



Women Vote 2012 Parties



Women are experts when it comes to knowing how to survive in a tough economy.

Every day, we balance the demands of work, family and community.

The economy is still recovering from the recession, and our future must be shaped by people who want to make progress. This election is so important—we must choose leaders who will move our country forward, instead of returning to the failed policies that got us here in the first place.

Now more than ever, we need to have our voices heard through our votes, because together, we can make a difference.

Hosting a Women Vote 2012 Party is a fun and effective way to create awareness about the importance of voting and electing candidates who stick up for working families.

The purpose of a Women Vote Party is to encourage women to focus on the issues that matter most and get out and vote using social media and one-on-one conversations.

Women have been hosting parties like these for the past five years and THEY WORK! Women who've received these cards in the past have voted at higher rates, and we know it's because of the personal touch—women sending messages to other women really makes a difference.

Hosting a Women Vote Party is easy. The idea is to have good conversation about issues important to women and take action—all while having fun.

WOMEN VOTE 2012 PARTY

Here's How It Works:

Before your event

Invite your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others to your home, a local coffee shop, out for happy hour or other gathering places on any day over the next several weeks—just make sure it's before the election on Nov. 6.

Go to <http://go.aflcio.org/womenvote> to let us know that you're hosting an event. If you're comfortable having your event be public, let us know on the sign-up form and we'll help you recruit attendees.

At the event

Start off with a conversation about what's at stake this year—most women will jump right in. To get you started, we've provided questions you can use to get the conversation moving.

Keep a stack of paper and markers handy so the women you're chatting with can write down why voting is important to them. Snap a picture of the person holding her sign with your camera or phone, and e-mail it to womenvote@aflcio.org. We'll post these photos on Tumblr, Instagram and Pinterest and share them back with you—we want women everywhere to see why others are voting in this election.

Then, using our new **Friends and Neighbors** tool, ask your attendees to each make five phone calls to voters in battleground states with crucial races. Person-to-person contact is one of the most effective tools we have to get across the victory line in many of these races; so this is one of the most valuable things you can have your attendees do. When you register your event, we'll send you a special link to Friends and Neighbors that will let you choose to call just women in these battleground states, during your event, or anytime you choose. You can check out the tutorial video on Friends and Neighbors to learn more about how it works.

It's that easy! You and your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers will have fun while making a real difference for women.

Women Vote 2012 Party Discussion Questions:

- What do you think is the most important issue facing our country?
- What issues are most important to you in this election?
- What can we do to help change things?
- How has the jobs crisis affected you?
- Do you talk with your family members about whom you're going to vote for? If not, why not?
- What about friends and co-workers?

Sample Messages:

When your attendees are writing down their messages for the pictures, encourage them to tell their story. The best messages are individualized. Help your guests think of what they really want to say:

- "I've got three adult children, and I'm worried they'll never find good jobs with benefits. That's why I'm voting for _____."
- "I went to college, and I'm afraid I'll never find a job that uses my education. That's why I'm voting for _____, because we need good jobs now."
- "I'm worried about giving more control to big banks, which got us in this mess in the first place. I'm voting for _____, so we can keep moving in the right direction."
- "It seems like the middle class can't get a break. That's why I am voting for _____, who will end tax breaks for the richest 2%."
- "We need to invest in jobs and communities. That's why I'm voting for _____."

Don't Forget:

Make sure to e-mail your pictures to womenvote@aflcio.org so we can share the work you're doing and encourage even more women to get out and vote.

Congratulate yourself and your friends for making a difference.

Thank you!

