



SCHOLARS
STRATEGY NETWORK

Bridging the Political Divide With Deep Canvassing

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I'm not telling you who I'm voting for!," exclaimed the stranger on the other end of the line. I paused to see if they would hang up. They didn't. "That's OK," I said, "you don't need to share that with me. I just want to know what issues matter most to you." Partisan politics wasn't the point of my call, anyway.

A few weeks before, feeling frustrated and worried as the seemingly endless (and endlessly polarized) political season dragged on, I was looking for something I could do, something other than traditional partisan "get out the vote" phone banking. I found the Wisconsin Farmers Union nonpartisan deep canvassing team, which is how I ended up on the phone with this particular stranger.