

The Committee to Restore the Dove Shooting Ban

Steps to a Successful House Party

What is a House Party?

Fundraising doesn't have to be total drudgery. Do you like to party? Then why not hold a house party. It's a great way to raise money and have fun with your friends, neighbors and colleagues. Since this is a key fundraising tool for the campaign, we need to hold hundreds of house parties within the next year. However, because the campaign has a very small staff, we can only attend a limited number of house parties, so the information below is designed to provide you with all the tools to hold a successful party. A good guide is to work toward having at least twenty people at the event and that these people are able to make an average contribution of \$25.00. NOW, let's party!

What is the role of a house party host?

- Create a list of friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to invite. Experience tells us that one needs to invite three to four times the number of guests one hopes will attend.
- Send out email or mailed invitations. (The campaign can provide you sample text.)
- Follow up with the invited guests to confirm attendance.
- Provide a location for the event.
- Provide light refreshments and snacks.

What is a typical house party agenda?

- 7:00 Guests arrive, sign in, make donation, mingle, and eat.
- 7:30 Host gathers and welcomes guests, explains why the campaign is important to them, guests introduce themselves, and host introduces guest speaker (if applicable).
- 7:35 Speaker makes presentation and shows video.
- 7:50 Host/speaker asks for additional contributions and volunteers
- 8:30 Guests mingle then leave

Specific steps for a successful house party.

You may think that if you send invitations and hold the party, the guests will come. Unfortunately, it usually doesn't work that way. The key to a successful and fun house party is good planning and good follow through. Don't underestimate the need to confirm your attendees, even if they are good friends. But don't worry. By following the guidelines below, your event will be a success!

1) Brainstorm a list of people you can invite 4 weeks prior to the event.

Possible sources of names:

- You and your spouses address list
- Co-workers
- Neighbors
- Your spouse's co-workers
- The campaign's donors who live in your area.
- Members of women and men's groups

2) Send out invitations 3 weeks prior to your event.

- The campaign can provide text for your invitations.

3) Call everyone you invited that hasn't RSVP'd to see if they can attend 2 weeks prior to your event.

- Track your responses so you can follow-up with them later.

4) Make reminder calls the night before your event to everyone who said they would attend. This will improve your attendance.

5) Have appetizers and drinks available for your guests.

We understand that most of this goes without saying, but it helps to have a little reminder as things get crazy for all of you. For more information, please see the second page. Thank you for your devotion to the doves!

If you have any questions, please contact Kirk, our statewide House Party coordinator --

Email: houseparty@stopshootingdoves.org ■ Phone: (248) 808-1710

You can help the doves by hosting a House Party! It's fun, easy and will make a significant difference in the outcome of this campaign!

The essential function of a House party is that it helps to build a broad-based, statewide corps of voters informed about the urgency of passing the mourning dove referendum.

Parties provide a perfect opportunity to educate voters, recruit volunteers, generate much needed campaign funds, and continue the momentum to victory next November. Please help us reach our goal by hosting several parties between now and next November.

Invite guests for any kind of party you like (see suggestions below). We will provide everything you need in order for your guests to become informed about the importance of passing the mourning dove referendum.

We must organize quickly so that we may raise the necessary funds to wage an extensive media campaign to get our message to Michigan voters: **VOTE NO TO SAVE THE DOVES**. Our opponents pledge to raise 3 million dollars, so we must get busy **NOW** because it's never too early to **PARTY!**

· **Invite everyone you can think of and always invite three to four times as many people as you want to attend.**

Neighbors	Attorneys
Teachers	Nurses
Doctors	Democrats
Republicans	Church friends
Co-workers	Members of women and men's groups
Labor union members	People from your health club
Your spouse's co-workers	Your children's friends' parents
People in government	People you send holiday greetings to

· **Chose a theme for your party.**

A backyard picnic or BBQ	Coffee and dessert
Watch a sporting event	Crepes and wine
Wine and crackers	Champagne brunch
Potluck	Beer and pretzels
Cocktails and appetizers	Pizza party
Movie night	A block party

OR ... Have a party to celebrate your birthday, anniversary, housewarming or any special occasion. Ask guests to make a donation to The Committee to Restore the Dove Shooting Ban.

OR ... Have a "virtual" party (a "no" party). Ask "guests" to send a donation check instead of coming to your home.

OR ... Have a Garage/Yard Sale to raise funds to donate. Organize a two-day garage sale, this is an easy way to raise money to donate to the public outreach campaign that benefits both you and the doves. Ask your neighbors or friends to donate old items to your garage sale fundraiser.

We'd love to help you make your Save the Doves party a success, so please give us a call!