

My name is Nancy Batista, I am the Florida state director of Mi Familia Vota Education Fund 501c3 and also Mi Familia Vota 501c4 non profit organization. Our mission is to build latino political power. We do this by creating voters through the citizenship workshops that we provide. Last year we registered 29,745 people to vote, we knocked 101,496 doors, Called 734 people and sent 152,535 Texts/SMS to Get Out The Vote. We also did a campaign to get out the vote for the primary election and for the general election. We work in low propensity, high density latino areas. During the voter registration process we were making sure that people would sign up to receive a vote by mail ballot.

During the primary election, we had 4 teams of 5 people each that were knocking on doors and making sure to Get Out The Vote (GOTV).

Everything seemed to be going well until I was made aware of something that had happened not too long after the primary election was over. A person very close to me received a letter stating that their mailed in ballot had been voided out due to a signature mismatch although they had not changed their signature since high school.

Because of this, I knew that I needed to change messaging for the general election. I shared the letter with my staff and I mentioned to them that we needed to push the message for early voting instead of voting by mail.

The time for early voting came for the general election, I was prepared and I went to my early voting site. While I was there a couple of things happened. The first thing was that, I walked in to surrender my ballot because I wanted to make sure that my vote would count. As I tried to surrender my ballot, the person working there told me that I could not surrender my ballot but instead for me to complete it and to put it in the drop off box. I refused, I told her that I wanted a provisional ballot and that i wanted to surrender my mail in ballot. She told me again that this was not protocol and that she could not do this. I told her to please contact her supervisor and that I was aware of my rights and that I knew that I could do this. I waited for her to make contact with her supervisor. While I waited for her to get clearance I saw something else happen. I heard how another person working there told an older lady that the person next to her could not be next to her while voting. The person responded back that he was her son and that he was assisting her because she did not understand. The lady continued to say that he could not be there with her. Then, the son asked for the material in Spanish and she said they did not have it at this time. The person told the lady, you don't have this information in Spanish and you won't let me assist my mom that doesn't understand English. Do you have someone that can assist her? The lady said no. I jumped in and told her that I would be calling voter protection services about this incident to let them know about both incidents.

The other person came back with another person next to her, she told me that I could surrender my ballot and that they would be giving me a provisional ballot. I turned around and I no longer saw the mother and son.

I got to my office, I called a lawyer from Latino Justice and told her what I had just witnessed and experienced. I also called voter protection services and let them know about the incidents and also told them that this Polk early voting site did not have any spanish material and no one that could assist there that was bilingual as well.

We hosted party at the polls in order to motivate our communities to go out to vote, while we were there we had a couple of people that approached us upset because of issues that they

incurred while trying to cast their vote. We helped them by providing them with the voter protection services number.

Election day arrived and we were at the office, a couple of people walked in confused to our office and asking information regarding their polling site. Our office is near a library, that library was an early voting site but it was not a voting site for election day. We assisted those people by looking up their information and by providing them with the information of where their voting site was at.

We had another person that mentioned that their voting site was inside a gated community and that there was a passcode to get in and that she was not able to get in. My colleague told her that it was best for her to go to the Supervisor of elections and for her to cast her vote that way.