



Dryden Public Library Board

POLICY

SECTION: OPERATIONAL	NO: OP-26
TITLE: Elections	Date: May 2024
	Next Review Date: May 2028

1.0 Policy Statement

1.1 The Library must always act and appear in a non-partisan way. The Library must follow legislation related to elections. The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* requires the Library to establish rules about how its resources can be used during campaigns.

1.2 This policy applies to municipal, provincial, and federal elections.

2.0 Campaign Contributions

2.1 The Board may not contribute to the campaign of any candidate or political party through money, goods or services (*Municipal Elections Act, Section 70(4)*, *the Elections Finances Act, Section 16(1)*, and *Canada Elections Act, Section 404(1)*).

3.0 Use of Library Resources and Property

3.1 All candidates and political parties have equal access to publicly available resources and services of the Library.

3.2 Meeting rooms may be rented as per *OP-14 Facilities Use Policy*.

3.3 Candidates cannot use staff or library resources. They may not use the Library's logo in any campaign material.

3.4 'All-candidates' meetings can be held at the Library but all candidates must be invited. The event can be a library program or sponsored by another group. A candidate cannot be featured or promoted as a part of any other regular library program or event.

3.5 Candidates and political parties may distribute campaign materials on public right-of-ways at the Library, unless prohibited by a municipal by-law.

3.6 Federal election candidates or their representatives can campaign in facilities that are available for free to the public (*Canada Elections Act section 81.1(1)*). During municipal and provincial elections, candidates will given the same right to campaign in the Library.

3.7 No partisan material may be posted in the Library. Non-partisan information (i.e. voter registration or information, notice of public meetings, etc.) may be posted.

4.0 Employee and Volunteer Participation in Election Campaigns

4.1 Any library employee running as a candidate in the municipal election will comply with Section 30 of the *Municipal Elections Act*.

4.2 While working library employees or volunteers involved in a political campaign must:

- be politically neutral.
- not participate in campaign activities.

5.0 Library Board Members as Candidates

5.1 Board members may continue their library board responsibilities when they are running for office. They must not participate in campaign activities during Board meetings or when representing the Library.

6.0 Requests for information about the library

6.1 The CEO will coordinate requests for information about the library received from candidates or political parties.

6.2 Information that the Library gives to one candidate or political party will be given to all other candidates and political parties upon request.

6.3 Any candidate or political party may request a meeting with the CEO or tour of the library.

Related Documents

- Dryden Public Library OP-14 Facilities Use
- Dryden Public Library OP-22 Community Information

History			
Approval Date:	October 2021	Approved by:	A Barton
Amendment Date:	May 2024	Approved by:	2022-2026 DPL Board
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