



GRR! Out the Vote

GRR!'s Guide to Election Engagement

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**Grandmothers
For Reproductive Rights**

Introduction

Over two years after the Supreme Court's 2022 decision to overturn the protections of *Roe v. Wade*, abortion rights issues are top-of-mind for many voters and candidates alike as we approach elections this November. GRR! places emphasis on the power of elders to impact younger generations, while continuing to evolve our own comprehension of social justice issues through intergenerational organizing.

GRR! recognizes that *Roe* was never enough, when it comes to actual access to abortion care within Americans' own communities, which is why we focus all the way down the ballot, to **AMPLIFY REAL SOLUTIONS TO OUR ABORTION ACCESS CRISIS ON MUNICIPAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEVELS.**

With these ideas in mind, this toolkit's purpose is two-fold:



1. **Voter-to-Voter Engagement:** The information shared in this toolkit supports grandmothers and elder abortion rights supporters of all genders to engage younger people in generative discussions about the role of voting in advancing reproductive rights and access, how to register to vote, and making a voting plan.



2. **Voter-to-Candidate Engagement:** The toolkit also supports abortion rights advocates in engaging candidates for political office at the municipal, state and federal levels. The goal is to provide information and pose questions to candidates that deepen their understanding of and commitment to the tools at their disposal for protecting the human right to abortion.

If you have questions about the toolkit, would like training or support in practicing the conversations, or desire more information, reach out to our National Grassroots Organizer at cait.v@grrnow.org.



Voter to Voter

Talking About Voting with Younger Folks

GRR! recommends approaching intergenerational conversations about voting with curiosity, compassion & accurate information.

Instead of...



Try...

Asking yes/no questions or trying to prove a point



Asking open-ended questions to learn about their values & concerns

Opening with a fear that younger people just don't understand how things work



Validating their concerns & lived experiences.

Using personal experiences as a way to trump or negate experiences younger people have shared with you



Sharing personal stories that illuminate why voting matters to you & make clear which values you share

Discounting non-electoral methods of civic engagement or promoting the idea that voting is a cure all for the current crises around abortion rights and other social or civic problems



Acknowledging the ways someone advances political & cultural change outside of or beyond voting, & ask how you can become involved in such efforts!

(Ex: Donating to abortion funds, serving as clinic escorts, sharing information via social media, etc.)



Voter to Voter

Talking About Voting with Younger Folks

An Open-Hearted & Open-Ended Approach

GRR! believes young people want and are working toward a more just future. We also believe that grandmothers and other elders can have powerful impacts on young people in our lives by allowing them to feel safe exploring their beliefs and how they live out of their values. Here are some of our tips for taking an open-hearted and open-ended approach to Get Out The Vote (GOTV) conversations.

Open-Ended Conversation Starters

How are you thinking and feeling about voting this fall?

We both care a lot about the right to have abortions. Voting is one way I take action. What do you think about the election and what your vote means for reproductive rights?

I know abortion rights/reproductive rights are important to you; how do you think voting can impact abortion laws and access where we live?

I'm really frightened for young people now that abortion is not federally protected. Can we talk and share information about the ways we each are trying to protect our rights?

I've heard you express doubts about whether voting matters or not, and I'm wondering if you are open to talking about this with me?



Voter to Voter

Talking About Voting with Younger Folks

In recent years, there has been much public discourse about underwhelming turnout among young voters, as well as disillusionment with political parties and the electoral process. Public trust in the democratic process cannot be divorced from the context of widespread uprisings against anti-Black vigilante and state violence in recent years; social unrest in response to the COVID 19 pandemic; the increasingly pervasive nature and accessibility of disinformation; and the ongoing fallout from the January 6th insurrection, etc. Young voters are experiencing the rollback of many civil and human rights gains won through social movements of the 1950s, 60s and 70s, including dismantling of the Voting Rights Act and the decimation of federal abortion rights. Feelings of hopelessness, resentment and apathy can be understood within the larger context of multiple large-scale national and global crises.

Phrases for Engaging with Defeatism & Disillusionment



You're right, voting is not going to solve everything. I do believe it is a valuable tool to hold the worst possibilities at bay, while we work toward winning the changes we most need. Do you see any possibility for voting to make a positive difference for the people we love?

I worry that young people are going to experience some of the very difficult things my generation lived through decades ago. Can I share with you where that fear comes from?



I'm interested in taking other actions in addition to voting. Can you share some resources with me so I can learn more? I know voting is not the only way to make change, and I still feel it is a power we should exercise when we can. Would you be willing to make a voting plan together?



Voter to Voter

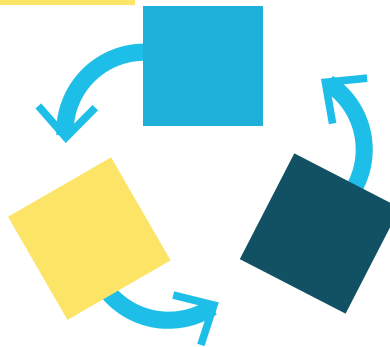
Talking About Voting with Younger Folks

Validating Phrases to Keep Things Flowing

I hear how upsetting this is—
I am angry/sad/scared, too.

I didn't realize how much thought
you've given to this issue.

Can you say more about
that? I want to really
understand where
you're coming from.



