

Tab Green

Section Facilities Use

SUBJECT LIBRARY SIDEWALKS AND GROUNDS / LIBRARY AS POLLING PLACE

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**DEFINITIONS**

“**Library sidewalks**” are the paved walkways that lead to the library entrance.

“**Library grounds**” in this policy refers to other non-parking paved areas in front of the libraries.

**USE OF LIBRARY SIDEWALKS**

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution allows certain types of free speech on public sidewalks like the ones outside county libraries. The library does not necessarily endorse the aims, policies or activities of any group, organization or individual who is using library sidewalks or grounds.

An area has been designated at each library for the exercise of free speech. These areas are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Persons wishing to participate in free speech activities will be directed to the appropriate area by library staff.

Persons using the library sidewalks and/or grounds may not block the library entrance, impede access to the library or harass library patrons who approach the building. This means that those using library sidewalks and/or grounds may not stand in the way of people who are approaching the building, call out repeatedly to them, or create any kind of disturbance in front of the library.

The responsible party outside the building may set up a small table, as long as it does not block the library entrance or roadway. Signs may be affixed only to the table. Signs may not be affixed to the library building or anywhere else on library property. No fees or donations of any kind may be solicited or collected on library property. No sales of any type are allowed, except as approved by library administration staff for library-sanctioned events.

Library staff will request basic information (name of group or individual, description of use, date/time of use) from those using library sidewalks or grounds so that the library has a record of the date and purpose of the use of library sidewalks and grounds. If the user refuses to comply with this request, a staff member will record as much information as possible about the intended use.

**OTHER USE OF LIBRARY (COUNTY) PROPERTY**

The library does not permit use of landscaped or grassy areas on library property except for certain library-sanctioned events.

# PUBLIC SERVICES

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Persons using library property are responsible for reasonable care of the area being used. Any person causing damage to library (county) property will be charged the cost of replacement or repair of the damaged property.

## USE OF LIBRARY EQUIPMENT

Groups using sidewalks and/or grounds may not use library-owned furniture and equipment, except for events officially sponsored, co-sponsored or officially sanctioned by the library.

## LIBRARY AS A POLLING PLACE / EARLY VOTING SITE

**“No Solicitation” Zone for a Polling Place:** Florida Statutes 102.031 creates a “No Solicitation” zone around polling places and early voting sites. The Supervisor of Elections, not library staff, is solely responsible for designating boundaries. No person, political committee, committee of continuous existence, or other group or organization may solicit voters inside the polling place or within 100 feet of the entrance to any polling place, or polling room where the polling place is also a polling room, or early voting site.

When the library is a polling place or early voting site, campaign signs and campaigning are permitted on county property, but only if they are located more than 100 feet from the library entrance.

**The Supervisor of Elections, not library staff, is responsible for enforcing polling place rules.** Questions about rules for a polling place should be addressed to Library Administration or the Supervisor of Elections.

## POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING

Political campaigning is allowed on library property when the library is not a Polling Place or Early Voting site subject to the rules on Use of Library Sidewalks outlined in this policy.