

## **Petitions and Solicitation Policy**

The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States affords citizens the right to freedom of speech as well as the right to petition the government for the redress of grievances.

This policy sets forth guidelines and conditions for circulating petitions and soliciting to protect both the free exercise of individual rights as well as maintenance of a safe and welcoming environment for all patrons while visiting the library.

### **Petitions:**

Circulating petitions for signatures in the common areas of the library and on library property, including the parking lot, is prohibited. It disturbs the orderly operating of the library and may make some patrons feel harassed. Also, it may give the appearance that the library is supporting a specific cause or issue. This policy is content-neutral and applies to all regardless of the candidate, issue or cause.

As such, the library allows people to circulate petitions on the sidewalk on the north side of the building or the petitioners may reserve the meeting room for such purpose. If using the library's meeting room, the meeting room policies must be followed, including keeping all activity and materials inside the meeting room. Petitioners may not actively pursue, harass or intimidate library patrons. Additionally, in issuing posters, press releases or other publicity, groups may not imply that their programs are sponsored, co-sponsored or endorsed by the Yankton Community Library. As a requirement of utilizing the meeting room, the following disclaimer shall be added to any marketing (including all online social media posts) by the event hosts using one of the library's meeting rooms:

**THIS PRIVATE EVENT IS NOT HOSTED, SPONSORED, OR ENDORSED BY THE YANKTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY OR BY THE CITY OF YANKTON.**

### **Soliciting:**

Soliciting inside the library and on library property, including in the parking lot and meeting room, is prohibited. Individuals or businesses may not sell products or materials, ask for donations, seek membership fees or payment of dues inside the library or on library property. Not for profit fundraising activities are not permitted inside the library or on library property by any person or organization when the purpose is to benefit a group or organization other than the library, the Friends of the Yankton Community Library or the Yankton Community Library Foundation except at the discretion of the library director.

Anyone who violates this policy, or other library policies such as the Rules of Conduct, or engages in unlawful behavior, will be asked and required to leave the premises.