

# North Perth Public Library



Policy Title: **The Library and Political Elections**

Policy Type: **Operational**

Effective Date: **April 12, 2022**

Policy Number: **OP-10**

Last Review/Revision Date: **April 12, 2022**

The *Municipal Elections Act 1996*, Clause 88.18 requires local boards, including public library boards, to establish rules for use of board resources during the campaign period.

The North Perth Public Library (NPPL) works to respond to community needs through offering empowering programming. Public libraries also play an important role in encouraging democratic participation and awareness. In fulfilling these roles, NPPL works to ensure that we preserve the public's trust in us as an independent organization by taking care to avoid the perception of bias or partisanship.

This policy replaces Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes GOV-04.

## Section 1: Promoting Democratic Awareness and Participation

1. The Library Board encourages staff to support non-partisan activities that encourage political participation and voter awareness.

Approved activities include things like the following:

- Using library spaces to act as polling stations;
- Using library spaces for non-partisan voter registration activities;
- Using library spaces to host all candidates' meetings or events; and
- Using library spaces to host programming about relevant current topics

Approval for using the library space, website, or social media for non-partisan activities requires approval of the CEO or designate.

2. The Library Board requires staff to refrain from activities that could erode our position of trust and independence. The NPPL will not support, endorse, or advocate the viewpoints or beliefs of any one candidate, political party, partisan organization or group.

The following activities are not permitted:

- The posting or distribution of partisan election or campaign material in or around library spaces, physical or virtual with the exceptions outlined in *NPPL OP-14 Community Information*;

- Renting library spaces for partisan events, elections or campaign activities as it is incompatible with the function and purpose of the library space;
- While at work staff will not wear anything that promotes a specific candidates or party;
- Staff are not permitted to post, distribute or promote any election candidate or party while on library property.

## Section 2: Campaign Contributions

1. In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, Section 70(4), the Election Finances Act, R.S.O 1990 Section 16(1), and Canada Elections Act, Section 404(1), the Board may not contribute to the campaign of any candidate or political party in the form of money, goods or services.

## Section 3: Employee, Volunteer, and Board Member Participation in Election Campaigns

1. A NPPL employee or volunteer involved in a political campaign must be politically neutral in carrying out their library duties and must not participate in campaign activities during their working hours;
2. Any library employee running as a candidate in the municipal election will comply with Section 30 of the Municipal Elections Act.
3. Board members may continue their library board responsibilities when they are running for office.
  - 3.1. Board members that also sit as a member of council must follow the Municipality of North Perth Council Code of Conduct section 5.8 Election Campaign/Use of Corporate Resources

## Section 4: Request for Information About the Library

1. The Library CEO will coordinate requests for information about the Library received from candidates or political parties;
2. Information that is provided by the Library to one candidate or political party will be provided to all other candidates and political parties upon request during an election;
3. Any candidate or political party may request a meeting with the CEO or tour of the Library.

**Related Documents:**

- North Perth Library *OP-14 Community Information*
- North Perth Library *OP-16 Room Rental*
- Municipality of North Perth Council Code of Conduct