

Petitioning, Campaigning and Free Speech Activities

Alexandria Library (the Library) allows free speech activities in specific outdoor areas on library properties. Free speech activities include, but are not limited to petitioning, leafleting and/or campaign activities.

- Petitioning, canvassing and passive citizen engagement initiatives designed to contact, survey, gather signatures, share information and inform citizens about various topics are only allowed within designated areas outside of library buildings. See the attached maps which indicate where such activities may take place.
- No petitioning, canvassing or similar types of citizen engagement initiatives are allowed inside library buildings, unless conducted under the auspices of the Library or a City agency.
- Activities must not impede access to library buildings or interfere with access by library customers.
- Petitioners/individuals must check-in with the Manager in Charge prior to their activity and provide contact information for themselves and for the group for which they are working for emergency, safety and liability purposes.
- Individuals are not guaranteed the use of an area protected from sun, heat or other inclement weather.
- The Library will not provide tables and chairs, but petitioners/individuals have the option to bring one small portable table (24" x 18" approx.) and two chairs. Access to power is not available. Tents are not permitted.
- Signs and posters cannot be affixed to the building.
- Sound amplification and/or other equipment cannot be used.
- No monies or donations can be collected, solicited, or accepted.
- The individual or group petitioning or conducting similar citizen initiatives is responsible for the information presented. Permission to use property does not imply that the Library endorses an individual or organization's mission, purposes or policies.
- Individuals must adhere to the Rules Governing Use of the Alexandria Library for behavior and may not actively pursue, harass or intimidate library customers or staff. Individuals who are reported to engage in improper behavior may be asked to leave the premises.
- The Library reserves the right to refuse individuals, groups, or organizations space for petitioning. Refusal can be based upon, but is not limited to:
 1. Disruption of normal library business operations, such as obstructing entrance and exit of library facilities
 2. Petitioning outside of normal business hours.
- Failure to comply with any of the above guidelines may result in your removal from the property.
- On Election Days, at precinct locations, any guidelines followed by the Office of Voter Registration and Elections take precedence over the Library policy.

Approved by the City Attorney's Office and Adopted by the Library Board December 2019