



Petitioning, Electioneering, and Distribution of Literature on Webster Groves Public Library Property Policy

Pursuant to the authority granted to Webster Groves Public Library under RSMo § 182.230, this policy establishes reasonable rules and regulations controlling all campaigning, petitioning, interviewing, survey taking, photography or videotaping, soliciting or sales in Library buildings and on Library property and distributing literature to Library employees and/or Library patrons on Library District property by individuals herein referred to as Petitioners.

Petitioners are prohibited from engaging in all campaigning, petitioning, interviewing, survey taking, photography or videotaping, soliciting or sales in Library buildings, and personal distribution of literature to Library employees and/or Library patrons in the Library building and on Library grounds except as provided herein. Government agencies that disseminate information in the Library building and on Library grounds pursuant to the approval of the Library Director or his/her designee are not engaged in petition or distribution of literature as defined in this policy, and are not subject to the restrictions herein.

Petitioning and distribution of literature is allowed in the following circumstances:

1. Inside the library, petitions are allowed only in the context of scheduled meetings in library meeting rooms. Petitioners may not stand outside the library meeting rooms.
2. Petitioners may stand outside the Library building in areas designated by Library staff, away from the Library entrances. Petitioners must not impede any automobile or pedestrian traffic or interfere with the free passage of Library patrons and/or Library staff in or on Library premises, including, but not limited to, blocking entrances, exits, stairways, aisles, and sidewalks, or placing objects in a manner that interferes with free passage, and must not pursue patrons. Literature may be distributed at locations designated by Library staff and are away from Library entrances.
3. The allowance of any petition or distribution of literature on Library property as provided above shall not constitute an endorsement by Webster Groves Public Library of the content of such petition or distribution of literature.

Electioneering

1. Because the Webster Groves Public Library may serve as an official polling place during elections, all electioneering activities are subject to Missouri election law. No electioneering—including the display or distribution of campaign materials, solicitation of votes, or the wearing of campaign apparel—is permitted within **25 feet** of the polling place entrance as marked by the election authority on Election Day, in accordance with Missouri law. Outside of this boundary, individuals may engage in electioneering activities only in areas designated by

- Library staff, provided such activity does not interfere with Library operations, patron access, or pedestrian/vehicle traffic. These restrictions apply equally to candidates, campaign workers, and members of the general public. The Library does not endorse any candidate, party, or ballot measure.
2. Any signs, banners, posters, or other election-related materials placed in or around the Library premises in connection with a campaign, candidate, or ballot issue must be removed within 24 hours after the close of the election day. Failure to remove such materials in the allotted time will result in their removal and disposal by Library staff.

Any person wishing to appeal or otherwise question the enforcement of a restriction pursuant to this policy shall be referred to the Library Director or his/her designee.

This policy is not designed to prohibit the initial access of any person to Webster Groves Public Library, and shall be enforced without prejudice or arbitrary distinctions between individuals or classes of individuals.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, August 2011

Revised by the Board of Trustees, October 15, 2025