

Maine Volunteer Recruitment for Background Check Events

Phonebank Script

GREETING: Hi, _____? Hi ___NAME ____, my name is _____. I'm a volunteer with Everytown for Gun Safety, I'm calling today for the Mainers for Responsible Gun Ownership campaign. Thank you for supporting background checks on all gun sales in Maine.

CONNECT: I'm curious, why is this issue important to you? *LISTEN - BE CURIOUS.* I feel the same way. I got involved with gun safety because _____.

CONTEXT: **Thankfully, Maine voters can do something about this issue on election day. Voting Yes on Question 3 this year will ensure background checks on all gun sales in Maine.** Unfortunately, the gun lobby is already on the ground spreading misinformation about what we're trying to do. We've already seen them putting out letters to the editor, talking to voters, and launching their new "No on 3" campaign.

COMMITMENT: In order to win in November, we need to build a team of supporters to help us get the word out to voters. Can we count on you to join us? (Golden Silence)

IF YES: Move to Action section below

IF NO: That's okay, we're grateful you support background checks on all gun sales in Maine. Please talk with your friends, family, and neighbors about why you're voting Yes on 3 in November. Have a great day! **Mark "No—Can't Volunteer"**

IF MAYBE: Move to Action section below.

ACTION: [YES] Great! Thank you so much ____ [NAME] _____. *See the upper left hand side of the screen to find which county the person lives in.*

The next opportunity to take action is in:

IF CUMBERLAND COUNTY: **Portland** on Saturday, Aug 6th. We will be talking to voters, at their doors, from 2 - 6pm. Can you join us?

Address: 55 Bell Street, Portland

Organizer: Blynn Curtis: 615-8694

*IF KENNEBEC COUNTY: **Hallowell** on Wednesday, Aug 3rd. We will be calling voters from 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Can you join us?*

Address: 104 Water Street, Hallowell

Organizer: Andi Parkinson: 577-5504

*IF PENOBSCOT COUNTY: **Bangor** on Wednesday, Aug 3rd. We will be talking to voters, at their doors, from 5:00 – 8:30pm. Can you join us?*

Address: 370 Harlow Street, Bangor

Organizer: Michael Perry: 505-5135

*IF KNOX COUNTY: **Rockland** on Saturday, Aug 6th. We will be talking to voters, at their doors, from 10:00am – 1:00pm. Can you join us?*

Address: Rockland UU Church, 345 Broadway

Organizer: Dan Lord: 460-8084

IF YES: Thank you! I'll wait for you to grab a pen & paper so I can tell you where we'll meet and give you an organizer's phone number in case you have any questions. *[Wait for them to get a pen & paper.]* Then repeat event date, time, & location, and let them know the organizer's name and phone number. We'll call you to confirm your commitment to join us on _____. **Mark Attending Next Week**

IF NO: That's okay, we have other opportunities to get involved. Can we call you another time about future actions?

IF YES: Mark "Yes to Future Action"

IF NO: Mark "No—Can't Volunteer"

IF MAYBE: Mark "Maybe Later"

If someone says yes or maybe, say Great! We will keep you on our list for future opportunities.

Thank you so much for your time. Have a great evening!

**Background Information for Callers:
Maine Background Check Campaign Update, Talking Points & FAQ's:**

The information below is provided for general background information only. You do not need to memorize this information or cover it in your calls, but you will find it helpful to read through in advance and to refer to for the occasional situations where an individual asks for more information.

Good News: Our campaign has had over 1000 people volunteer since we launched and we’ve already had conversations with dozens of supporters at the doors, we have lots of support, and a winning strategy.

The Facts: The gun lobby has begun a campaign of misinformation that will cloud the airwaves and make it hard for Mainers to understand what this initiative will really do. Governor LePage has already come out against our initiative, and our opposition is writing letters to the editor all across Maine.

The Bottom line: The gun lobby is here. We have to give Mainers the true facts about the impact closing this loophole will have to make our communities safer, and on the lives that will be saved.

Question 3 on the Maine November Ballot is a simple, common-sense policy: it requires that everyone in Maine who buys a gun gets the same instant criminal background check, no matter where they buy it or who they buy it from. There are 468 licensed gun dealers in Maine – more than the number of Post Offices. A private seller would be able to run a background check through any licensed gun dealer, and 90% of these checks take 90 seconds or less to complete.

Mainers have a proud tradition of responsible gun ownership. They believe strongly in the Constitutional right to bear arms – and they also believe that with those rights come responsibilities. This initiative protects the rights of law-abiding Maine gun owners while doing more to make it harder for dangerous people to get guns.

This initiative will help make sure guns aren’t sold, loaned or given to dangerous people, but it won’t criminalize most ordinary behavior. Background checks are only required when firearms are changing ownership or if the gun is going to be used by someone outside of the supervision of the owner.

The Q&A below is the type of information that the prospective Maine volunteers you are calling would be sharing with others in the coming months of the campaign.

<p><i>“So I’ll have to find a place that will run the check?”</i></p> <p><i>“Won’t this cost extra for stores that sell guns?”</i></p>	<p>Many of us in Maine grew up hunting and have firearms that have been passed down...</p> <p>Maine has hundreds of these licensed dealers making it convenient for private sellers to find a local place to transfer the firearm. 90% of these checks take 90 seconds or less.</p> <p>Responsible sellers will want to know that they’ve sold a gun to another responsible buyer. Federally Licensed Firearm Dealers can perform the same background check they already perform for all their sales.</p>
<p><i>“What if I lend my buddy a gun?”</i></p> <p><i>“What if I want to pass down my firearm?”</i></p> <p><i>“Isn’t borrowing a gun to protect yourself a transfer?”</i></p>	<p>Transfers - The legal definition of a transfer is not changed by this law, nor the definition of a gun owner or gun seller.</p> <p>Inheritance- Guns received through an inheritance will not require a background check.</p> <p>Family Members -Gifts to immediate family members, including children, grandchildren, siblings and in-laws, will not require a background check.</p> <p>Prevent Imminent Death- Guns used temporarily to prevent imminent death or bodily harm will not require a background check.</p>
<p><i>“This wouldn’t have prevented</i></p>	<p>No one law will stop all gun crime, but there are real steps we can take that can make a difference. Background checks work. They have already prevented more than 2.4 million</p>

<p><i>Sandy Hook”</i> <i>“Bad Guys will still get their hands on guns”</i></p>	<p>felons, domestic abusers, people with severe mental illness, and other dangerous people from getting guns nationwide - including over 5,500 here in Maine.</p> <p>In states that already require background checks for all handgun sales, 46% fewer women are shot to death by their partners and 48% fewer law enforcement officers are killed by handguns.</p>
<p><i>“Does this really happen in Maine?”</i></p>	<p>Darien Richardson was sleeping in her duplex in Portland when intruders burst into her room and started shooting. She was shot multiple times and died three weeks later. The shooters were never caught because the police could not trace the gun, which was purchased through an unlicensed sale at a gun show, where no background check or record was kept.</p>