



# VOTER REGISTRATION RAP AND TIPS

INTRO

**Hey, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ . I'm volunteering with Vote For Homes, a nonpartisan coalition concerned about affordable housing, jobs, and human services in our city. I'm here updating voter registrations.**

**Are you registered to vote at your current address?**

Yep! Great!

Nope.

BODY

*We also want to make sure that everyone who is registered, votes. Will you make a pledge to vote in the next election?*

*No worries. I can take care of that for you. What's your last name?*

Yep!

Nope.

Ok.

Excuse.

*Ok, have a good day.*

*Use your common responses.*

*Fill out the form!*

**Thanks! Just a reminder that if you're voting for the first time at your current polling place, you will be asked to provide an ID. You can choose to provide photo ID OR non-photo ID. If you are not a first time voter at your polling place, you do not need ID to vote.**

*Also we're looking for volunteers who might be willing to help get out the vote. Can I sign you up as a volunteer?*

*If you haven't already*

FOLLOW UP

**Please return all forms and pledge cards to 1515 Fairmount Ave.  
Call 215-232-7272, ext. 3042 or ext. 3061 if you have questions or problems.**

Updated: 3/1/18



# VOTER REGISTRATION RAP AND TIPS

## Voter Registration Common Responses

**Excuse: “I’m in a hurry.”**

**Response:** “No problem. We’ll get this done in 20 seconds. What’s your last name?”

**Excuse: “I don’t want Jury Duty.”**

**Response:** “Actually, juries are not only selected by voter rolls anymore. They use drivers’ license, tax forms, and many other sources. What’s your last name?”

**Excuse: “My vote doesn’t count.”**

**Response:** “I hear you. A lot of times it’s difficult to see how one vote makes a difference. That’s why we’re part of a campaign to get 5,000 folks to the polls. You and I both know that 5,000 votes count. So, what’s your last name?”

**Excuse: “Politicians are all liars. They don’t care about us.”**

**Response:** “I know what you mean. Many politicians seem to care more about the wealthy than they do about you and me. That’s why I’m out here registering voters, so that we make them listen to regular folks like us. What’s your last name?”

**Excuse: “I don’t do politics.”**

**Response:** “You know there are a lot of us who are frustrated with politics. That’s why we’re talking about the issues affecting our daily lives: things like access to affordable health care, decent living wages, quality education. Forget about the politics; I know we both want to have our voices heard on these issues. So, what’s your last name?”

**Excuse: “I’m cool.”**

**Response:** “I know: that’s why you’re registering to vote. What’s your last name?”

**Excuse: “I’m not a resident.”**

**Response:** “Do you live here now? You actually only have to have lived in Pennsylvania for 30 days prior to the election.”

**Excuse: “I’m not from Philadelphia.” or “I’m from out of town.” or “I’m not from here.”**

**Response:** “Do you live in Pennsylvania? This form is Pennsylvania State-wide.”

**Excuse: “I never have voted, never will.”**

**Response:** “You know, I never used to register voters before, but this year is the year to start. It’s never too late to get your voice heard on the issues that concern you the most. So, how do you spell your last name, then?”

**Excuse: “I’ll take care of it later.”**

**Response:** “Here, I’ll just get you done real quick. It’ll take 20 seconds and I’ll save you the postage. What’s your last name?”

**Excuse: “I don’t want to give you my information.”**

**Response:** Your information will not be shared or sold for any purposes. Plus the election is completely confidential and your voting information is protected by law.

**Excuse: “I don’t have time.”**

**Response:** I know you are really busy. Filling out this form only takes a couple of minutes and I can make sure it gets turned in for you. You can save time by registering with me today.

**Excuse: “I can’t register to vote.”**

**Response:** May I ask why not? I am trained on eligibility for voting and may be able to help you.

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## VOTER REGISTRATION RAP AND TIPS

### The Five Basic Skills of Voter Registration

- **Eye Contact.** Good eye contact is important for engaging people and establishing credibility.
- **Assuming Support.** Use confident language that assumes the person you're talking with is going to register with you.
- **K.I.S.S.** Resist the urge to over-justify! You're not talking them into it, you're talking them *out* of it.
- **Body Language.** Don't hide behind your clipboard or a table. Enthusiastically approach each person individually, don't wait for people to approach you.
- **Accuracy.** Follow County Election Officials' rules. Check for legibility & completeness.  
Check all boxes on the application for errors or omissions before they leave your presence
  - The application **MUST** include the PA State ID or Driver's License # or last 4 digits of Social Security # (if State ID# is not available)
  - Date of birth, address, and signature (refer to highlighted registration form)

### After an Event:.

- **Fill out a cover sheet**
- **Turn packet with all forms into Vote For Homes Office at 1515 Fairmount Avenue in a timely manner.**

### You cannot be prevented from voting for the following reasons:

- You are homeless – just provide an address of a shelter program where you can receive non-forwardable first class mail
- You are physically/mentally disabled – you can bring someone into the booth to help you vote or you can vote by alternative ballot
- You have a criminal justice system record – convicted felons released from prison, people on probation, and those awaiting trial or serving time for misdemeanors can now vote.

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### Who's eligible?

- Any person who is at least 18 years of age 30 days before election.
- Any person who is a citizen of the United States and a resident of Pennsylvania for 30 days before the next election
- Pretrial detainees and misdemeanants are eligible to apply to register to vote and /or to vote by absentee ballot if they otherwise qualify to vote under law.

Tell them that they can expect their voter registration card in 4-6 weeks and they should hang on to it. Remind them that first-time voters at a polling place must bring ID to the polls, or they will have to cast a provisional ballot!

### Party Affiliation

A person can choose to be a member of any political party listed on the form, check the "No Affiliation" box, or write in a party that is not listed. If a voter does not register in a political party, then the voter will not be able to vote in the primary election to help the party choose who will run in the general election.

### Keep Our Campaign Non-Partisan\*

This is a non-partisan voter registration effort. We are not allowed to support or oppose a political party, candidate or ballot question. However, we are allowed to talk to people about the issues that impact all of our lives. You are not allowed to wear partisan information when volunteering for the Vote For Homes Coalition.

**You can say:** "The upcoming election will affect housing, jobs, and human services. Register to vote and have an impact on decisions that impact your life."

**You cannot say:** "\_\_\_\_\_ (candidate or party) stands for affordable housing. Register to vote here."

**\*Not adhering to these guidelines will place the tax status of many of our 501(c3) organizations in jeopardy. Please be responsible when registering voters.**

#### **Additional Questions or Problems?**

Contact Jennine Miller, 215-232-7272, ext.3042

[jenninemiller@projecthome.org](mailto:jenninemiller@projecthome.org)

Heather Barger, 215-232-7272, ext. 3061

[heatherbarger@projecthome.org](mailto:heatherbarger@projecthome.org)

**Thank you for you for all your hard work to mobilize the vote in our community!!**

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