

IMD Action Guide: *Conversations about Voting*



Why you might want to start a conversation about voting:

Free and fair elections are under threat, not just for one group of Americans but for ALL Americans. The elections, this year and in 2028, are our chance to take ownership of our future.

We face decisions that matter for ourselves, our families, and our communities: decisions about money in politics, about the use of AI and other technologies, about global issues and kitchen table issues.

Most of all, we have the opportunity to elect representatives who will honor and protect our rights. We deserve government that is truly by, for, and of the people – not special interests.

People are starting to pay attention. This means we have a tremendous opportunity to encourage our family, friends, neighbors, and in fact anyone with whom we're in contact to participate in the upcoming election.

This can be simple and low stress. Just ask them in a friendly way if they're registered to vote.

If yes: encourage them to double check their registration, especially if they've moved, had a name change, or live in a state where voting rolls are under threat.

If no: explain to them how they can register. Even better, share a link to the voter registration site with them.

Ask how they plan to vote (mail-in/drop box, early voting, election day) and how they plan to get to the polls or cast their absentee ballot. If you can, help them visualize the concrete details: that's what sticks with people!

Sometimes just a simple question is enough to remind or motivate people.

If you have more time, and they are interested, share with them why you are voting and why this upcoming election is so important.

You can use these opportunities to connect with and learn from people in your community. Listen to their thoughts and concerns. Find common ground that you can use to encourage them to register and vote.

This gets easier with each conversation! A low key, low pressure approach helps everyone have a real neighbor-to-neighbor dialogue. These exchanges can happen anywhere: the grocery store, your local coffee shop, even at work.

Resources

Some of these ideas and phrases from actual voters might help get you started, or motivate someone you know.

- Because every vote matters, and sometimes elections are determined by just a few votes.
- Because I want to elect people whose values align with mine on critical issues like gun control, minimum wage, healthcare, reproductive rights, the tax code, war, and more.
- Voting gives me a voice. It gives me power over my future. It shows I believe in myself and my choices.
- Because I want people like me to have representation that reflects our circumstances.
- Because my ancestors fought for this right; I vote to show them respect, and to pass the right to vote on to my children.
- I vote to show that people matter more than money.
- Voting can't fix everything, but without voting we can't fix anything.
- The only way we pass better laws is by electing people who will fight to bring about the changes we want to see.
- Voting is literally the least I can do.
- Every election could be our last.
- In a razor-thin election, a few people in a few precincts can determine the outcome.

Here are some additional resources:

From the folks at Right Question Institute, here are some “Why Vote” tools:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-la1zY5gndQ>

<https://rightquestion.org/resources/why-vote>

Thank you for anything you can do to help encourage voting!