

DOOR KNOCKING BEST PRACTICES

After Knocking on the door, take a few steps back

- *Ensure that you are wearing presentable & neutral attire, keep your hands visible at all times, and remain a comfortable distance from the door.*

If they have a Ring (camera) Doorbell, use it

- *Now's your chance for a 15-second commercial! Introduce yourself, tell them why you're there, and keep it short. Think of it like leaving a voicemail, except they can see you and can reply in real time.*

If leaving literature or materials, remember not to put them in the mailbox

- *When canvassing, remember that only USPS can use mailboxes. It's illegal to put flyers or ads inside or attach them outside. Instead, try door hangers to stay within the law.*

Don't be afraid to share your story

- *When talking with the people in your neighborhood, don't be afraid to express why you're involved in the Ogle County GOP. Connecting with your neighbors and getting to know them will have a lasting impact. We don't want them to feel like we're just trying to get information out of them.*

If someone says they aren't interested, don't take it personally

- *Remember that their lack of engagement is likely directed at a political issue, not you personally. Stay professional and avoid taking their comments to heart. Be sure to note any of these encounters in the Field Edge app, so we can be sure to avoid contacting them in the future.*

Don't be nervous and have fun!

- *Knocking on somebody's door can be scary at first. But remember that these people are your NEIGHBORS and the concept of knocking on your neighbor's door for a political cause has been around for over a century and is a necessary component of being a responsible, civically engaged member of our Republic.*

PETITION CIRCULATION BEST PRACTICES

Keep handwriting neat and complete

- *Encourage signers to write clearly, using their full legal name and full street address. Illegible names and incomplete addresses are a top reason signatures are thrown out.*

Sign your affidavit only in front of a notary

- *The circulator's affidavit must be signed in front of a notary, not in advance. Each petition sheet must be properly notarized, and missing or incomplete affidavits can invalidate the entire sheet.*

Avoid common petition mistakes

- *Do not accept nicknames, initials without full names, or addresses that don't match voter registration, because these small errors can get entire lines thrown out. Double-check each signer's information to protect your petitions from challenges. If you're unsure, contact your Account Manager to help double check.*

Choose your timing wisely

- *Evening and weekend hours usually get better results when people are home, and mornings tend to be more effective in commuter areas. Picking the right time can make the difference between an empty street and a page full of signatures.*

Be respectful at every door

- *Some people will decline to sign, and that's just part of the process. A polite and professional response shows respect and reflects well on the party.*

Treat every signature like it matters

- *Every valid signature you collect brings yourself and the candidates you're supporting one step closer to the ballot, and every mistake can take that opportunity away. By staying focused and careful, you make sure your work in the precinct truly counts when it matters most.*

PETITION CIRCULATION TALKING POINTS

Introduce yourself, who you are, and where you live

- *Ex: Hi (THEIR FIRST NAME), my name is (YOUR FULL NAME) and I am your neighbor - I live over on (YOUR STREET) and I am your Republican Precinct Committeeman here in (PRECINCT).*

Tell them why you're there - have a nice conversation.

- *Ex: I am running for re-election as your Precinct Committeeman and I need signatures from voters in our precinct to make sure my name is on the ballot. I am also helping other local Republican candidates get on the ballot, and your signature helps support all of us.*
- *Ex: (If they are willing to sign): Great, thank you so much. Please write your full legal name and your complete street address the way it appears on your voter registration so that your signature counts.*
- *Ex: (If they seem hesitant): Just so you know, signing a petition does not mean you are casting a vote, it only means you want to make sure voters in our community have a choice at the ballot box. Every valid signature is important, and it would really mean a lot to me if you signed.*

Assist them with the petition

- *Ex: If you have any questions while filling it out, I can walk you through it. I just want to make sure everything is clear so all of the signatures we collect are valid.*

**Keep a notepad handy if they offer an updated phone number or email address. You can record it and enter it into the FieldEdge app later. If you are unsure how, reach out to Lindsey and she can show you.*

Note: Always keep your petitions neat and secure while circulating. Sheets that are bent, smudged, or messy can cause problems later, and a well-organized petition packet makes filing smooth and professional.

Thank them for their time and remind them that you are a great resource

- *Ex: Thank you so much for your time today and for helping me get on the ballot. Many great Republican candidates are counting on your support in the Primary Election on March 17th, 2026. Please feel free to reach out to me if you ever have questions about elections or our local Republican Party.*