

Safety & Professionalism

Protecting Yourself and Others

Working in the field requires awareness of safety issues. These guidelines help you protect yourself, your colleagues, and the supporters you interact with.

Personal Safety Practices:

- Trust your instincts—if a situation feels unsafe, remove yourself
- Stay aware of your surroundings—don't get absorbed in your phone
- Keep valuable items secure—don't leave belongings unattended
- Travel in pairs when possible, especially in unfamiliar areas
- Maintain communication with supervisors about your location
- Avoid working alone during nighttime or low-light hours

Dealing with Difficult Situations:

- Aggressive behavior: Move away from the person and alert supervisors
- Harassment: Document it and report immediately
- Threats: Take them seriously, remove yourself, and involve management
- Trespassing concerns: Respect private property and move if asked

Professional Boundaries:

- Maintain appropriate physical distance—at least 2 feet
- Don't touch people unless they initiate contact (handshake)
- Keep conversations focused on the petition/initiative
- Avoid sharing personal information beyond what's professional
- Don't accept gifts or offers beyond a simple thank you

Weather and Environmental Safety:

- Dress appropriately for conditions—avoid heat/cold exhaustion
- Stay hydrated throughout your shift
- Take breaks when you need them—don't push through exhaustion
- Be aware of traffic if working on roadways
- Watch for uneven surfaces or hazards where you're standing

When in Doubt, Pause and Ask:

Your safety is paramount. If anything feels unsafe, report it and seek guidance.