

**Purpose:**

To establish a healthy environment, grounded in RPL's values, that supports community services, spaces, and technologies to inspire discovery, learning, and connection.

**Objective:**

The objective of this policy is to establish the appropriateness of using RPL spaces for protest and/or political activities.

**Delegated Authority:**

Executive Director, Central Library

**Legislated Authority:**

*The Public Libraries Act, 1996, s.67*

**Other Relevant Documents:**

- Disruptions during programs, events, or spaces guidelines
- Posters and Publicity policy
- Room Use and Rental Policy
- Room use and Rental Procedures
- Safe Use and Conduct Bylaw

**Application:**

This policy applies to all RPL locations.

**Policy:**

- 1.0. Individuals who are conducting any activity covered by this policy shall not:
  - 1.1. intimidate or harass RPL customers or staff;
  - 1.2. block, hinder, or impede travel to or from RPL property; or
  - 1.3. disrupt the orderly operation of RPL programs and services.

**Elections**

- 2.0. RPL shall ensure access to information for all for informed participation in and enhancement of democracy. This means that:

- 2.1. RPL will support the democratic process, freedom of expression, and informed discussion on political issues;
  - 2.2. RPL may promote the awareness of or provide information on elections, as long as no particular candidate is promoted or excluded; and
  - 2.3. RPL may promote activities or events in which all candidates of an election are invited to attend.
- 3.0. RPL shall not support or endorse any candidate, or advocate for the platform of any one candidate, political party, partisan organization, or group.
- 4.0. RPL staff shall, when representing RPL and/or carrying out responsibilities as a staff member, act in a non-partisan manner with respect to any level of governance (i.e., municipal, provincial, federal, school board, band council, etc.).
- 5.0. Candidates for elections, as well as political parties and related third-party organizations, may book RPL spaces for meetings or other private activities related to the election. However, pursuant to Procedure 3.11.2 of the Room Use and Rental Procedures, such bookings shall be considered commercial use.
- 6.0. Candidates, elected officials, or political parties who would like to invite media to any events they hold on RPL property must submit the request to the Library Director and CEO and obtain his/her approval before the event.
- 7.0. RPL may deny a booking request or cancel a booking already made if staff reasonably believe that the use of the space is likely to or will include any prohibited activity mentioned in this or any other RPL policies and procedures.
- 8.0. RPL's logo, slogans, or any other intellectual property may not be printed, posted, or distributed on any election-related and/or partisan materials.
- 9.0. Other than under the procedures for commercial room rentals, candidates for elections and elected officials shall not, at any time:
  - 9.1. post or distribute partisan materials on RPL property;
  - 9.2. use RPL property to solicit or advocate among RPL customers;
  - 9.3. use RPL property to make public statements or host media events, unless they are a part of an RPL program, announcement, or media event.
- 10.0. Candidates for elections, political parties, or related third-party organizations, during an election campaign, shall not be invited by RPL to speak or present at RPL events, except for all-candidate events, until the election has concluded.

### Demonstrations and petitions

- 11.0. Individuals may not distribute petitions or literature, canvass, survey, or protest on RPL property.
- 12.0. Policy 11.0 does not apply to groups or individuals conducting surveys or studies designed to quantify RPL use or satisfaction with its programs and services.

### Non-Compliance

- 13.0. RPL staff who are non-compliant with this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.
- 14.0. Customers and other members of the public who are non-compliant with this policy will be asked to cease the activity. Further consequences, including suspensions, are at the discretion of the Library Director and CEO.