPPOSE

Michelle Steel **is AGAINST** Reproductive Rights

- Steel co-signed the amicus brief asking the Supreme Court to [overturn Roe v Wade](#).
- Steel has not admitted if she supports abortion bans **with exceptions for rape**.
- Steel **received 100%** from the California Pro Life Council.
- Steel **received an A+** from Susan B Anthony Pro Life Scorecard.

Michelle Steel **is AGAINST** Gun Violence Prevention

- Steel received an **A by the NRA**
- Steel **voted against** Background Check Expansion Act.
- Steel **voted against** Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021.
- Steel **voted against** the Violence Against Women Act.
- Steel **voted against** the Protect Our Kids Act.

Michelle Steel **is AGAINST** the Affordable Care Act

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- Steel argued that the Affordable Care Act was “growing the ranks of the uninsured” in California, when in fact the ACA reduced the number of uninsured Californians by millions.
- Steel doubled-down on her opposition to the ACA saying the Orange County Board of Supervisors “did the right thing by blocking Obamacare implementation in the county for as long as they could.”

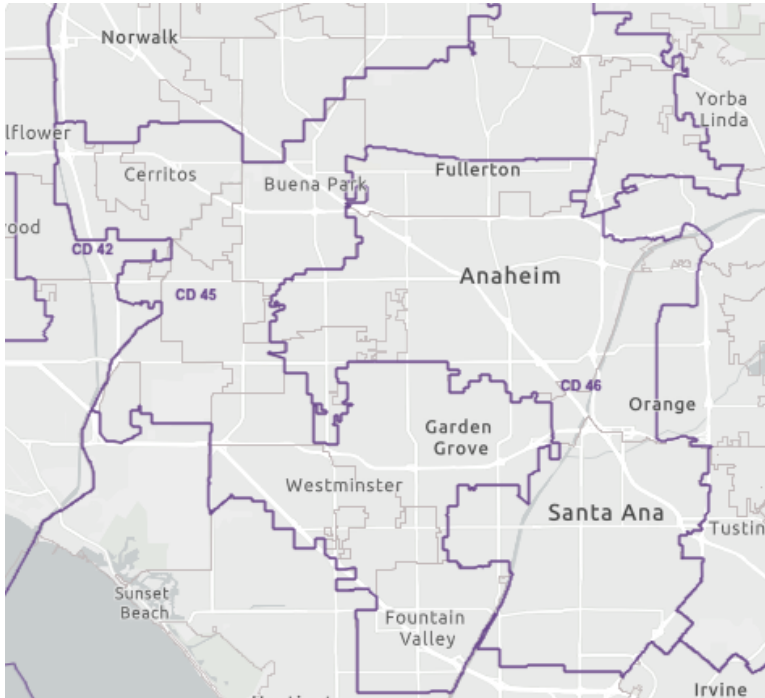
Michelle Steel is AGAINST LGBTQ+ Rights

- Steel cast the lone dissenting vote on the Orange County Board of Supervisors against funding for the Orange County Human Relations Commission.
- Steel’s campaign accepted significant contributions from the Ahmanson family and its donor organization, Fieldstead and Company, who have a history of donating to anti-LGBTQ causes, supporting Proposition 8 in 2008.
- Steel **voted against** the Equality Act.

Michelle Steel Votes Against Helping American Families

- Steel voted no on the Affordable Insulin Now Act.
- Steel voted no on the Relief for Restaurants and other Hard Hit Small Business Act of 2022.
- Steel voted no on the Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Act
- Steel voted no the Infant Formula Supplemental Appropriations Act

CA-45 District Primer



Key Areas within the District:

Garden Grove, Westminster, Fountain Valley, Cerritos, Cypress, Artesia, La Palma, Buena Park, Placentia, Fullerton, Brea, Cerritos, Cypress, and La Palma

District Demographics:

Asian CVAP 36.9%
Black CVAP 2.9%
Latino CVAP 23.0%
White CVAP 35.6%

PVI/Rating Post Redistricting

Cook Political Report: **D +3**

538 Rating: **R +4**

Rating: **Toss Up!**

Electoral History:

Electoral History:

2020 - **Steel 51.1%**, Rouda 48.9%

2018 - **Rouda 53.6%**, Rohrabacher 46.7%

Redistricting Impact

2020 Presidential Results: **Biden +6**

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Election Process FAQs

When is Election Day

November 8, 2022 - General Election

When are ballots being mailed out?

