

Tabling Toolkit for Voter Engagement

Tabling is an important way to engage with voters in your community. It can help build voter awareness for those who may not be fully aware of the candidates, issues, or even election dates, and encourage the community to become civically engaged. As you prepare for tabling, here are some important tips and considerations to keep in mind.

Tabling Considerations

Do:

1. **Be Clear About Your Ask:** Are you asking people to register to vote? What if they are already registered, what will you ask of them?
2. **Choose Your Location Wisely:** Select a spot with good visibility, ensuring it's within the boundaries of public property. Knowing where you can set up legally is essential. Ideally, you have permission from the institution where you are to set up a table but if you table on public property, this is not necessary.
3. **Prepare Your Materials:** Gather all the materials you will need for tabling, including a tablecloth and any handouts or QR codes that you need. If needed, you may also provide tablets. If you will be collecting pledge cards or signatures, have a secure way to store them once you collect them.
4. **Use Clear Signage:** Ensure your signs and banners are visible and easy to read, with large fonts and minimal text of six words or less. This helps attract attention and keeps the focus on your primary message.
5. **Actively Invite People To Engage:** Don't rely solely on your presence; actively call out and invite people to stop by your table. Many might not notice you otherwise, so a friendly invitation can help draw attention and encourage interaction.
6. **Know Your Rights:** Familiarize yourself with your rights to free speech under the First Amendment. Keep a copy of these rights handy to address any harassment. In one instance, having this information was crucial during 45 minutes of harassment.
7. **Work with Police Support:** Understanding your rights increases the likelihood of police support. Knowing the system helps you work effectively within it to drive change, and you can even proactively let law enforcement know where you will be working.
8. **Stay Focused:** Stick to your mission, such as voter registration, and avoid getting pulled into debates or side conversations. Some may try to distract or gaslight you—don't let them. If faced with a disruptor, have your partner handle the situation while you continue with your mission.

9. **Stay Strong and Committed:** Remember, your work is meaningful for future generations. Don't be discouraged by hate—often, it's a sign that you're making an impact.

Don't:

- **Table Alone:** Never table alone—always have a partner with you. Being alone can be overwhelming and puts undue pressure on you. Tabling is also more fun with a partner!
- **Get Pulled Into Side Conversations:** Do not engage with individuals who approach you loudly or aggressively. Stay focused on your mission and remain firm in your purpose.
- **Share Your Personal Opinion:** Refrain from sharing personal views about candidates. Engaging in such debates can lead to unnecessary conflict and distract from your mission.

Tabling Supplies

- Tablecloth
- Pens for staff at the table
- Organizational information
- Items to attract people: candy or treats, any available giveaway items like stickers, magnets, lanyards, pens, etc.

Voter Education Information

- [Why Voting Matters cards](#)
- [Voter Engagement Survey QR code](#)
 - We recommend you print 1-2 copies of the flier and attach to the table so people can use their phones to access the QR code.
- Vote for Justice cards (available at the CAIR-LA office).
- Voting pledge cards (available from the Arab American Civic Council.)