

Canvassing/Phone Banking “How-To” Guide for Nader/Gonzalez 2008

- My name is _____ and I'm calling/here on behalf of presidential candidates Ralph Nader and Matt Gonzalez.
- [*On the phone:* Hi, we're calling all registered independents in such and such a county]
- [*In person:* Are you registered to vote?]
- Did you know that independent Presidential candidate Ralph Nader will be on the ballot in your state for the November Election? (write-in states need to adjust language)
- Bush, McCain and Obama were all united on the trillion dollar bailout passed by Congress, how do you feel about it?

Voter Response 1: But they had to do that, or Main Street and our economy would have been hurt too.

Canvasser: Yeah, but have you noticed that since the bailout, they were forced to change their plan to inject money into banks directly? Even that has not worked to get credit flowing again for Main St. because they enforced no lending requirements on the banks. Did you see that AIG executives spent over half a million taxpayer dollars on a spa vacation right after getting bailed out! That's not helping Main Street! And now they are asking for more of your money for more bailouts. Why should they be rewarded for running their business and our economy into the ground? Vote for Ralph Nader the only guy you know you can trust to put the interests of Main Street ahead of Wall Street.

Voter Response 2: Yeah, I'm mad as hell.

Canvasser: Yeah, I am mad too. That's why I'm calling. This time, they went too far. And did you know that now they are asking for more of your taxpayer dollars. If you're mad, we're asking you to make your vote count and make a statement, be independent this November 4. Vote for Ralph Nader the only guy you know you can trust to put the interests of Main Street ahead of Wall Street.

Swing State Messaging

This is going to be a close election in this state. So your vote really counts. Two questions you have to ask yourself:

1. Is my vote going to send a message on the issues I care about now and beyond Nov. 4?
2. Will my vote make both political parties respect me, instead of taking my vote for granted?

See below a list of issues that voters support when they vote Nader/Gonzalez.

Slam Dunk State Messaging

The truth is in this is a slamdunk state and _____ is going to win by ___ percent. That's why you won't even see Obama or McCain campaign here. Ralph Nader on the other hand campaigns to all 50 states. He doesn't disrespect any of the voters or the issues that the majority of Americans agree with.

3. What issues are important to you? Are either Obama or McCain's positions good enough for you?
4. Show Obama and McCain that they have to earn your vote by taking a stand on the issues you care about.
5. If they aren't taking a stand on the issues you care about, then vote for the candidate who is taking a stand on your issues, Ralph Nader.
6. That is how a democracy works. If you want to see a change in the system, you have to take a stand, just like the abolitionists, the women suffragists, and even the frustrated conservatives who voted for Ross Perot in 1992. Just after Perot ran, Newt Gingrich presented his Contract for America, a rip off of Perot's platform. That is the ultimate contribution of voting for what you really believe. Eventually if enough people take a stand, then the only way a candidate *can* win is if he stands with you.

A vote for Nader/Gonzalez is a vote for:

- Taxpayer Support, not Wall Street Bailouts
- Health Care for ALL AMERICANS
- A Living Wage of \$10/hour
- Funding our Schools and Social Services not Wars
- Clean Renewable Energy, not Nuclear

Close

Thank you so much for your interest!

Could I add you to our voter network? What is your email Address?
Would you like a bumper sticker or lawn sign?

List of Voter Responses

Voter Response: Ralph Nader can't win?

Canvasser: It will be tough for Ralph to win this year, but you never know. The most recent Wall Street Journal Poll has him at 5 percent. That translates into 10 million Americans. The reality is if we don't cast votes for the things we care about today, we're never going to get the things we want done—ever.

Voter Response: I'm a Democrat.

Canvasser: Well Ralph stands up for a lot of things most grassroots Democrats support. Health care for all. Ending the war in Iraq. A living wage for anyone working full time. No to billionaire bailouts, yes to protecting American homeowners. If you vote for Ralph on November 4th, you show that these things matter in the most powerful way possible. By voting for Ralph on November 4, you give the Democrats in the future a strong motivation to listen to you, instead of just taking you for granted.

Voter Response: I'm a Republican.

Canvasser: Well Ralph stands up for a lot of traditional Republican values that many people think are the defining issues of our time. This \$700++ bailout and virtual giveaway to the banks with no strings has been denounced by Ralph as the worst kind of corporate socialism. That's why he joined Ron Paul at a press conference this September to announce their:

- Their opposition to illegal and unnecessary wars that drain the Nation's treasure (half of the Federal operating budget goes to military) away from pressing needs at home;
- Their acknowledgment of the danger of debt and their support of balanced budgets so we don't make our grandchildren pay for our excesses
- Their opposition to wasting billions of taxpayer money on corporate welfare programs
- Their joint support of civil liberties (no to the PATRIOT Act, No to the FISA wiretapping Bill);

By voting for Ralph on November 4, you give a warning to Republicans that they better not take your vote for granted in the future and that these issues matter in the most powerful way possible.

Voter Response: Ralph Nader is a spoiler.

Canvasser: That's ancient history, Al Gore doesn't blame Ralph Nader. 2000 was a close election, but Ralph Nader was only one of 19 banana peels that Al Gore slipped on. Did you know that 250,000 democrats voted for Bush in Florida or that 9 million democrats nationally voted for Bush? That's way more votes than Ralph got. Besides without Ralph Nader, who else this election can you trust to keep the progressive flame of justice alive? Ralph sets the standard that we strive toward, from healthcare for all, to ending the Iraq war to respecting a worker's right to earn a living wage.

Note: Don't argue—just hand them the flyer.

Voter Response: Who is Ralph Nader?

Ralph Nader the only candidate who has a 40-year track record of putting the interests of Main Street ahead of Wall Street. After Ralph helped forced car companies to put seatbelts in cars, which has saved millions of lives, he went on to pass numerous bills through Congress including the Clean Water Act and the Freedom of Information Act. Check out this tri-fold to see all the things that Ralph has done and explains why he is running.

Voter Response: Ralph Nader? Is he still running?

Canvasser: Yes. As Ralph likes to say, the forces of injustice never take a break, so why should the forces of justice. Ralph is only 74 and both his parents lived to be nearly a 100. He's in this for the long haul. Ralph's been standing up for you and me for over 40 years. He warned against the deregulation by Clinton and Bush that paved the way for these casino capitalists on Wall Street to make such a mess. Now he is the leading Presidential candidate standing with the taxpayers, saying no to Bush, Obama and McCain: take your hands off our money. That's not supposed to be used for bailing out your lobbyist and donor buddies on Wall Street.