I'm so glad you're
sharing with me; so
much more is possible
when we come
together.

You just taught me something I
didn't know before—thank you!

Can I share how I'm thinking
about voting and how I
approach elections?

Voter Resources

It is crucial to follow up on these conversations with resources to support newer voters in making a concrete voting plan. Below are resources on voting for people living in any state.



[Check Voter
Registration Status](#)



[Learn how to register
& check state laws](#)



[State by State
Resources on Elections](#)



Voter to Candidates

Connecting with Candidates on Abortion

Our current moment calls on us to demand more from elected officials at all levels of government, particularly when it comes to abortion rights. It's not sufficient in this crisis moment for candidates to simply proclaim they are "pro-choice"; each conversation with an election hopeful is a chance to move the needle on their understanding of abortion as a human right, a public good, and something they must protect.

If they say...

You can respond with...

I'm pro-choice / I support an individual's right to choose.

So glad to hear you're with us on this issue. Using the word "abortion" openly helps destigmatize this critical health care service. Are you willing to say abortion when talking with journalists and voters about this issue?

I support your cause, but voters want me to focus on the economy.

I share everyone's concern about rising costs of living and jobs. I also understand that abortion *is* an economic issue. When someone cannot choose if/when they grow their families, our entire workforce and economy is greatly impacted, especially women.

If elected, I'll do everything in my power to protect reproductive rights.

I love hearing this! Can you share some specifics of how you would do this in your elected position? I fear without concrete plans we will not be ready to meet the challenges of this moment.

I'm really not sure what can be done. / I need to learn more about the issue before I make promises.

It's great you want to learn more. I'm happy to provide resources on what other elected officials are doing to restore/advance/protect abortion rights. What is the best way to share such resources with your office?



Voter to Candidates

Connecting with Candidates on Abortion

While the human right to abortion is no longer constitutionally protected, officials at every level of government can take action to push back against restrictions while advancing proactive measures to protect people seeking and providing abortion care. Not all candidates are equally informed, so voters can play a crucial role in candidate education.



State Policy Strategies from the **LIBERATE ABORTION** Campaign

You can share these policy ideas with candidates running for state-level office, to provide them with a sense of proactive measures they might propose, and to support them in articulating a concrete plan for advancing/protecting/restoring abortion rights where you live.



States with expanded access to abortion



States that are "in the middle" on abortion



States that are hostile to abortion



Federal Policy Strategies



You can share these policy ideas with candidates running for Congressional office, to provide them with a sense of proactive measures they might support, and to aid them in articulating a concrete plan for restoring and protecting abortion rights on the national level.

The Abortion Justice Act

EACH Act

Stop Anti-Abortion Disinformation (SAD) Act



Voter to Candidates

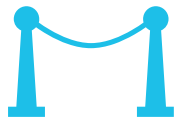
Connecting with Candidates on Abortion



Municipal Policy Strategies



Municipalities across the country are using the tools at their disposal to advance reproductive freedom. You can share these policy ideas with candidates running for city/town office, to provide them with a sense of proactive measures they might propose, and to support them in articulating a concrete plan for advancing/protecting/restoring abortion rights in your city or town.



“Buffer-zone laws” that would mandate protesters stay a certain number of feet away from hospitals or clinics while demonstrating, aiming to limit anti-abortion advocates’ ability to picket near abortion clinics



Order city officials to not cooperate with any out-of-state criminal abortion investigations without a court order



Restrict “deceptive advertising practices” of crisis pregnancy centers, which aim to persuade pregnant people to not get abortions



Order police departments to “de-prioritize” enforcement of abortion bans, should one pass in your state.



Allocate municipal funds to support abortion access.

Spread the Intergenerational Connection & GOTV Enthusiasm!

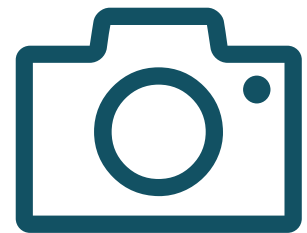
We want to know how you are using this toolkit & hear about the open-hearted conversations grandmothers and elders are having with younger people all over! **Here are some ways you can share & spread the word.**

Send us a picture!

Send us a picture of you & the younger person in your life with a brief caption that tells us about your relationship & your pledge to vote. We will post it on our GRR! social media accounts. Alternately, you can post it on your social media accounts with the hashtag #TakeYourGrandkids2Vote &

#Grandmothers4AbortionRights, then tag us!

Caption Example: Grandmother Carol and granddaughter Ally from Lawrence, Kansas. They both commit to voting, because they believe the individual knows her life best and politicians shouldn't make health care decisions!



Send us an email at info@grrnow.org without a photo, letting us know how your conversations with young/er people or candidate/s went, & we will share your experience via our social media channels.

Email Us!

Write a Letter to the Editor

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, sharing highlights from your GOTV conversations with young/er people in your life and encourage your peers to do the same, using this open-hearted and open-ended approach. If you'd like support with editing, we can help!



Helpful Links

Check Voter Registration Status

<https://feelgoodaction.org/verify>



Learn How to Register & Check State Laws

<https://www.vote411.org>



State by State Resources on Elections

<https://www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state/>



Voter Resources for College Students

<https://fairelectionscenter.org/campus-voting-resources/>



Need our help? We're here for you!

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