



Solicitation and Petitioning Policy

Approved: January 25, 2024

Updated: June 26, 2025

It is the policy of the Petoskey District Library (PDL) to provide a safe and welcoming environment and to assure that patrons are able to use Library services and resources free of interference and disruption. As a limited public forum, the Library strives to support their patrons by making reasonable rules regarding the use of the Library buildings and property. The public sidewalks around the Library property are considered a traditional public forum, and thus protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. Meeting rooms, when booked for non-library meetings/events, are considered a private space, and thus not regulated by the rules below.

Definitions:

Library – refers to the main Library, located at 500 E. Mitchell St, as well as the Carnegie Building, located at 451 E. Mitchell St, including library grounds around each building.

Petitioning and Passing out Information – this refers to and includes campaigning, petitioning, interviewing, survey-taking, pamphleteering, peddling, canvassing, and/or soliciting.

Petitioning / Passing out information

1. Petitioning and passing out information is prohibited inside and on the grounds of the Library, this excludes private use of library meeting rooms.
2. Persons circulating petitions for signatures or passing out informational brochures, leaflets, or other types of information may do so on the public sidewalks around the building, as long as they are not within thirty (30) feet of any entrance of either building.
3. Persons circulating or distributing shall not block, hinder, interfere, or otherwise impede patrons or staff wishing to enter or exit Library buildings or to use book drops, nor seek to intimidate patrons or staff into signing or accepting information.
4. Persons circulating or distributing shall not erect tables, chairs or signs on Library property or public sidewalks.
5. Persons wishing to circulate petitions or hand out information shall inform the Library staff at the main desk of their intent. Each individual shall provide name, address, and a copy of the petition and/or information to be handed out.
6. Campaign material may not be posted at the Library or left on Library property.
7. The Library staff are exempt from the above constraints in promoting Library activities, and issues.

Panhandling, sales, fundraising

1. The Library does not allow panhandling or the sale or promotion of goods, services, or fundraising events in the public areas of the Library building, or on the grounds. For the purpose of this policy, Meeting Rooms that are reserved are not considered public areas.
2. The only promotion and/or selling of products permitted in public areas of the Library are Library or Friends of the Petoskey Public Library sponsored activities.
3. Persons who fail to comply with the above procedures will be asked to leave the Library premises.



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4. The Library staff are exempt from the above constraints for their annual local partnership campaign. The Library will not assume responsibility for any harm or injury suffered by persons circulating petitions or distributing leaflets, or by those who are signing a petition.

The presence of persons circulating petitions for signatures or distributing leaflets outside the Library facility does not constitute the Library's endorsement of said petition or leaflet, nor does it constitute the Library's endorsement of the policies, beliefs, or political affiliations of any person or group circulating petitions or information.