



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Electioneering

Updated September 21, 2020

The following FAQ was developed by the San Francisco Department of Public Health for use by audience described below and will be posted at <http://www.sfdcp.org>. These FAQs explain how the current local health orders apply to electioneering activities. This FAQ is based on application of the current Stay Safer at Home Health Order (No. C19-07i) and related orders and directives of the San Francisco Health Officer regarding COVID-19. Information may change based on amendments to those orders and directives.

AUDIENCE: Campaign offices and personnel engaged in electioneering, or individuals taking part in the activities of an election campaign such as volunteers or donors.

Summary of Revisions since the 08/24/2020 Version

FAQs have been updated to reflect changes to the [Order of the Health Officer No. C19-07i](#), also known as the Stay Safer at Home Order.

- Changes include:
 - Campaign offices are allowed to open with one person in the office at a time. One other individual may enter for a brief period.
 - Additional Q&A to address campaign personnel and volunteers congregating in public.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are campaign activities allowed?

- Campaign activities can be an important way to encourage the public to vote. Unfortunately, many campaign activities require people to gather, which can lead to transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19. Many campaign activities can be done remotely or through alternative means that avoid person-to-person contact. See below for guidance on how to ensure safer campaign activities at this time.

Can campaign headquarters be opened for volunteers and staff to gather and where walk-ins may occur?

- The Stay-Safer-At-Home Order has been updated to allow campaign offices to open minimally and must adhere to the following guidance:
 - A single individual may be inside a campaign office or other political office. One other individual at a time may temporarily come into the office or facility, such as for a brief meeting or to pick up or drop off materials.



- All individuals in the facility must wear a Face Covering as required by Health Officer Order No. C19-12c, [except individuals with an exemption](#). Children 2 to 9 years old should try to wear a face covering when feasible.
- Doors and windows must be left open to the extent possible and mechanical ventilation systems (when present) must be run, to increase ventilation.
- The facility must establish protocols for frequent cleaning and disinfection of commonly used surfaces and high traffic areas such as lobbies, hallways, and offices.
- Signage must be posted at each public entrance to inform all individuals that they must: avoid entering the location if they have a cough or fever, maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another while in the facility or location, wear a Face Covering at all times, and not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact (sample signs are available online at <https://sf.gov/outreach-toolkit-coronavirus-covid-19>).
- The facility or office must comply with the Social Distancing Requirements set forth in Section 15.k of Order No, C19-07i—and create, post and implement a Social Distancing Protocol (Appendix A of Order No, C19-07i).

Are indoor or outdoor rallies permitted?

- Indoor rallies are not permitted.
- Outdoor rallies are considered “outdoor gatherings” and are permitted with the following requirements:
 - Limited to no more than 12 people total.
 - Everyone age 10 years and older must wear a face covering, [except individuals with an exemption](#). Children 2 to 9 years old should try to wear a face covering when feasible.
 - Participants must remain at least six feet apart from those outside their household.

What is recommended for fundraising events?

- Indoor in-person fundraisers are not permitted.
- Outdoor in-person fundraisers are considered “outdoor gatherings” and are permitted with the following requirements:
 - Limited to no more than 12 people.
 - Everyone age 10 years and older must wear a face covering, [except individuals with an exemption](#). Children 2 to 9 years old should try to wear a face covering when feasible.
 - Participants must remain six feet apart from those outside their household.
- Fundraising events may be held remotely, such as through video-conferencing applications.

Is it allowed to coordinate volunteers?

- Coordinating volunteers is permitted if training/coordination happens outdoors, is limited to 12 or less people (including staff) per session, everyone wears face coverings (other than those exempted), and everyone remains at least six feet apart from those outside their households. As



an alternative, training and coordination may be done remotely.

What is permitted when asking volunteers/campaign personnel to go door knocking to talk to residents, identify supporters and/or remind them to vote?

- Door knocking is permitted if it occurs outdoors with social distancing, is limited to group interactions of no more than 12 people, and everyone wears face coverings. To protect the health of City residents, those unable to wear a face covering in light of their age or a qualifying health reason should not participate in door knocking. Door knocking in apartment or condominium buildings is not permitted. The Department of Public Health urges alternatives to door knocking, as the practice may make some residents feel uncomfortable given COVID-19 surge in the community.

Are volunteers/campaign personnel allowed to hang campaign materials on residential doors and/or to ask merchants or property owners to display a campaign sign?

- Yes. Campaign participants can hang campaign materials on residential doors. Campaign participants can also approach merchants and property owners to seek permission to display campaign signs on private property. When inquiring with businesses, campaign participants must follow the current protocols for people entering businesses. In addition to face covering requirements and the other required social distancing and hygiene guidelines, remind campaign participants to carry hand sanitizer for use when a hand-washing station is not readily available.
- Consider alternatives to handing out and delivering materials, including pick up at an outdoor location or creating high-resolution, downloadable print-at-home materials.

Are volunteers/campaign personnel allowed to congregate in public to campaign and/or talk to constituents, such as at transit stops and/or farmer's markets?

- Outdoor in-person events are considered "outdoor gatherings" and are permitted with the following requirements:
 - Limited to no more than 12 people.
 - Everyone age 10 years and older must wear a face covering, [except individuals with an exemption](#). Children 2 to 9 years old should try to wear a face covering when feasible.
 - Participants must remain six feet apart from those outside their household.
 - Ensure that entrances or exits remain clear of obstruction to ensure that there is six feet between all participants.
 - Events may be held remotely, such as through videoconferencing if applicable.
- Consider alternatives to handing out campaign literature or other materials, including making a stack available for the public to pick up at an outdoor location or creating high-resolution, downloadable print-at-home materials.

Is phone banking permitted?

- Gathering indoors with people outside one's household to phone bank (to call residents regarding a campaign) is not permitted. Phone banking must be done remotely.



Resources

- SFDPH Outdoor Gathering Tips and FAQs
 - <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/covid-guidance/Gatherings-Tips.pdf>
- San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH)
 - <https://www.sfdcp.org/covid19>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/guidance-list.html>
- Face coverings in San Francisco
 - <https://sf.gov/information/masks-and-face-coverings-coronavirus-pandemic>
- Health Officer Order No. C19-07i
 - <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/files/C19-07i-Shelter-in-Place-Health-Order.pdf>