General election - October 10th

How can I find my polling place?

You can find your polling place information, including address and hours, by visiting www.vote.org.

When does early voting take place?

General Election: October 24- November 8

When is the deadline to register to vote in the elections?

November 8th General Election Deadline: **October 15, 2022**

Can I register to vote online?

Yes. You can register to vote online at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration>

Can I register to vote on Election Day?

YES! If you opt for same day voter registration, you will be given a provisional ballot to fill out.

However, we recommend that folks register to vote as soon as possible.

If you are registering or re-registering less than 15 days before an election you will need to complete the [Same-Day Voter Registration](#) process and request your ballot in person at your county elections office or polling location.

For more information on voter registration and voting locations, contact your [local county elections official](#).

How Can I Turn In My Vote-By-Mail Ballot?

1. **MAIL:** Must be postmarked by **Election Day**

Mail your ballot at any U.S. Postal Service mailbox or post office (if mailed on Election Day, make sure another collection is scheduled).

No stamp is needed. You must sign and date the outside of the ballot envelope. Do not mail your ballot after Election Day

2. **BALLOT DROP BOX:** Check the County Voter Information Guide mailed to you or visit “Early Voting Locations” at Vote.CA.gov. Voters can also visit the website of their County Registrar of Voters

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3. **VOTE CENTERS:** Vote centers are available in select counties only. Visit the “Early Voting Locations” at Vote.CA.gov.
4. **TRACK YOUR BALLOT:** Sign up for BallotTrax to see where your ballot is - and its status - every step of the way! Visit WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov

How can I check my voter registration status?

Check your voter registration status: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov>

Do I need to bring an ID to my polling place to vote?

In most cases, you do NOT need to show a photo ID to vote in California. Poll workers may ask to see ID if your voter registration application did not include either your driver’s license number, CA ID number, or the last 4 digits of your social security number.

Can I pre-register to vote?

Online pre-registration is available for eligible 16 and 17 year olds by visiting registertovote.ca.gov. California youth who pre-register to vote will have their registration become active once they turn 18 years old.

The new online pre-registration applies to California youth who are 16 or 17 and meet the following criteria:

- A United States citizen and a resident of California,
- Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court (for more information, please see [Voting Rights: Persons Subject to Conservatorship](#)).

Can I vote if I have past felony convictions?

Yes! But you must re-register after serving your sentence. People with past criminal convictions are eligible to vote as long as they are not currently serving a state or federal prison term.

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california/who-can-vote-california/voting-rights-californians>

Can I vote early or vote by mail?

Yes! Every voter will be mailed a ballot, and early vote centers will run from May 28 - June 7. All California active registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the June 7, 2022, Primary Election.

What if I requested or received a ballot-by-mail but I want to vote in-person?

You can still walk up to a vote center in-person and vote, or you can fill out your mail-in ballot and drop it off at a polling place yourself.

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Can someone else turn in my ballot for me?

Yes, but they must fill out the ballot envelope correctly. The ballot envelope will have a section where you can sign off your ballot to the designated person, and you both must fill it out correctly.

What if I lost or damaged my ballot?

If you failed to receive your vote-by-mail ballot or you have lost or destroyed your original ballot, contact your county elections official in order to be sent a second vote-by-mail ballot.

If you failed to receive your vote-by-mail ballot or you have lost or destroyed your original vote-by-mail ballot, and you are unable to vote in person at the polls, [you may apply in writing for a late vote-by-mail ballot](#). This application will need to be provided in person to the county elections official by you or your representative.

