

Dear Chair Bowman and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of HB 3493. I am an experienced political campaign manager and organizer who has knocked on thousands of doors throughout Oregon. I have had many positive canvassing experiences but one particular moment that stands out for me is the time I had canvassed a woman who had recently become a US Citizen, she was living in Washington County for decades and was an active voice in her community. She was so excited to be a first time voter. She mentioned that she would often get canvassers using old voter lists for the previous tenants and this was her first time getting reached out to by a campaign and she had a lot of questions. These conversations are the reason why door to door canvassing is impactful and a successful voter outreach strategy.

A trained political canvasser is respectful of a voter and will follow their lead. If a voter doesn't want to chat, it is respected and a canvasser will go on to their next door. One time, I was canvassing an apartment complex that was lively for a weekday afternoon, full of children playing, neighbors chatting and I had been having really important conversations with voters, educating them about voter registration deadlines and ballot measures. I was spending more time at their doors, answering all their questions. I took a short break and went to continue my conversations but I wasn't able to complete my doors because a property manager told me I wasn't allowed to be on the property. I respected their wishes but because I was unable to continue canvassing the apartment complex, I had to mark the remaining doors as inaccessible. This alerted the campaign to not attempt to knock the remaining doors, which will make it challenging for future campaigns to reach these voters. In this situation it wasn't the voters that had issues with me knocking on their doors, someone else made that decision for that, restricting their access to political participation and not allowing them to share the issues that are affecting their community.

Please join me in supporting HB 3493, a common sense solution to allow voters who rent in places like mobile home parks or marinas to decide their own political participation, not their landlords.

Sincerely,

Alexa Kern
Portland Oregon 97214