

Canvass with NETWORK's Zine

Grab 3-5 friends, print and fold [NETWORK's latest zine](#), and go talk to your community members at a farmers' market, grocery store, or other community location.

This is the tactic for you...

- No matter how your Member of Congress voted on the Big Bad Budget Law (H.R.1)
- If you have 3-5 friends who care about the harm in your community
- If you like to talk to people

Why this tactic matters

Canvassing is a great way to get physical materials out into our communities and engage in meaningful dialogue with our community members – to listen to their concerns and/or to educate them about one real cause of the harm your community may be experiencing. This zine explains how last year's Big Bad Budget law is harming us, and how some lawmakers just passed another immoral budget this year that Americans do not want.

What to do

1. Pick a date, time, and location to pass out the zines.

Pro-tip: Pick a location that has a lot of foot traffic and, ideally, where people might meander a little – and thus be more willing to talk with you. NETWORK Advocates have had success in the past (and a lot of fun) at farmers' markets, local rallies, town halls, and even a zoo! Other ideas include local festivals or parks or after Mass (or other service) at your parish/house of worship.

2. Get permission.

Laws vary by locality, even in the public square. Check with local authorities and potential canvassing locations to be sure you have explicit permission or permits before you pass out the zine.

3. Get 3-5 friends to join you.

Talking to strangers about policy issues can be a little intimidating – and that's okay! Bringing friends can help boost your confidence. **Plus, there is strength – and safety – in numbers!** Bringing others also expands your impact and gives them the chance to make a difference, too.

4. **Register your event with NETWORK.**

By registering your event with NETWORK, you're helping us to track our impact and share the event with partners.

5. **Set a goal for how many zines you'll distribute. Print and fold your zines.**

Here are some questions to help you figure out how many zines you should print:

- What is the culture of where you're canvassing? Do people generally socialize or are they in-and-out?
- How many people do you anticipate being at the event/location where you're canvassing?
- What is expected of canvassers in your context? Can you initiate conversations with anyone, or do they have to come to you?
- How long do you plan to be at your event?
- How many people will be canvassing with you?

[Click here](#) for a video on how to fold your zine.

Pro-tip: Invite your friends over just before the event to fold the zines together. Or fold them while catching up on your favorite TV show.

6. **Go out and talk to people!**

Keep your pitch brief (30 seconds or less) and make the first few seconds as engaging as possible, so folks *want* to stay and talk with you.

Example: "I'm here chatting with people about how cuts to food and health care are impacting our community. Would you be willing to share your perspective?"

Listen to their perspective. Respond as appropriate. Then offer the zine to share about the impact of the bill. (If they say they're familiar, invite them to take a copy to share with someone in their life.)

Pro-tips:

- Practice your pitch a few times before you go out.
- Take pictures, focusing on the volunteers you've recruited.
- If someone shares a powerful story about the impact of these cuts on their lives, be sure to thank them for their sharing. Let them know that their story can make a difference and ask if they're willing to share their story and their contact information so you or NETWORK can follow up with them. (Stories can be shared anonymously.)

When you're finished, divide any leftover zines so your squad members can each share some with neighbors, family, or friends. Or decide who will hold on to them for your next canvassing opportunity!

7. Gather with your friends to celebrate and debrief your work.

Celebrate your work together to keep it fun. Talk about what went well and what you might want to experiment with the next time you do something like this. This keeps us constantly learning in a world of constantly-changing circumstances.

8. Report back to let us know how your event went!

Let us know what went well, how the support was, and what you might hope for in the future. This helps us to improve the support we're able to provide to you.

Send your pictures. Photos especially help us to promote your great work and inspire others to join you! Please let us know who is in the photo and if we have permission to use the photos in a future NETWORK publication or social media post.

NETWORK Support

NETWORK organizers are here to support you. If you have any questions or want to talk through any ideas or concerns you may have, reach out!

Catherine Gillette

CA, MI, NY, OH, TX, VA

cgillette@networklobby.org

Sr. Emily TeKolste, SP

IL, IN, KY, MO, NJ, PA

etekolste@networklobby.org

Sr. Eilis McCulloh, HM

All other states

emcculloh@networklobby.org