



Political Use of Library Space POLICY

- Operational** (Approved by SPL Board)
- Administrative** (Approved by SPL CEO)

Date Effective: 2023-06-21

Date Last Reviewed or Revised: 2023-06-21

Review Cycle: Every five years by the Director, Public Services

Purpose

Saskatoon Public Library's *Political Use of Library Space Policy* supports the encouragement of political participation and voter awareness through non-partisan activities, programs and services.

SPL:

- 1) Remains a foundational public institution for an informed and inclusive democracy and plays an important role in civic dialogue and debate by supporting democratic process, freedom of expression and balanced discussion on political issues.
- 2) Promotes awareness and provides information on elections as long as no particular candidate or partisan group is promoted or excluded.
- 3) May act as a polling place, venue for an all-candidate meeting or forum or site for discussions about relevant current issues.

Policy Statement

In General

SPL:

- 1) Will not support, endorse or advocate the views or beliefs of any one candidate, political party, partisan organization or group.
- 2) Will not post or distribute, or allow the posting or distribution on Library property, partisan election or campaign materials.
- 3) Will not allow the use of any open Library space or property by any elected officials, candidates for political office, representatives of political parties or registered third party advertisers for the purpose of soliciting or advocating among Library Patrons.

- 4) Will not allow the use of any open Library space or property by any elected officials, candidates for political office, representatives of political parties or registered third party advertisers for the purpose of making public statements or hosting media events, unless they are a part of a shared or partnered Library program or announcement.
- 5) Will ask that political parties that wish to invite media to events within Library bookable or rentable rooms submit a request to the Library at the time of booking for approval. All video and photo capture of events must follow SPL's *Public Photography & Filming Guidelines*.
- 6) May deny or cancel a booking or rental for a Library space or room when SPL has reason to believe that the disclosed use of the space is likely to or will include prohibited activities or violations of any SPL policy.
- 7) Prohibits the use of its logo, slogans or any other intellectual property in print, posted or distributed on any election-related campaign materials.

Elections

Once the writ is dropped for a provincial or federal election, or as of Nomination Day for the Saskatoon municipal election, the Library:

- 1) Will not invite any elected official or candidate from that level of government to speak or present at any Library event, except in the case of all-candidates meetings or forums, until after the election has concluded.
- 2) Will not allow bookings or rentals of rooms or Library spaces by any candidate, political party or registered third-party advertiser for meetings or any other activities related to the election that is underway.
- 3) May hold or promote activities or events in which all candidates in an election are invited to attend.

Demonstrations & Petitions

SPL:

- 1) Does not make its spaces or grounds available for use by the public for the purpose of distributing petitions or literature, canvassing, surveying or protesting.
- 2) Prohibits any individuals conducting activities covered by this Policy to intimidate or harass Library Patrons, employees or Library partners, to block, hinder or impede travel to or from the Library, or to disrupt the orderly operation of the Library and its programs or services in any way.
- 3) May allow the surveying of groups or individuals done to assess the Library use or satisfaction with Library services, or done in partnership with the Library.

Roles & Responsibilities

SPL Board

- 1) Approves the Policy.

Director, Public Services

- 1) Stays abreast of current legislation and recommends Policy revisions as required.
- 2) Administers the Policy.

Personnel

- 1) Uphold the principles of supporting an informed and inclusive democracy in the performance of their duties.

Definitions

- 1) **"Library"**: SPL and its branches, permanent and temporary buildings, grounds and other spaces, including online spaces.
- 2) **"Patron"**: Anyone who uses the Library and its services.
- 3) **"Personnel"**: All permanent and temporary employees, Circulation Associates, Casuals, security guards, contractors, consultants and volunteers employed by or working at SPL.
- 4) **"Policy"**: *Political Use of Library Space Policy*.
- 5) **"SPL"**: Saskatoon Public Library.