FAQ

Q. Why do I have to keep entering my email address?
A: By using your email address, we eliminate the need to set up passwords while still providing some security for the system.

Q. Why do we have to fill out the campaign finance declaration?
A: The use of your stationery and stamps is regarded by NC election laws as an in-kind contribution from you to the Democratic Women of North Carolina. In order to record this, and any contribution, we need to record your name, address, occupation, and employer. If you are retired, you must include retired and your last employer and occupations.

Q. Is my donation tax deductible?
A: No. Political donations are not tax deductible according to Federal tax laws.

Q. Why don't you have sample letters to work from?
A: We will post some sample letters to give you ideas but personal authentic contact is the key to the success of this project. Since this is a state-wide effort, it would be hard to identify all issues. We find it is best if you write about the issues you care about, this way the letters are truly sincere. You will not know what issue is important to your reader. The key is that you think voting is important and are asking your reader to vote too. We will continue to post information that will assist you in framing issues on our blog, website and through our newsletter. We will post Turn NC Blue cards for your county which will have Early Vote and candidate endorsement information for you to insert in the envelopes.

Q. Why do I have to wait to get my list of names?
A: Our system is not completely automated: there are some manual housekeeping items that we have to perform in order to complete your sign-up. Once your sign-up is confirmed and you finish your first list, you can request a second (or third!) list of names and there will be no delay.

Q. What do I do if I received verification that I am approved as a volunteer, but don’t receive a list of names within 24 hours?
A: If you signed up and are approved but didn’t get a list, first, double check your email because the names are included in the body of the email, NOT as an attachment. Also check your spam or junk mail box to make sure the email did not go there.

Q. Why can't I get more than 60 names at a time?
A: Lists are generated in the order of the likelihood that the voter will vote Democratic. To ensure that all the most likely to vote targets get letters, we will not assign an excessive number of voters to any one volunteer at any one time. After you notify us that you mailed to your list, the system will ask you if you want another list. If you are planning a letter-writing house party and would like extra lists, please contact us at info@powerofthepen.net and we will make special arrangements.
Q. Can I pick the people that I want to write to?
A: No. The contacts are identified by a specially designed formula to rate voters by those most likely to vote Democratic if they vote and those most in need of encouragement to vote this time.

Q. What happens if I get my list but don’t write my letters right away?
A: Lists not reported as having been written within a certain time frame (which varies according to how close we are to the start of early voting) will be tossed back into the system and someone else will get those names because the lists are generated by priority of the recipient. It is a good idea to wait until you are ready to write to access your list or write your 20 letters first and then request a list of names and add the salutation and address the envelopes. However, the system doesn't accept verification from letter writers if attempted too soon after the list of names was sent.

Q. What do I do if my list looks like it includes all college students who are likely to have moved away without canceling their voter registration?
A: If you are familiar with college neighborhoods and think that there is little value in writing to these targets due to a combination of location, age, and date of registration, forward your email with the list to cathy@powerofthepen.net with an explanation and we will retire that list. You can then access another list.

Q. How do I let you know that I wrote my letters?
A: The email which contains your list has a link to a page that allows you to report completion of some, all or none of the letters using either the batch number for your list or the tracking number for the voter. Save this email until you have confirmed that you mailed the letters. A reminder email also will be sent asking you if you are finished.

Q. What should I do if a letter is returned due to bad address?
A: After you verify sending letters, you will receive an email asking about bad address returns. There will be a link to take you to a page where you can enter the tracking numbers for all of the letters that were returned to you. (You will have put the tracking number under your return address). Knowing who has moved will ensure that valuable time is not wasted in phone banking and canvassing efforts to those voters.

Q. When should I begin mailing my letters?
A: As soon as the letters are completed.

Q. What is the latest date that I should mail my letters?
A: October 22, 2014 – the day before early voting begins.

Q. Who do I contact if I have other questions?
A: info@powerofthepen.net