



Policy 5-16	Public Use of Library Grounds	Created: 09/16/2019 Revised: 03/24/2025 Approved: 04/16/2025
--------------------	--------------------------------------	---

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the rules and standard of conduct regarding the public use of library grounds.

II. Introduction

The public areas of the Jackson County Library Services (the “Library”), including both facilities and grounds, are a limited public forum. As such, the Library may create reasonable rules and regulations to maintain the proper use of its property yet must do so within lawful boundaries. Public sidewalks, near or around library property, are traditional public forums and as such may be subject to content-neutral and reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions. The following policy is for the express purpose of maintaining orderly management and control of all library grounds to create a safe, respectful, and appropriate environment for all patrons. Programs that are sponsored or co-sponsored by the Library, Friends of the Library, or the Jackson County Library Foundation may be exempt from this policy.

III. Petitioning and Demonstrating

Petitioning is requesting or collecting signatures on petitions.

Demonstrating is participating in a public gathering, protest, meeting, or march.

Persons wishing to request or collect signatures, protest, or demonstrate on library property must adhere to these rules and standard of conduct:

- Petitioning, protesting, or demonstrating inside the Library is prohibited.
- Petitioning, protesting or demonstrating must be at least 20 feet away from the entrance of the library building so as not to impede movement via the walkway to and from the Library.
- Branch Management and/or Library Security must be informed of intentions to petition, protest or demonstrate on library grounds upon arrival and prior to commencing activity if during Library business hours. If events occur after or prior to library business hours, a phone call to the Library during business hours will suffice prior to petitioning activities.
- Petitioners, protestors, and demonstrators must stay in designated areas for such activity, as assigned by Library Management.
- Petitioners, protestors, demonstrators shall not physically or verbally interfere with patrons entering or leaving the Library.

- All signage used for the purposes of petitioning, protesting, and demonstrating must follow the Library's Rules of Conduct.
- The Library will not provide material or other support for petitioning, demonstrating or protesting efforts.

Electioneering

- Electioneering is the act of campaigning to influence the result of an election in favor of a particular candidate or party.
- Certain libraries within Jackson County serve as temporary polling places and are designated as such. During the election season, all state and local statutes regarding electioneering and polling locations apply to all designated library locations. During the period of which the public are able drop off ballots the ballot box is considered a polling place; therefore, electioneering may not take place within 100 feet of the ballot box. This area may be marked at those sites.

Prohibited Activities

- Solicitation means activities that include selling goods or asking for donations of any kind (monetary or goods). Solicitation on library grounds is prohibited.
- Overnight camping or parking on library grounds.
- Parking or gathering in designated staff areas is prohibited.
- Patrons entering or occupying staff areas.
- Applying art media on library property unless sponsored or produced by the library. Any messaging shall be considered graffiti and removed as soon as possible.
- Signs other than those produced or approved by the library are prohibited on Library property. Unapproved signs posted on library grounds will be removed and disposed of by Library Staff. Approved signs cannot block access.