- Fill out the application:

<https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/vote-by-mail/pdf/late-vote-by-mail-application.pdf>

Once you mark your ballot, fill out and sign the return envelope, you can personally or through your authorized representative, submit your ballot either to your elections official or any polling place within your jurisdiction.

How do I check the status of my ballot-by-mail?

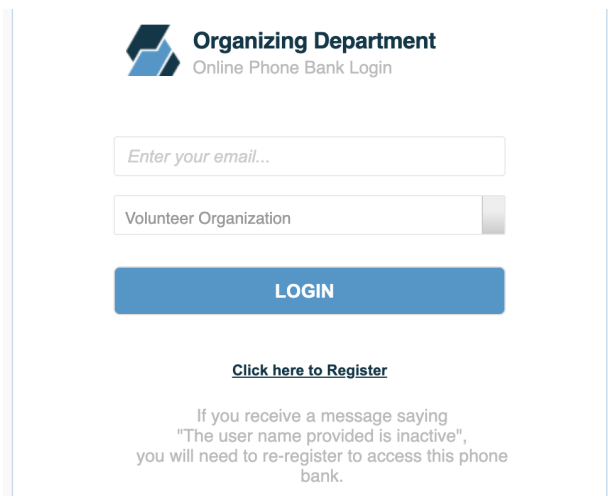
Voters can sign up for BallotTrax to receive notifications about where their ballot is. Sign up here:

<https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>

Virtual Phone Bank Tips

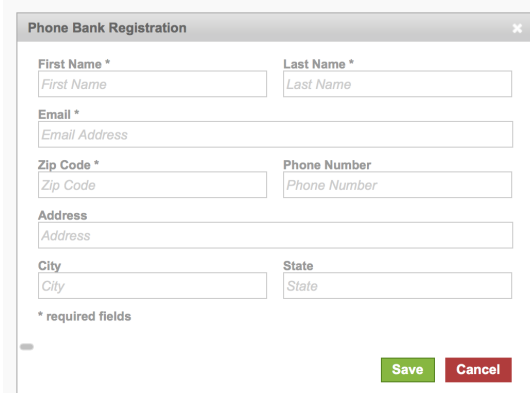
LOGGING INTO PDI

After opening the phone bank link, you'll be brought to the PDI log-in page.



The screenshot shows the login page for the Organizing Department's Online Phone Bank. At the top left is the logo, a stylized 'O' made of blue and grey shapes, followed by the text 'Organizing Department' and 'Online Phone Bank Login'. Below this is a text input field with the placeholder 'Enter your email...'. Underneath is a dropdown menu labeled 'Volunteer Organization'. A large blue button with the text 'LOGIN' is centered below the form. Below the button is a link that says 'Click here to Register'. At the bottom, there is a note: 'If you receive a message saying "The user name provided is inactive", you will need to re-register to access this phone bank.'

If this is your first time calling for this campaign, you must click **CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**. Enter your first and last name, email, and ZIP code and click **SAVE**.



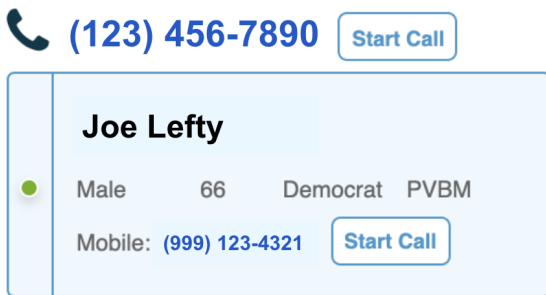
The screenshot shows a 'Phone Bank Registration' form window. It contains several input fields: 'First Name *' and 'Last Name *' (both with placeholder text), 'Email *' (with placeholder 'Email Address'), 'Zip Code *' (with placeholder 'Zip Code'), and 'Phone Number' (with placeholder 'Phone Number'). Below these are fields for 'Address', 'City', and 'State'. A legend at the bottom left indicates '* required fields'. At the bottom right are two buttons: a green 'Save' button and a red 'Cancel' button.

