

Election-Related Policies

TPL board education

Toronto Public Library Board

April 25, 2022



context: upcoming elections

Ontario: Thursday June 2nd, 2022

Toronto: Monday October, 24, 2022

election-related policies

Toronto Public Library Board Code of Conduct Use of Library Resources During an Election Period

election-related policies

Library Board Code of Conduct

Principles of political neutrality and public trust

- No use of library resources by Board members for election campaign or campaign-related activities*
- Board members cannot compel staff or volunteers to engage in partisan political activities

*except under the Community and Event Space Rental Policy

election-related policies

Use of Library Resources During an Election Period

Principles

- Balances freedom of expression and assembly of candidates while giving no candidate, advertiser or party an advantage
- Facilitates free exchange of information and ideas, protecting intellectual freedom and respecting individuals' rights to privacy and choice.
- Engages and encourages discussion on civic and social issues, fairly and equitably, to all those seeking elected office

election-related policies

Use of Library Resources During an Election Period

Requirements for board members

- Public board members must inform the City Librarian and City Clerk if they register to run for office
- Councillor board members must inform the City Librarian if they are running to become an MP/MPP
- Board members' engagement in partisan political activity may not suggest they are acting as a Library Board Member or on behalf of TPL

election-related policies

Use of Library Resources During an Election Period

Restrictions on library resources for campaigning

- The display and distribution of materials primarily political in nature is not allowed in TPL spaces
- TPL facilities, infrastructure and resources may not be used for any campaign-related purpose*

*except under the Community and Event Space Rental Policy or where an all-candidates meeting is being held on TPL property

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Use of Library Resources During an Election Period

All-candidates meetings

- May be held at TPL facilities for a nominal fee, provided that all candidates for an office are invited to attend
- TPL must promote awareness of election activities or events in which all candidates in an election are invited to attend

election-related policies

Use of Library Resources During an Election Period

Access to library information during an election period

- Information provided to one candidate will be provided to all
- TPL will post information on its channels to ensure equal access to information
- Any meeting or tour organized for one candidate or party will be organized for any other, upon request

election-related policies

Use of Library Resources During an Election Period

Restrictions to services for City Councillors

- Councillors may attend library and public events until election day
- However, when Councillors attend events at TPL after August 1st, the library will not reference their name or image, but refer to them as Councillor, Ward __

other related policies

Display and Distribution of Information for the Public

Prohibits display of campaign material for a party or candidate

Advertising Policy

Prohibits acceptance of campaign material

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providing the vital ingredients for a democratic society

We will **facilitate and defend** access to information...

...and **information literacy**...

...and **empower everyone** to engage in civic life.



Community and Event Space Rental Policy

- Allows for rentals for campaign activities with no endorsement by the library
- Allows for rentals for accessible local polling stations in library branches

Advocacy Policy

- Promotes advocacy for legislation, policies and funding that advance TPL and the broader library sector values and services, while not supporting a particular party or candidate