



AMPLIFY  
YOUR VOICE!



## Grassroots 101: Ballot Parties



Streaming Live on Facebook  
Monday, October 9th  
6:30 pm (Spanish) 7:15 pm (English)



### Overview:

Voting Parties are an informative and fun way to exercise your more important democratic duty-voting! While you would think that most Americans remember to vote that is not always the case and often there are so many things to vote on that it can be confusing. Some people who forget to vote or remember to vote but don't vote for every position because they don't understand them can be helped a lot by coming together for an informative voting party. Every position and initiative on the ballot is important and coming together to share information on what positions do and what candidates are running can encourage and remind people to vote on them all!

### Goal:

The goal here is to reach out to potential voters, make sure everyone is informed about everything they can vote for, and making sure all your friends and family remember to vote!

### Time Required:

An hour prep time and 2-hour party time. Collecting your friends, neighbors, and family to your home for a voter party can take some time! Either texting, calling, emailing, asking, or mailing invitations and then confirming that people are coming may take an hour or more but it's important! The party itself should be 2 hours or more to allow for good discussions and social time!

### Resources Needed:

- Voter Pamphlet
- Ballot
- snacks and drinks
- seats
- Notes with description of positions

- Pen and paper (for notes)
- Agenda
- Stamps (Ask people to bring some stamps)

### Steps:

1. Decide on a location (usually your home but if a friend has a larger space and wants to offer it, great!)
2. Decide on a guest list. Including your friends and family is great but it is also good to reach out to neighbors and coworkers.
3. Invite everyone! You know your guests best so whatever works for recruit like emails, texts, phone calls, or facebook are all great.
4. Assign some responsibility. For the most excited participants ask them if they would research particular candidates and positions so that when it comes time to talk about the candidates they can take the lead.
5. Confirm that people are coming before the party. People are busy so reaching out to confirm they are coming a day or two before is essential. Also remind them to bring their voter guide and ballot! (The ballot is optional, if people don't feel comfortable bringing it there is no pressure to!)
6. Prepare your snacks and drinks.
7. Welcome people and let them graze the snacks and small talk until all your guests have arrived
8. Have an area set up with seats. Arrange the chairs in a way that everyone can see and hear everyone
9. Herd everyone to a seat and call the meeting to order. Tell everyone the agenda and what order you're going to discuss the position or measure.
10. Set up ground rules of being respectful and not interrupting others.
11. As you go through your ballot, every time you reach a new position give a brief description of the position and its importance.
12. Discuss the positions and candidates listed in the ballot. Using the voter guide and your own research for reference. It will help if some members of the party are assigned races to talk about so you don't have to do all the research yourself.
13. Allow time for discussion but keep it moving along. You don't want to cut anyone off but it's important to get through as much of the ballot as possible.
14. There is no pressure for people to pick their votes there but if people want to they can. Be prepared to mail out the ballots of those who want to at the end of the party.
15. Mail out people's ballots! This is one of the most important civic duties in our democracy! Mail them out at the end of the party is preferred. Find your closest location to mail out at a ballot drop box or ask for peoples stamp donations. If your not able to right after the party pick a day that everyone agrees they will mail out their ballot by.
16. Follow up with people a few days later to make sure they have met sent out their ballot by the agreed upon day.

### Additional tips and tricks for a successful Voting Party:

- Use non-confrontational, friendly language. Politics are divisive but it's important to keep the confirmation open and friendly to encourage participation

- Make it personal and fun. Talk about why you're passionate about voting and the importance of being engaged.
- Encourage people to engage but don't force them. Some people will only want to listen and learn.

#### **Additional resources/external links**

[Secretary of State Voters Pamphlet](#)