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Now you're ready to log in. Enter the email address you just registered with. If there is a password field, enter the phone bank password listed in that campaign's information library under the phone bank link. If there is a dropdown menu for *Volunteer Organization*, select Grassroots Democrats HQ. Finally, click LOG IN!

MAKING CALLS WITH PDI

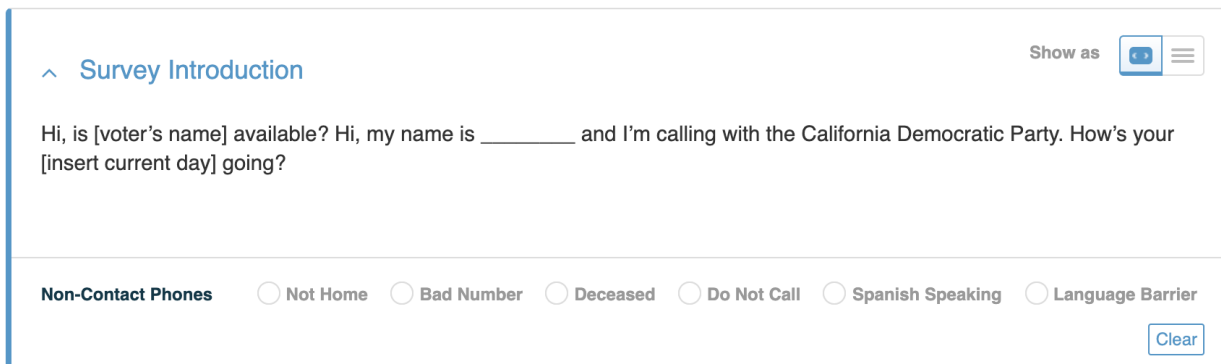
Once you're logged in, you'll find the voter's phone number in the upper left-hand corner, along with their gender, age, and party registration.



A screenshot of a voter profile card. At the top left, there is a phone icon followed by the number **(123) 456-7890** and a blue button labeled "Start Call". Below this is a light blue rounded rectangle containing the voter's name **Joe Lefty**. To the left of the name is a green status dot. Below the name, the text reads "Male 66 Democrat PVBM". At the bottom of the card, it says "Mobile: (999) 123-4321" followed by another blue "Start Call" button.

To start calling the voter, click on the button that says "Start Call" next to the voter's name, and you'll be able to speak with them through your laptop/tablet. If your computer does not have a microphone or speaker, you can also dial the number on your cell phone or landline.

To the right, you'll find the opening message of the script. If you are unable to speak with the voter, select the reason why here.



A screenshot of a script introduction form. At the top left, there is a blue arrow icon and the text "Survey Introduction". At the top right, it says "Show as" followed by a blue icon and a menu icon. The main text of the script reads: "Hi, is [voter's name] available? Hi, my name is _____ and I'm calling with the California Democratic Party. How's your [insert current day] going?". Below the script text is a section titled "Non-Contact Phones" with several radio button options: "Not Home", "Bad Number", "Deceased", "Do Not Call", "Spanish Speaking", and "Language Barrier". A blue "Clear" button is located at the bottom right of this section.

If you are able to connect with the voter, keep scrolling for the rest of the script.

Great! We are calling today to talk to folks about the September 14th recall election. Trump Republicans across the country are trying a power grab in California by attempting to recall Governor Gavin Newsom. They want to stop Governor Newsom from fighting climate change and rebuilding after the pandemic. I'm 100% behind the Governor and will be voting NO on the recall.

[Q1] How will you vote in the Recall on September 14th?

