

POLICY: **MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN**

SECTION: **Section II – General – Miscellaneous**

MOTION#/DATE: **10 - 111 – June 21, 2010**

Effective Date

June 21, 2010

Policy Objectives

To maintain the neutrality of the Toronto Public Library during municipal election campaigns.

To ensure that the Toronto Public Library complies with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

Underlying Principle

The Library's vision is to promote and enrich the democratic, cultural, educational and economic life of our diverse and evolving city. In keeping with this vision, the Library seeks to engage and encourage discussion in civic and social issues in a manner that is fair and equitable to all those seeking elected office.

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* prohibits the Toronto Public Library from making contributions to municipal election candidates in the form of money, goods or services.

Scope

This policy applies to Board members, employees and volunteers of the Toronto Public Library and their dealings with candidates including City Councillors in the municipal election during the municipal election campaign period.



1.0 Library Corporate Resources

City Councillors and candidates in the municipal election cannot use the facilities, equipment, supplies, programs and services (including online services), staff or other resources of the Library for any election campaign or campaign related activities (except for facilities rented in accordance with the Auditorium, Meeting Room and Theatre Rental Policy and The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon Rental Policy).

2.0 Campaign Activities and Partisan Political Materials on Library Property

City Councillors and candidates in the municipal election cannot undertake campaign-related activities on Library property (except for facilities rented in accordance with the Auditorium, Meeting Room and Theatre Rental Policy and The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon Rental Policy). Consistent with the Displaying and Distributing Information for the Public Policy, the Library will not permit the display and distribution of partisan political materials on Library property.

3.0 Use of Employees and Volunteers

In keeping with the Employee Participation in Municipal Election Campaigns Policy, City Councillors and candidates in the municipal election cannot use the services of persons during hours in which those persons receive any compensation from the Library. City Councillors and candidates in the municipal election cannot use the services of Library volunteers during hours in which they have agreed to provide volunteer services to the Library.

4.0 Mark or Logo

City Councillors and candidates in the municipal election cannot use any Toronto Public Library logo or mark in any campaign related materials, including materials promoting events held at rented Library facilities.

5.0 Library Programs and Events

City Councillors and candidates in the municipal election cannot be featured or promoted in association with any Library sponsored program or event unless it is consistent with performing their duties as Library Board members or City Councillors as described in 6.0(a).



6.0 Performing Duties as Library Board Members and City Councillors

Nothing in this policy prohibits:

- a) Toronto Public Library Board members from performing their duties or
- b) City Councillors from performing their job, including representing the interests of their constituents in a manner consistent with their duties as an elected official.

7.0 Promoting Municipal Elections

Nothing in the policy prohibits the Toronto Public Library from promoting awareness of or providing information on municipal elections. This includes promoting awareness of activities or events, not sponsored by the Library, in which all candidates in the municipal election are invited to attend.

Accountability

The City Librarian and Directors are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Definitions

“Municipal election campaign period” – is the period from the first day that nominations may be filed (i.e. the first day the City Clerk’s office is open in an election year) until voting day (i.e. the fourth Monday in October of an election year) as defined in the *Municipal Elections Act*.

Candidates in the municipal election include candidates for City Council or for the position of School Board Trustee.

Related policies

- Auditorium, Meeting Room and Theatre Rental Policy
- Displaying and Distributing Information for the Public
- Employee Participation in Municipal Election Campaigns Policy
- The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon Rental Policy