

Disability Labour



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An Activist's Guide to Differently Paced Canvassing

**For All CLPs
and
Disabled Activists**

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Differently Paced Canvassing

For those who have an energy and/or pain impairment.

Most CLPs have tried and tested ways of organising canvassing sessions, so changing the way things are done means a shift in attitude as well as practice.

We are an inclusive party, that means everyone can canvass, if they want to.

Remember, those of us who have these impairments know our own bodies.

ASK what Reasonable Adjustments we need.

Check how far we can walk without needing to stop.

Slopes, steps & uneven surfaces are a problem for many of us.

Check if anyone needs to have someone with them all the time because of a medical condition or a mental health condition, such as anxiety.

Have a car parked nearby, making sure the driver is aware they may have to act quickly.

Train us to “do the board” ie direct the other canvassers which doors to knock.

We should then always be in the middle of the group.

As the canvassers do a group of houses/flats either side of where we are, we can see if someone is stuck on a doorstep and can send someone to check they're ok.

Once a section of the road/estate is done then everyone moves up together to the next section.

That means nobody gets too far ahead or left behind

Remember to be aware of safeguarding concerns for everyone interacting with members of the public.

Remind canvassers **NEVER** to go inside someone's home.

Differently Paced Canvassing

Pairing people up, if someone is new or not feeling confident

Keep newer or less confident people closer to the board person and always pair them with an experienced canvasser.

Tell new canvassers they can always ask to go with a different person if they are uncomfortable for any reason. If someone does ask for a swap, gently check out the reason why. ***(Deal with any concern about behaviour promptly and inline with your CLP Safeguarding policies.)***

In some areas pairing people up is essential. Make sure the person running the board ALWAYS has the mobile numbers of people who are canvassing & remind canvassers to keep their phones accessible.

Make sure the fittest people do the top floors of flats - with or without lifts. Work from the top floor downwards.

If you know there may be difficult voters get the local Councillors to canvass them. Remind canvassers if they are being asked questions they can't answer take a note of the voter's details and pass them on to a Councillor or Candidate for action.

If you have a large team of canvassers, the person running the board should make a note of who has been sent where, initialling the canvass sheet. So in a large block of flats you can give canvassers 2 or 3 floors at a time.

Check in with the people with impairments regularly.

Make sure the car driver is ready to drive people where and when required without making inappropriate comments about distance or need.

Never leave someone on their own to wait for the car driver to pick them up.

These adjustments are just about awareness and care for everyone in the team. The majority of people appreciate it if you work in a way that considers their needs.

With thanks to Sarah Taylor of Norwich North CLP. Disability Labour welcomes any new ideas or suggestions for this guide. Email: info@disabilitylabour.org.uk