100-05 — Electioneering

Statement of Purpose

Political posters and/or distribution of political information for purposes of public advertising or political campaigning shall not be permitted in the Fairport Public Library.

An exception to this policy shall be made for information intended for educational and instructional purposes. The Director or his/her designee will have the right to accept or reject information based on the Collection Development policy (#200-01) and will provide an equal opportunity to all parties to present materials.

Adopted: June 8, 1993
Reviewed:
Revised: January 12, 2021; July 8, 2025

Appendix A — Notes of George Wolf, FPL Trustee from a Meeting of the Board of Trustees (May 11, 1993)

The electioneering policy is aimed at conduct and materials not under the control of the library staff and does not infringe upon normal collection development procedures. "Offering an opportunity to the other side" is poor justification for putting in a prominent location materials selected by an interest group. The "the opposition" does not choose to, or cannot, respond to the invitation to tell the other side, the display will not be balanced; public perception will be that the library is participating in opinion formation.

If the Fairport Public Library wishes to add materials prepared by an interest group to its collection and place the materials on the shelf in number order, there is no violation of the policy. The library has one-sided tracts, which when taken as a whole, validly have a place in the collection.

If the Fairport Public Library wishes to place an informational display in a prominent location, and is willing to take responsibility for its content, there is no violation of the policy since the materials are under the control of the library staff and were not placed with an intent to further a particular campaign.

In sum, with respect to the "hot button" issues in the context of a political campaign, the library should (1) add the materials to its collection and put them in number order on the shelf; (2) reject the materials; or (3) makes its own educational display. These alternatives are possible under the school district's electioneering policy and for that reason I recommend its adoption.