

Geauga County Public Library
Operating Policy Manual

SECTION: DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE AND PETITIONS OF
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
SECTION NUMBER: 960
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 21, 2014
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Distribution of Literature:

The Geauga County Public Library provides information through its collections representing all points of view. The Library also displays and distributes, to the public, literature from educational, civic, cultural, recreational non-profit and governmental agencies. The purpose of this service is to provide information to the public about these organizations' programs, services and special events.

To aid voters in becoming better informed about ballot issues and candidates, the Library displays and distributes literature representing all points of view. In the 45 days prior to an election, libraries may display and distribute voter information and campaign literature for issues and candidates appearing on local ballots. The Geauga County Public Library will issue a general press release before each election requesting that election information be sent to the Library for display and distribution. The Library assumes no responsibility for contacting individuals nor committees if appropriate campaign literature is not received by the Library after the announcement in the news media. All campaign materials will be removed from display and distribution at closing time in each library on the day before the election.

Literature not permitted for display or distribution includes commercial advertising, sales materials, business cards, or fund raising materials. Non-literature campaign materials such as bumper stickers and campaign buttons are not permitted.

Petitions:

An individual or groups of individuals requesting signatures on petitions that are in the interest of the general public or for initiatives intended for the ballot in a general election will be permitted on the sidewalks and other outdoor public areas around the library as long as the activity does not interfere with patrons accessing the library entrances or library services. Petitioners are not permitted to block patron access to the library or harass patrons in an effort to obtain signatures. Petitioners are not allowed to gather signatures inside the library.

Petitions related to the library may be displayed and presented in library buildings and/or on library property in order to gather signatures.

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Libraries as polling places:

On election days, the libraries that are polling places, follow the guidelines of the Board of Elections.

Revised January 21, 2014
Revised May 26, 2009
Reviewed October 14, 2008
Revised October 26, 1999
Approved October 8, 1991