

BETHELEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

SOLICITATION AND DISTRIBUTION POLICY

Policy adopted by the Board of Trustees November 13, 2000

Policy revised by the Board of Trustees February 13, 2012

Policy revised by the Board of Trustees May 11, 2015

Policy revised by the Board of Trustees August 11, 2025

Solicitation of the public or staff is not permitted inside the library building. This restriction does not apply to dissemination of material at a duly approved meeting consistent with the library's meeting room policy. By law, the grounds outside the library are considered a limited public forum, and as such, are governed by the First Amendment.

General rules and guidelines

- Use of the library grounds is limited to noncommercial activities. Items, products or services may not be offered for sale at any time.
- Areas of the Library building and property may not be available during Library scheduled events.
- Individuals or groups may not impede anyone's access to the library through physical or implied restraint, nor may their activities interfere in any way with another person's use of Library services.
- Space is available for passive distribution of information on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- A small portable table or mobile literature rack can be used, so long as it does not physically block access to the Library or is left unattended.
- Leaving pamphlets and leaflets on vehicles in the parking lot is not allowed.
- For groups and individuals that otherwise qualify to reserve a Library Space pursuant to the Meeting Room and Access Policy, certain political activities are restricted. Permitted and not-permitted activities include:

Permitted

- Regular meetings of duly registered political committees (of any party)
- Regular meetings of unregistered groups united around a common political purpose or theme
- Informational sessions by elected officials distinct from campaign events
- "Know your Candidates" events presented by a non-partisan group and open to all candidates, regardless of party affiliation

- Voter registration activities separate from support for a particular candidate

Not permitted

- Campaign events for a particular candidate or slate of candidates
- Fundraising events by political groups
- Use of reserved Library Space for campaign support activities (preparing mailings, posters, and other content relating to a political candidate)
- Soliciting signatures on petitions for a particular candidate or ballot initiative on Library property