

THE INFORMED DEMOCRAT OF SWFL



The Joys of Canvassing

By Pam Pegahi

November 1, 2025

I cannot tell a lie about canvassing, and *joy* is not necessarily a word that we use; but I can tell you that my health and state of mind are so much better after returning home from canvassing. When Trump became President, I knew it would be bad, but I never could have imagined it would be this bad. Canvassing allows me to directly contact with Democrats who may have fallen through the cracks, have lost faith in our Party, or have just given up. When a fellow Democrat opens their door and is so happy to see another fellow Democrat, it is worth it.

As a retiree, it is easy for me to forget how busy I was when I was working, raising a family, and juggling many balls. But there are many reasons Democrats haven't registered, become active, signed up for VBM, etc.

My best experience was in Lehigh Acres with a Haitian man. He didn't know he was not registered and had never voted by mail. He said that his son was in the military at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, North Carolina and had also never voted. He was going to call the number and make sure his son did the same. He had two very healthy papaya trees in his yard and told me when they would be ripe, but he offered several ripe ones that he had in his garage.

Another interesting experience I had was also in Lehigh Acres. He was a young Irish man with red hair and blue eyes; he and his family had never voted and knew nothing about voting in Lee County. He called while I was there and got registered and signed up for VBM; his family was not home but he was going to do the same for them. Barbara Hermann and I have mostly canvassed in Lehigh Acres because we have so many Democrats there who are not voting. This targeted outreach helps put the time where we can get the best results.