



Policy 5-16	Solicitation and Petitioning	<p>Created: 7/28/19 Revised: Approved: 9/12/19</p>
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I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the rules and standard of conduct regarding soliciting and persons gathering petition signatures on Library property.

II. Introduction

The Library is a community hub and strives to provide access to and discussion of information, including opposing viewpoints, that serve the needs of everyone in the community. This quasi-open forum structure should protect the overriding function of the Library as a public space for investigation, inquiry, and gathering of information on an individual level. Occasionally, an open forum may be a part of this process, such as at a Library sponsored program or in a Meeting Room that has been reserved by an organization for a program independent of the Library.

Solicitation and petitioning are separate and different from the Library’s function in the community as a forum for information and discussion.

Programs that are sponsored or co-sponsored by the Library, Friends of the Library, or the Jackson County Library Foundation are exempt from this policy.

III. Solicitation Policy

Solicitation means activities that include asking for donations of any kind (monetary or goods).

Solicitation inside the Library (excluding scheduled programs in Meeting Rooms) and outside the Library on Library grounds, including sidewalks, walkways, and parking lots is prohibited. Any persons soliciting on Library property will be immediately asked to leave and will be subject to the consequences set forth in the Library’s Rules of Conduct Policy.

IV. Petitioning Policy

Petitioning in the form of requesting or collecting signatures on petitions on publicly accessible Library property is permitted. Petitioning is permitted exterior to the library building so as not to impede movement via the walkway to and from the Library, and subject to the following conditions. Petitioning is prohibited inside the Library.

Persons wishing to request or collect signatures on Library property must adhere to these rules and standard of conduct:

- Petitioners must inform appropriate Library staff or Library Security of their intention to petition on Library grounds upon arrival

- Petitioners must stay in designated areas for such activity, as assigned by Library staff
- Petitioners shall not cause interference to patrons entering or leaving the Library
- Petitioners shall not block the Library entrance and shall afford patrons reasonable space to exit and enter the building
- Petitioners shall not utilize the parking lot or any parking spaces for petitioning
- Petitioners shall not display offensive picket signs or posters

Petitioners who are in violation of this policy will be immediately asked to leave and will be subject to the consequences set forth in the Library's Rules of Conduct Policy.