

**Canvassing for California's Special Election:
Suggested Script for Proposition 50
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Volunteer starts the conversation

“Hi, my name is [YOUR NAME], and I’m a volunteer with [ORGANIZATION NAME]. I’m talking with people in the neighborhood today about this fall’s special election. I’m curious – what, if anything, have you heard about Proposition 50, the ballot measure to push back against Trump’s power grab and redraw our Congressional districts? (*listen to response*)

- *If Voter is already strongly in favor of Prop 50, jump to “Wrapping Up” on p. 2.*
- *If Voter is hesitant to talk with you, here are some ways you could respond:*

Voter says...	Volunteer responds...
“I’m really busy right now.”	“I’ll make this quick! I just want to make sure you have the information you need about the upcoming election.”
“I hate talking about politics!”	(<i>say with empathy and feeling</i>): “I <i>hear</i> you! I’m really shy and I’m scared to talk with strangers, but this election is so important that I decided to volunteer to help out.”
“We just voted last year – why are you bothering me again?”	“I’m so sorry to bother you – but this special election was just announced, and I’m trying to make sure everyone in the neighborhood knows what it’s about.”

If Voter is willing to talk

“Right now, Trump is acting like a king rather than a president. But he’s worried he might lose power next year if Democrats regain control of the House of Representatives in Washington, DC. If the Democrats had more power, they’d act like the emergency brake on an out-of-control car.

“He’s too scared to let the people decide, so he told the Texas governor to change the rules to make it easier for Republicans to get elected in Texas next year. That way Republicans can keep control of the House of Representatives, and Trump can keep doing whatever he wants.

“But California wants to fight back. Our governor and state legislators are asking voters for permission to update our Congressional maps for the next five years. That would make it easier to elect Democrats to the House and balance out what Texas is doing. This is our best chance to take power away from Trump and rein him in. What are your thoughts about that?”

- *Listen and respond. Answer any questions they may have.*
- *If they express doubts about Prop 50, here are some ways you could respond:*

Voter says...	Volunteer responds...
“I don’t like gerrymandering, no matter who does it. Two wrongs don’t make a right.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “I <i>hear</i> you! I wasn’t that excited about Prop 50 at first. But after talking with people I respect, I realized that this legislation is like self-defense for democracy.”• “It only takes effect if another state like Texas goes forward with gerrymandering. And this is a temporary change, until after the 2030 census.”• “Texas’s governor and state legislature made these changes themselves, whereas California is asking the voters for permission to move forward.”

Voter says...	Volunteer responds...
“But the people of California already decided this in 2008 and 2010 when they voted in favor of our independent redistricting commission.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “You’re right – we did vote on that before. I think voters have the right to change their mind if things change.” • “2008 and 2010 were a really different time in politics, way before Trump. He’s got all the Republicans wrapped around his finger. He started this when he called up the governor of Texas and basically told him to find him 5 more Congressional seats next year.” • “Taking back the House of Representatives is our best chance to put the emergency brakes on an out-of-control car. What do you think about that?”
“So you’re saying we have to destroy democracy to save it?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I understand your concerns. Personally, I think Trump is already destroying democracy with his total disregard for the law. Unfortunately, Republicans aren’t standing up to him. So California is doing its best to push back.” • “If we’d had a Democratic House majority, we could have rejected that spending bill that cuts health insurance from millions of families to give tax cuts to billionaires. If we retake the House, we could stop future bills like that. What do you think about that?”

- *Listen to their thoughts, validate their concerns with empathy, and offer your thoughts.*
- *If they’re still doubtful, ask: “If you could change 2-3 things about the country, what would they be?” Then listen carefully to their priorities and ask them to tell you more.*
- *Connect their priorities with how Proposition 50 gets us a step closer to their vision.*

Assess level of support

- “On a scale of 0-10, how likely are you to vote yes on Proposition 50, with 0 being ‘very unlikely’ and 10 being ‘very likely’?” (For example, if they say, “I’m a 2,” you can say):
- “I’m curious why that isn’t a [0 or a 1].” (Listen and respond.)
- “What might boost your [2] to [a 3 or 4]?” (Listen and respond.)

Wrapping up

- (If they support Prop. 50): “Thank you so much for your support! Would you be able to tell three people about the upcoming election and encourage them to vote for Prop. 50?”
- (If they’re undecided): “Could I give you a little more information about the Prop. 50?”
- (If they don’t support Prop. 50): “What, if anything, might make you reconsider?”

No matter what their level of support, thank them for their time and wish them a good day.

For more information and training videos,
visit www.elizabethchur.com



Find out about upcoming events:
talkwithvoters.substack.com

