



Meaford Public Library
The Library and Political Elections
Policy-12
June 2026

The Meaford Public Library (the library) operates in a non-partisan manner and supports the democratic process, fundamental freedoms, and informed discussion on political issues. This policy applies to municipal, provincial, and federal election campaign periods.

Section 1: Scope and Responsibility

1. This policy applies to library Board members, employees and volunteers:
 - a) in dealings with candidates and political parties, and
 - b) the use of library resources during the campaign periods for all elections.
2. It is the responsibility of the CEO or designate to ensure that the library complies with legislation related to elections at all levels - municipal, provincial, and federal.

Section 2 Campaign Contributions

The library complies with legislation on campaign contributions at all levels.

1. Municipal Elections

The board may not contribute to the campaign of any candidate in the form of money, goods, or services. This is in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act*, Section 88.8 (4).

2. Provincial Elections

The board may not contribute to the campaign of any candidate of a provincial election, constituency association, nomination contestant, candidates, and leadership contestant of provincial political parties in the form of money, goods or services. This is in accordance with the *Ontario Elections Finances Act*, Section 16(1).

3. Federal Elections

The board may not contribute to the campaign of any candidate of a federal election, a registered party, a registered association, nomination contestant, and leadership contestant of federal political parties in the form of money, goods or services. This is in accordance with the *Canada Elections Act*, Section 363(1).

Section 3: Use of Library Resources and Property

1. It is the responsibility of the library to ensure that no candidate, registered third-party advertiser, or political party is provided with an unfair advantage in the use of library resources at any time.
2. For municipal elections, by May 1st in the election year, the library establishes the rules and procedures with respect to use of library resources during the period leading up to the municipal election. This requirement is found in the ***Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 32, Sched.***, Section 88.18.
3. Rules for use of library resources and property are as follows:
 - a. All candidates and political parties have equal access to publicly available resources and library services.
 - b. Meeting rooms may be rented in accordance with the ***Policy 10 -Meeting Rooms***.
 - c. Library equipment, supplies, or personnel cannot be provided to candidates for campaign purposes.
 - d. The library's logo cannot be used in any campaign material.
 - e. All-candidates meetings may be held at the library, either as a library program or sponsored by another group, provided that all candidates are invited to attend such meetings. A candidate shall not be featured or promoted in association with any other regular library program or event.
 - f. Candidates and political parties are permitted to distribute campaign materials on public rights-of-way at the library, unless prohibited by a municipal by-law.
 - g. No campaigning by candidates or their representatives is allowed in the library. As a public place it is deemed to be "incompatible with the function and purpose of the place".
 - h. No election sign or poster specific to a candidate or political party can be posted on the grounds of the library or in the library building.

Section 4: Employee and Volunteer Participation in Election Campaigns

1. Any library employee running as a candidate in the municipal election will comply with Section 30 of the *Municipal Elections Act*.
2. A library employee or volunteer involved in a political campaign must be politically neutral in carrying out his or her library duties and must not participate in campaign activities during his or her working hours.

Section 5: Library Board Members as Candidates

1. Board members may continue their library board responsibilities when they are running for office.

Section 6: Requests for Information About the Library

1. The CEO will coordinate requests for information about the library received from candidates or political parties.
2. Information that is provided by the library to one candidate or political party will be provided to all other candidates and political parties upon request during an election.
3. Any candidate or political party may request a meeting with the CEO or tour of the library.

Related Documents

Meaford Public Library, Policy 10 – Meeting Rooms
Meaford Public Library, Policy 1 - Intellectual Freedom
Canada Elections Act (S.C. 2000, c. 9)
Election Finances Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.7
Municipal Affairs Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.46
Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 32, Sched.

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