[If Voting NO] Great! Thank you for your support. Every vote will make a difference! Public records show you're a consistent and reliable voter. In this election, you will be receiving a ballot in the mail beginning on August 16th, 2021. Ballots must be returned by September 14th, 2021. Have you received your ballot yet? **[Go to question 2]**

[If Voting Yes] Okay, thanks. Have a great day! *[End conversation]*

[If Undecided] We've seen Trump Republicans across the country deny election results, change laws in Arizona and Texas to stop Democrats from voting and steal elections because they know they can't win on substance. Now they're trying a power grab here in California by making taxpayers fund a \$276 million recall election because they think it's the only way they can win. The eyes of the nation will be on California. **Can we count on you to vote No to Stop the Republican Recall?**

[If Voting NO] Great! Thank you for your support. Every vote will make a difference! Public records show you're a consistent and reliable voter. In this election, you will be receiving a ballot in the mail beginning on August 16th, 2021. Ballots must be returned by September 14th, 2021. Have you received your ballot yet? **[Go to question 2]**

[If Voting YES] Okay, thanks. Have a great day! *[End conversation]*

[If Undecided] Acknowledge their concern, state a value that you share, provide an example of one of the reasons you are voting No & how it relates to their concern.

Reference talking points as needed.

How will you vote in the Republican recall of Governor Newsom?

No – Voting NO (Good) Opposes Recall Yes – Voting Yes (Bad) Supports Recall Undecided Refused to State

Next 

Clear

Mark the voter's response to each question you ask them, and then click the NEXT arrow to move to the next portion of the script.

Save Data / Next Call

[Schedule Volunteer](#)

[Add Information](#)

Once you have finished with the call and record the results, click SAVE DATA / NEXT CALL to move on to the next voter.

Do I leave a message?

- Do not leave a message unless the specific campaign you are working on provides you with instructions to do so. When you indicate "Not Home" the call will be saved and given to another caller in the future. If you are unsure, ask!

Should I be concerned my list includes households that are Republicans or Undecided? Does the Campaign know about this? Am I hurting the process by calling them?

- There are no perfect lists.

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- Campaigns are always “scrubbing” lists – which means cleaning it up. We may receive a list that is more or less scrubbed and we are helping to clean it up for the future. When we mark that someone is “strongly for the opponent” or “refused” the Campaign removes that name from future phone banks.
- The campaigns know exactly what list we are getting and it is our job as volunteers to trust that they are picking the appropriate “universe” of households to call and matching that to the script they have given us.

Should I call the Campaign and let them know there is a better list out there or that they should change their script?

- Campaigns have a campaign strategy and we are here to support that strategy.

Where did you get this number? Why are you contacting me?

Explain that that number is from the public voter file.

- You are trying to answer any questions they might have about the election.
- This is not telemarketing. Volunteers are individually contacting voters to see if they have any questions about the election. If the voter would prefer to be opted off our list, you would be happy to do so.

Is phone banking really valuable?

- YES!
- When someone is reminded to go vote they are more likely to do so. Some scripts will tell you to ask if the voter knows where to vote and ask them how they are getting there. Research shows if you confirm a voter’s plan and time of going to the polls they are more likely to go as well.
- The best way to get a voter out to the polls is canvassing and door knocking so whenever a volunteer can participate in canvassing that is of course the most valuable. By making calls, you are freeing up local volunteers to canvass instead.

I hate how few people I reach, why doesn’t a particular campaign use an auto dialer system so my time as a volunteer is better utilized reaching more people.

- If you reach 10% or more of your calls when you self dial, that is a typical and excellent contact rate. (I would just say “A 10% hit rate on a phone bank is excellent” It packs more of a punch.)
- Auto-dialer systems are very expensive and some campaigns cannot afford that expense.
- Each campaign has to decide if they want an auto-dialer format or not, and we cannot decide that for them as a volunteer organization. It is a great strategy for some campaigns who can afford it and not for others.
- By law, auto-dialers cannot call cell phones.

What to do I say when someone complains they have already been called several times?

