

Canvassing Testimonial

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Here's the thing about canvassing -- it can be a bit discouraging, especially in the beginning. Most people don't open their doors, even some who you can tell are home. Some people open the door but immediately shut it once they hear you're there about election stuff.

But...every time I canvass, I have a number of interactions where I make a real human connection, and those make the long day worth it.

Some people are initially not open to hearing about voting or the election, but I ask them to give me two minutes. As I talk, I can sense a shift in some people -- either in their faces or their body language -- I can tell they're becoming interested in what I'm saying. When that happens, I can open a dialog with them and engage them on the issues that are important to them. Everyone wants to be listened to. We can discuss the issues that are of concern to them in the community and the country, and I can steer the conversation to broader topics (national politics) as well as specific candidates and issues depending on what they say.

Some of these conversations are brief; others go on for a while. Sometimes the folks who are initially the most reluctant to engage wind up being the most committed to voting with us and talking to their friends and family about voting. Sometimes we can register folks to vote right on the spot, as my partner and I did on Saturday.

These interactions make a long day of canvassing well worth it. And since I've been working with Xiomara and the Spanish language group, I'm getting better at holding these conversations in Spanish, which is very rewarding. So get out there and give canvassing a try!