

## Canvassing Guidelines

Is going Door-to-Door to talk to voters legal?

**YES: The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly reaffirmed the right of individual to go door-to-door for political activity.**

- Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York v. Village of Stratton (2002), 536 US 150
- Martin v. City of Struthers (1943), 319 U.S. 141
- Thomas v. Collins (1945), 323 U.S. 516, 540-41
- Hynes v. Mayor and Council of Oradell (1977), 425 U.S. 610
- Murdock v Pennsylvania (1943), 319 U.S. 105
- Jamison v Texas (1943), 318 U.S. 413
- Cantwell v Connecticut (1940), 310 U.S. 296
- Schneider v State (Town of Irvington) (1939), 308 U.S. 147
- Lovell v. City of Griffin (1938), 303 U.S. 444

As a canvasser you have the right:

- To be on public property
- To knock on doors, even ones with "No Soliciting" signs (the essence of the Watchtower Case was that knocking on doors to talk with neighbors is NOT solicitation because nothing is being sold).
- To talk to voters: to encourage voters to learn more about our candidates and issues
- To give/offer literature about candidates
- To register voters
- To update voter information
- If you live in a private gated community, housing complex, or apartment building, you usually have the right to knock on doors in your own community consult your community bylaws.

Your responsibility as a canvasser:

- To walk on public walkways, not through private lawns
- To leave literature on doors: NEVER in mailboxes
- To get permission before canvassing on private property
- To be patient, courteous and friendly at all times
- To respect "No Trespassing" signs (it is the law)
- To conduct the canvass in accordance with all applicable law
- To NOT remove other candidate literature or signs from voter property/doors