- As we get later into the election cycle people may say they have been called many times. This is in part because there are many different groups calling and, by law, many are not allowed to coordinate with each other. Simply apologize, let the voter know this is an important election and many groups are doing their best to keep the community informed. Assure the voter the results of this call will make it back to the campaign to help win the election and the organization you are calling from is working with the campaign. (One reason the Grassroots Democrats HQ works so closely with campaigns is to minimize this kind of multiple calling.)

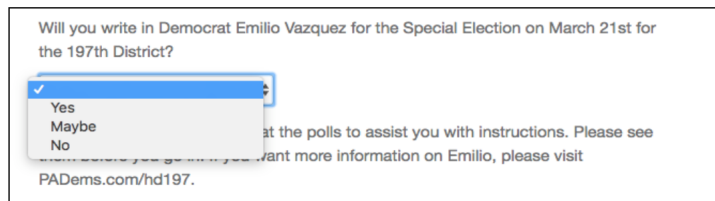
What to do I say if someone asks if I am calling from out of district or out of state?

- Be honest - never lie.
- Although you don't introduce yourself as being from out of the district be prepared with an honest answer as to why you are volunteering. Find an issue or something about the election or candidate that compels you to be involved. Make your reasons campaign specific not just because you dislike Trump or you want to flip the House, although that is part of why we do our work voters are interested in their own community, be sure you show you care and understand where they are coming from.

What is on the script and how do I fill out the form?

What is on the script?

- The simple one-page screen includes all the information you need to make a phone call including: name, phone number, age, sex and party registration.
- Additional info (such as polling location) can usually be found on the left side of the screen but not all campaign scripts provide this. Review the screen carefully before you make your first call so you know what is there and how to access it.
- You will also see the script and the fields with drop down menus wherein you will input the answers to the questions.



Will you write in Democrat Emilio Vazquez for the Special Election on March 21st for the 197th District?

Yes
Maybe
No

at the polls to assist you with instructions. Please see
want more information on Emilio, please visit
PADems.com/hd197.

- When you're finished talking and entering the data, click "save/next household" at the bottom of the page. This will enter the data and bring you to your next call.

What do I do if no one is home?

- Mark the calls as "Not Home," and move on to the next call.

What do I do when the person who answers the phone hangs up on me?

- Mark the call as "Not Home" and move on to the next call. Some people are busy, not having a good day, etc. and we will try to reach them again.

What do I do when the person who answers yells at me and tells me to never call them back again, or take them off the list?

- Mark as "Do Not Contact" and move on to the next call.

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- Do not take it personally. This is important information for the campaign so they remove the household from future lists.

What do I do when the person who answers the phone tells me that the voter has moved and wants to give me the voter's new phone number?

- Mark "Moved" and move on to the next call.

What do I do when the number is a wrong number?

- Mark as "No," you did not speak to them, "Wrong Number" as why. Sometimes it might be a good opportunity to speak with someone who may be a good voter that is not on our list and you can let them know about the campaign. Otherwise you can move on to the next call.

What do I do when the number is "disconnected," "no longer in service," "a non-working number," or has a dial up noise or fax machine noise?

- Mark as "Disconnected" as why and move on to the next call.

Tips

- "Smile while you dial" is a real thing. Research has shown that if you are passionate and smile when talking to voters on the phone they will be more likely to respond to you.
- Be courteous
- Don't take anything personally
- Don't spend too much time on any one call. (On election weekend)
- If you are getting dispirited, think about the aggregate impact. If you call fifty voters and reach 5, and ten other volunteers do the same, that's fifty voters!
- Remember that what you are doing is helpful and important - it really is!

STILL NEEDS TO BE UPDATED

Register to vote at [vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov)

Election Day

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You must sign and date the outside of the ballot envelope. In Los Angeles County, it asks voters to write in their permanent address on the outside of the ballot envelope. Your ballot will be counted whether you write in your address or not.