

Defending Our Pensions, Winning Our Ballot: 5 Things You Can Do To Help!

1. **Organising phone banking.** One of the best ways to get in touch with members and encourage them to vote is via phone. In order to comply with GDPR regulations, it is important this is done through your branch committee and that only members who have given permission for the branch to contact them are canvassed. Seek advice from your regional official if you are unsure about how to comply with GDPR regs! But phone banking is a quick and easy way to contact large numbers of members – a team of 3 or 4 can easily call 120-160 members in just two hours!
2. **Go door knocking!** Face to face interaction can be more time consuming but is invaluable in helping persuade and remind members to vote. Visiting members in their offices is a great way of talking about the ballot and reminding people to vote. You can use UCU leaflets to help explain why the dispute is important, and if you find people are not in their offices you can leave a leaflet to remind them to vote. Remember to take 'Join UCU' material too! If someone is not a member, ask them to join.
3. **Use pigeon holes and email lists to remind your colleagues.** A leaflet in a colleagues pigeon hole can be an important reminder to vote, and it takes just a few minutes to do this. Email lists are also a great way to quickly and easily remind people to vote, as well as advertising meetings and activities related to the ballot.
4. **Organise a meeting.** Even if it is only a few colleagues in your department, get people together to talk about the dispute and why it is important to vote. You could even all bring your ballot papers, fill them out together and post them together. Whatever the size of the meeting, getting people together to discuss the dispute is invaluable. Talking to each other makes our union stronger.
5. **Post about your vote on social media.** Whether it is Twitter, Facebook, Instagram or whatever you use, it is quick, easy and free to let people know that you have voted and tell them why. Make sure to promote and share content from other members who are doing the same as well!