



OP-10 The Library and Political Elections

POLICY PURPOSE

The North Perth Public Library (NPPL) must act and appear to act in a non-partisan way at all times, especially during elections, while supporting the democratic process, freedom of expression and informed discussion on political issues. This policy applies to municipal, provincial, and federal elections.

The North Perth Public Library (NPPL) works to respond to community needs through offering empowering programming and engaging the public in democratic participation and awareness within the scope of this policy.

KEY POINTS SUMMARY

- NPPL guidelines to non-partisan events in using library resources.
- The NPPL aims to be fair and equal when establishing what resources candidates have access to
- The NPPL Board cannot give any resources to campaigns at any level of government.

DEFINITIONS

Non-partisan: free from party affiliation, bias, or designation

Resources: Any physical or digital materials, time, money, or space supporting Library services as funded publicly.

POLICY DETAILS

Section 1: Promoting Democratic Awareness and Participation

1. It is the responsibility of the library to ensure that no candidate, registered third-party advertiser or political party is provided with an unfair advantage in the use of library resources at any time.
2. The Library Board encourages staff to support non-partisan activities that encourage political participation and voter awareness.

Approved activities include things like the following:

- Using library spaces to act as polling stations;
- Using library spaces for non-partisan voter registration activities;
- Using library spaces to host all candidates' meetings or events; and
- Using library spaces to host programming about relevant current topics

Approval for using the library space, website, or social media for non-partisan activities requires approval of the CEO or designate.

The following activities are not permitted:

- The posting or distribution of partisan election or campaign material in or around library spaces, physical or virtual with the exceptions outlined in *NPPL OP-15 Exhibits, Displays and Community Information*.
- Candidates cannot use equipment, supplies, staff, or other operational resources of the library, nor may they use the library's logo in any campaign material.

- Renting library spaces for partisan events, elections or campaign activities as it is incompatible with the function and purpose of the library space;
- While at work staff will not wear anything that promotes a specific candidates or party;
- Staff are not permitted to post, distribute or promote any election candidate or party while on library property.

Section 2: Campaign Contributions

1. Municipal Elections:

In accordance to the *Municipal Elections Act, Section 88.8*, The NPPL Board, as a corporation, may not contribute to the campaign of any candidate in the form of library resources.

2. Provincial Elections:

In accordance with the Ontario *Elections Finances Act, Section 16(1)*, the NPPL Board may not contribute library resources to the campaign of any candidate of a provincial election, constituency association, nomination contestant, candidates, and leadership contestant of provincial political parties.

3. Federal Elections:

In accordance with the *Canada Elections Act, Section 363(1)*, the NPPL Board may not contribute any resources to any candidate of a federal election, a registered party, a registered association, nomination contestant, and leadership contestant of federal political parties.

Section 3: Employee, Volunteer, and Board Member Participation in Election Campaigns

1. A NPPL employee or volunteer involved in a political campaign must be politically neutral in carrying out their library duties and must not participate in campaign activities during their working hours;
2. Any library employee running as a candidate in the municipal election will comply with Section 30 of the Municipal Elections Act.
3. Board members may continue their library board responsibilities when they are running for office.
 - 3.1. Board members who also sit as a member of council must follow the Municipality of North Perth Council Code of Conduct section 4.4, Election Campaigns

Section 4: Request for Information About the Library

1. The Library CEO will coordinate requests for information about the Library received from candidates or political parties.
2. Information that is provided by the Library to one candidate or political party will be provided to all other candidates and political parties upon request during an election.
3. Any candidate or political party may request a meeting or tour of the NPPL Branches with the CEO.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Municipal Elections Act](#)
- [Ontario Elections Finances Act](#)
- [Canada Elections Act](#)
- [NPPL OP-15 Exhibits, Displays and Community Information](#)
- [NPPL OP-16 Meeting Space](#)
- [Municipality of North Perth Council Code of Conduct](#)

SCOPE:

This policy applies to the NPPL Board, staff, patrons, and volunteers, as well as those running for office at all levels.

Approved by the Library Board: April 12, 2022, replacing Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes GOV-04.

Revised:

Reviewed: June 10, 2025