

Subject: Signature Gathering and Civic Solicitation

Purpose:

To promote civic engagement while preventing patrons from feeling harassed or pressured when using the library.

Policy:

Library property is operated for the provision of library services to the public. As a limited public forum, the library places reasonable and viewpoint-neutral restrictions on speech on library property, including parking lots, walkways, and building interiors.

Signature gathering on a petition as permitted under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and as defined in the Code of Virginia, is permitted in designated outside areas of the library property during library operating hours. To ensure that library patrons are unhindered in their use of library services, the following regulations will apply to petitioning and civic solicitation activity:

- Petitioners on Library property must do so outside Library buildings, in the areas designated by the library as civic solicitation spaces.
- Petitioners must register with library staff at the service desk. No more than two petitioners shall be permitted at one time.
- Petitioners shall not block access to the library, nor impede patron's or staff's access to the library; nor demand attention or intimidate library patrons or staff wishing to enter or exit Library buildings, including book drop areas.
- Petitioners shall not occupy areas designated as fire or emergency lanes and shall not occupy parking spaces, and must not harm or destroy library property including landscaping and plants.
- Petitioners may bring and set up a single table, and chairs as needed; and to attach or display signs on the furniture they bring; so long as they do not interfere in any way with patron and staff access to the building.
- Petitioner signs and literature may not be left unattended and will be removed and disposed of if left at the library.
- All signs, other than those produced by the Library, are prohibited on Library property except as described above.
- Use of any type of paint, chalk, markers, pens, stickers, nails, fasteners, or adhesive on any Library surface or property is prohibited.
- No leafleting, distribution of literature, or solicitation is permitted for the purposes of selling items, merchandise, tickets; or other for-profit activities.
- Panhandling is not permitted on Library property.

- The Library is not responsible for any harm or injury suffered by petitioners, nor by those who are signing a petition.
- Restrictions on election-related activities under this policy are superseded by the Code of Virginia §24.2 Elections when the library is in use as an official polling place.

Public solicitation for purposes other than described above will not be permitted on Library property or in the Library Community Rooms, except for library related activities or as required when the library is a polling place.

Attachments: None

References: None
MFRL 304: Solicitation

Approval:

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board of Trustees

December 1991; revised September 19, 2001; June 16, 2004, December 16, 2009, April 15, 2015, June 15, 2016; February 21, 2018; January 24, 2024; March 20, 2024; March 19, 2025

March 19, 2025

Date



Gunin Kiran, Chair