

TALKING TO LATINOS ABOUT VOTING

This document provides messages that can be used to discuss voting restrictions with Latinos, and help encourage them to vote.

DISCUSSING VOTING RESTRICTIONS

When talking to Latinos about voting restrictions, the following messages may be useful:

- I'm proud to be an American, and I vote because I'm loyal to my country and believe in democracy. A lot of my family, my friends, and people I work with vote because it's our civic duty to vote, to make things better.
- We can't complain about the way things are going if we don't take responsibility to stand up for what we believe.
- My vote and everyone's vote put together matters, and it lets politicians know we are the American people, and they need to listen to us.
- As Americans, we believe that all men and women are "created equal." If America wants to live up to its promise to provide all citizens with the same freedoms, then we can't pass laws that block some Americans from voting, and deny them the opportunity to participate equally in our democracy. It's important that our election laws are fair and equal.
- Citizens have the responsibility to do their part and vote. It's our right to vote. It's our democracy.

WHAT RESEARCH SHOWS

When surveyed, Latinos say the top reasons to vote include:

- To improve the future for my children and country
- To bring about change
- Civic duty
- Have a voice

Latinos Support Voting as a Civic Responsibility: 84 percent agree with the statement that "As an American citizen, it is my responsibility to do my civic duty and vote."

- That said, it's important to stop voter fraud. But I don't support some politicians trying to manipulate voting laws because they don't like what the voters have to say. They are deliberately trying to limit the voting rights of people who may not support them.
- It's wrong to pass laws for political gain that take away the right to vote from millions of eligible citizens.

MOBILIZING VOTERS

Some messages that can be used to help mobilize Latino voters to get out to the polls include:

- As American citizens, voting is your chance to share your voice, participate in our great democracy, and improve your community and your nation. It's the one time we are all equal.
- The politicians who are trying to make it harder for you to vote are the same ones behind strict immigration laws that promote racial profiling and self-deportation. That's why it's so critical that you register and vote on Election Day.
- My vote and everyone's vote put together matters, and it lets politicians know we are the American people, and they need to listen to us. We can't complain about the way things are going if we don't take responsibility to stand up for what we believe.
- Voting is my civic duty, and it's something I do to show my country and my children that I am proud to be an American. Children learn from what they see, and I want my kids to see me being a good citizen.
- I want my children to see me going to the polls to exercise my right to vote and have a say in what happens in this country. I vote for my future, my children's future, and America's future.