

Policy for Political Activity and Materials in the Library

Wright Memorial Public Library is a place where citizens can learn about various viewpoints and decide for themselves on issues of the day. The library is a resource for the entire community that seeks to make information available on a wide variety of issues. The library works to maintain a professional reputation as a nonpartisan, nonsectarian, non-biased place for the sharing and exchange of ideas. To avoid the appearance of an endorsement by the library of any candidate for office or issue appearing on the ballot, the following policy has been adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Display of Campaign Literature

Because of space limitations, the library will not display literature of individual candidates for office, but will allow display of literature about ballot issues on a space available basis. All material displayed must be from registered political action committees. The library also will allow display of published materials that provide an overview of all sides in an upcoming election, such as the *Voters Guide* from the League of Women Voters. A space will be designated for these materials separate from the public bulletin board.

Display of the material does not constitute an endorsement by the library board or staff and the library makes no claim as to the accuracy of the material. This disclaimer will be posted in the display area.

The library will not be responsible for acquiring materials, replacing them, or seeing that all issues are represented.

If space is a problem, local (within Montgomery County) issues will take priority.

Materials will be displayed for thirty days before an election day. The library will discard the materials after election day.

No signage may be posted outdoors on the library building, grounds, or property.

Petitioners

It is the policy of the Wright Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees that an individual or groups of individuals requesting signatures on petitions will be permitted on the sidewalks or other outdoor public areas around the library so long as the activity does not interfere with patrons accessing library entrances or library services. Petitioners are not permitted to block patron access to the library or to harass patrons in an effort to obtain signatures. Petitioners are not allowed to gather signatures inside the library.

Meetings

Groups of a political nature are allowed to use the library's meeting room and must abide by all rules of meeting room use. Groups may not charge admission, solicit donations, or offer items for sale. All meetings must be free and open to the public. The name and/or address of Wright Memorial Public Library may not be used as the address of an organization or be used in any way that might imply Library sponsorship.

Political Activity by Staff

While on duty at the library, staff members have an obligation to maintain the political neutrality of the organization and will not engage in active or passive campaign activities while on library premises.

Adopted by the Wright Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees November 20, 2006

