

Policy Title	Facility Use for Political Purposes		
Approval Date	April 21, 2026	Revision Date	
Related Policies	Code of Conduct Library Meeting Room Use Bulletin Boards and Community Interest Publications		
Statutory Reference	RCW 29A.84.510 RCW 42.17A.555 WAC 390-05-271		
Purpose	To define the extent to which Lopez Island Library District facilities may be used for political purposes.		

In the event of the amendment of any law, regulation, or ordinance incorporated into this policy or upon which this policy relies, the policy shall be deemed amended in conformance with those changes.

In cases where this policy conflicts with any local ordinance, state or federal law, the terms of that law, and its underlying rules or regulations shall prevail. In all other cases, Lopez Island Library District (“LILD” “Library”) policies and practices prevail.

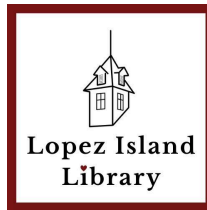
The Board reserves the right to change and/or modify this policy at any time, as circumstances dictate and in accordance with applicable law.

Policy:

This policy recognizes that some portions of LILD owned and/or managed facilities may be considered public forums. The District imposes reasonable time, place and manner restrictions on activities or expressions of free speech in accordance with state law and to the extent necessary to prevent unreasonable interference with the public’s use of the library. For the purposes of this policy, “facility” refers to all buildings, properties, and vehicles owned and/or managed by the District.

Background

LILD encourages all members of the public to use its facilities, services, and resources in a safe and respectful manner. As part of its normal and regular conduct of its mission, LILD provides free access to and communication of ideas and information that reflects the broad range of interests of the communities we serve.



The First Amendment guarantees the right of free speech and to petition the government. Federal Courts have interpreted the First Amendment to allow for the peaceful exercise of the rights set forth in the Constitution.

Washington state law restricts the use of public facilities for political purposes. RCW 42.17A.555 states that public facilities may not be used directly or indirectly for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition, except for activities which are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency. Federal courts have consistently recognized designated public library spaces as limited public forums. WAC 390-05-271 clarifies that RCW 42.17A.555 does not prevent a public agency from making facilities available on a nondiscriminatory, equal access basis for political uses.

In keeping with the fundamental principles provided by the First Amendment, and in accordance with state law, the LILD may designate and make available areas on LILD premises for the purpose of public expression of opinions and ideas.

General Policy

LILD allows use of designated parts of its facilities for political uses on a nondiscriminatory, equal access basis, making such time, place, and manner restrictions as are necessary for orderly conduct of normal public library operations.

The LILD meeting rooms are open to any individual or group on an equal basis and as such may be used for political purposes, subject to the District's Library Meeting Room Use policy.

The LILD's Code of Conduct policy applies to any and all activities occurring anywhere on LILD owned and/or managed facilities.

The provision of LILD facilities for the public expression of opinion does not constitute LILD endorsement of the opinions or ideas of those individuals and/or organizations using the space.

LILD will make a good faith effort to implement this policy in a fair and consistent manner. The Director will establish administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.