WHY VOLUNTEER FOR A CAMPAIGN?
Volunteering for a campaign is one of the quickest hands-on opportunities to see how the nation’s system for electing leaders really works! See what all the excitement is about and lend as much, or as little time, as you have to volunteer for a candidate running for office. Regardless of whether you are looking to promote pharmacy issues, support a candidate of your preferred political party, or want to learn more about the process, your work as an unpaid volunteer can advance pharmacy by building relationships before a candidate is elected to office.

TYPES OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES
Because a campaign is ever evolving and almost always short staffed -- there are many different things you can do for a campaign. Outside of supporting the overall operation of the campaign office, campaigns will likely want to put you to work to support one of the Key Components of Winning Campaigns: (1) understanding the district; (2) securing voter support; (3) maximizing finances; and (4) promoting visibility. A sampling of volunteer activities: calls introducing voters to candidates, door-to-door canvassing of campaign materials, voter registration efforts, event work, development of a candidate’s health platform, research, web article development, and fundraising activities.

FIND A CAMPAIGN
Each volunteer should find a campaign he/she supports. If you are not certain who is running for office in your area, review our election resources to review candidates who have filed to run for office.

ESTABLISH YOUR NEEDS
Once you have identified a candidate with whom you connect, you still have another step to complete before you talk to the campaign. A successful campaign volunteer opportunity hangs in the balance of knowing what you think you would like to experience (although campaigns understand you may want to sample all types of activities). Know the answers to the following before calling the campaign:

Availability: How much time will you have available to volunteer for the campaign? Will your volunteer time be randomly when you decide to call to help, scheduled (i.e. every Monday 4-5pm) or sporadic (i.e. every Monday some time). It’s not unusual for volunteers to start off with helping a bit here and there and enjoying themselves so much they eventually set up a regular volunteer schedule.

Activities: Campaign staff adore volunteers who are enthusiastic and available to do anything needed because that is the nature of the campaign world -- even for paid staff. Their ultimate goal is to elect their candidate and they are prepared to conduct an array of activities to do so. But, know what you are willing to do and feel comfortable communicating this information. For example, if you have a bad knee you may want to say you would really enjoy supporting activities taking place in the campaign office, as opposed to walking/canvassing the field.