

Petitions & Solicitations Policy

Wabasso Public Library

Purpose

According to the Library's **Rules of Behavior Policy**, members of the public can be asked to cease their behavior, or in some cases leave the premises for the day, if they are: "Soliciting, petitioning, or distributing written materials, or canvassing for business, political, charitable, or religious purposes without prior approval from Library staff."

This policy sets forth guidelines and conditions for circulating petitions and soliciting to protect both the free exercise of individual rights as afforded under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, as well as maintenance of a safe and welcoming environment for all patrons while visiting the Library. This policy is content-neutral and applies to all regardless of the candidate, issue or cause.

General

Petitioners and solicitors should not block, hinder, interfere or otherwise impede Library patrons or staff wishing to enter or exit the Library building, parking areas, or wishing to use book returns. They should also not use intimidation to get any person to sign a petition or take literature or participate in an activity.

Fundraising activities are not permitted inside the Library or on library property by any person or organization when the purpose is to benefit a group or organization other than the Wabasso Public Library. Anyone who violates this policy, or other library policies such as the **Rules of Behavior Policy**, or engages in unlawful behavior, will be asked and required to leave the premises.

Petitioning:

The Library allows people to circulate petitions on the north sidewalk adjacent to the library grounds, or the petitioners may reserve the meeting room for such purpose. If using the Library's meeting room, the meeting room policies must be followed, including keeping all activity and materials inside the meeting room.

Petitioners may not actively pursue, harass or intimidate library patrons. Additionally, in issuing posters, press releases or other publicity, groups may not imply that their programs are sponsored, co-sponsored or endorsed by the Wabasso Public Library.

Circulating petitions for signatures anywhere else on library property is prohibited. This is enforced so that it does not give the appearance that the Library is supporting a specific cause or issue.

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Soliciting:

The Library allows solicitors on the north sidewalk adjacent to the library grounds, or in the meeting room when it has been reserved. Soliciting anywhere else on library property is prohibited.

Solicitors can promote – but not directly sell – products and materials. They cannot ask for donations, seek membership fees, or payment of dues anywhere inside the library or on library property. This applies also to non-profit organizations.

If using the Library's meeting room, the meeting room policies must be followed, including keeping all activity and materials inside the meeting room. Solicitors may not actively pursue, harass or intimidate library patrons. Additionally, in issuing posters, press releases or other publicity, solicitors may not imply that their programs are sponsored, co-sponsored or endorsed by the Wabasso Public Library. Posters may be displayed to the Library's bulletin board if it is for civic, educational, or cultural purposes.

Approved 10-05-2021