



POLICY # 111 – Political Activity in the Library
Approved by the Board of Trustees 2/20/2019

Policy Statement:

The Library is a nonpartisan government organization. It does not endorse candidates or political parties. It does provide a forum for discussing political topics, but a speaker's presence at a Library event does not constitute endorsement of that speaker's opinions. The Regulations relating to political activity apply only to the Library and Library personnel during working hours at the Library. The Regulations are not intended to inhibit the free exercise of an employees right to free speech at any location or at any time other than the Library during working hours.

Regulations:

The Library is supported by the State of Maryland, Garrett County and receives federal funding for certain of its activities. In carrying out its mission it is important that neither the Library nor its employees engage in political activity of any kind. This means, by way of example and not by limitation, that Library employees may not wear badges, pins, t-shirts, or other items of clothing or insignias that support or oppose any political candidate or party or express opinions on any political subject.

The library and its employees may not mount or exhibit posters or campaign literature in support of any candidate or party.

Candidates, their employees and supporters have the right to distribute campaign materials and approach people to solicit public support outside of our buildings.

Physically approaching people inside the building is not allowed.

Candidates should not block access to the door.

Campaign materials may not be left or posted inside the Library.