**Accountability Conversation Guide for Reproductive Freedom**

*This is a general outline that your team can adapt. Please use the wording of the survey questions as shown here, but you may modify other wording as needed. This outline includes the data points you’ll record in the MiniVAN app after the conversation. (See below for lists.)*

**Step 1: Beginning the Conversation**

**Open with introduction, your purpose, and a question.**

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I live in \_\_\_\_\_\_(town)

I’m hoping to speak to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(name).

*[DATA you’ll record: Voter status]*

I’m with a group of volunteers in the area [or name of group].

We’re out talking to voters [neighbors] about what’s happened in the NH legislature this year. We’re focusing on reproductive freedom.

May I ask what your views are on that? I’ll give you a scale. Let’s say…

\*5 is you believe safe abortion care should be available to everyone as wanted or needed (and)

\*1 is you believe no one should ever be permitted to have an abortion for any reason.

Where do you think you’d place yourself?

*[DATA you’ll record: Self-assessment on issue]*

**Step 2:** **Empathetic Listening:**

**Ask open-ended questions, listen for stories, look for common ground.**

* Can you tell me more…?
* It sounds as if…. Is that right?
* I’d like to hear about that…

The questions below lead more into discussions of abortion itself:

* Have you ever faced obstacles in getting reproductive health care?
* Do you know anyone who has?
* Do you know anyone who’s faced a difficult pregnancy?
* Do you know anyone who’s struggled with the choice to seek abortion care?

**Step 3:  Sharing Your Story and Ideas:**

**Connect your story or experience to theirs.**

* It sounds like you felt \_\_\_\_\_. Is that right? I’ve felt that way too...
* That reminds me of how my family…
* I was just thinking of my own experience…

**Step 4: Working Through Hard Moments**

**Respond to challenges or unexpected counterpoints.**

* Empathize: Acknowledge the emotion. Validate the person, not the perspective.
* Model empathy toward those judged by others.
* Listen for conflicted feelings.  Make a transition to a new frame or perspective.
* Offer some information if relevant but be careful not to correct if it will sound judgmental. Don’t get drawn into argument.
* Redirect: Bring the conversation back to the goal. A new question can help.
	+ I’m hearing we both agree on… Is that right?
	+ Let’s get back to what you want for you/your family/ the community. How could our elected representatives help with that?

**Step 5: Call to Action**

One of the things we’re doing is making sure voters know the positions their representatives in Concord have been taking on this.

Our (your) representative is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(name).

What do you think of him/her?

I have this list of bills he/she has sponsored and his/her votes on bills related to reproductive freedom.

You’re welcome to take this.

For instance…. (explain one or more points)

\*If this person runs again to represent you, will you vote against him/her?

*[DATA you’ll record: Yes, oppose; Unsure; No, support]*

Even though our group’s focus is abortion, we’d love to know what other issues you’re thinking about. What would you say is your top concern?

*[Data you’ll record: Top Issue]*

Thank you so much for sharing your ideas with me. I appreciate your time.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Background information on data collection:**

*The MiniVAN app will be programmed with a similar template.*

*There are four possible data points to collect, set up as multiple-choice menus with one choice possible in each list.*

1. **Voter Status**

If the voter is HOME, you’ll proceed with your conversation. The app will record the voter as a verified contact.

If you Couldn’t Reach This Contact, you’ll select the reason:

 Not Home

 Refused

 Inaccessible

 Deceased

 Moved

1. **Agreement that safe abortion care should be available to everyone as wanted or needed**
2. Strongly disagree
3. Disagree
4. Unsure
5. Agree
6. Strongly agree
7. **Will you be voting against the representative?**
8. Yes, oppose
9. Unsure
10. No, support
11. **Issue**

*MiniVAN will provide the following list with one selection possible:*

 Climate Change

 Economy

 Education

 Free State Project

 Gun policy

 Healthcare

 Immigration

 Medicare

 National Security

 Property Taxes

 Reproductive Freedom

 Social Justice (*This includes racial justice, LGBTQ and other civil rights)*

 Social Security

 Voting Rights

 Other (*This is a place to include topics not on the list*.)

*Remember that you always have the option to select Notes and write details about the voter or the conversation. Your group leader will be able to download all notes for later review.*