



ECKHART PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Policy on Distributing Material, Canvassing, Performing or Speaking on Library Property

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees 03-13-2012

Revised 04-13-2022

The Eckhart Public Library recognizes and supports the public's First Amendment right to free speech that includes presenting speeches, distributing petitions or other information, and advocating views or positions. However, the Library also has an obligation to provide library services to the public in an environment where access and privacy are maintained, a quiet learning atmosphere is preserved and where safe and unobstructed ingress and egress to Library property is provided. Therefore, the Library has established this policy to allow free speech while ensuring that the rights of others to use Library facilities and programs are not impeded.

1. Any person interested in reserving a designated meeting room in any Library facility must comply with the Meeting Room Policy, which conforms to the original conditions outlined by Charles Eckhart in the property deed when Mr. Eckhart donated the Library.
2. Any person wishing to distribute material, canvass, perform or speak on Library property must obtain permission 14 days in advance from the Library Director or his/her designee.
3. In order to ensure the safety of members of the public and to ensure that library patrons shall have unobstructed ingress and egress to all Library facilities, the Library designates the following areas for any person with advance permission as noted above to speak, canvass, perform or distribute materials:
 - a. At the intersection of the public sidewalks and library sidewalks on both the North (12th street) and South (13th street) Entrances of the Main Library.
 - b. Anywhere on the grassy lot between the William H. Willennar Administrative Annex and the Public Parking lot on 12th street, between Jackson and VanBuren Streets.
 - c. At the Southeast corner of the intersection of Jackson and 13th streets, and the Northeast corner of the intersection of Jackson and 14th streets (at the William H. Willennar Genealogy Center).
4. The conduct of any person speaking, canvassing, performing or distributing materials on Library grounds must be in compliance with Library policies as well as all applicable federal, state, county and city laws, ordinances and statutes.
5. Distributing materials, canvassing, performing or speaking on Library property may be done only during the operating hours of the Library facility where the aforesaid activity is taking place.

6. In order to ensure public safety and to promote the Library's aesthetic interest to maintain all Library facilities free of debris and clutter, materials including, but not limited to, posters, flyers, placards, brochures, banners or signs of any type may not be left unattended on Library property. Any unattended materials, including political campaign signs, shall be removed and destroyed.
7. Any person wishing to display materials including, but not limited to, posters, flyers, placards, brochures, banners or signs of any type may do so in designated areas in Library facilities. Because the Library is a facility in which children are commonly found, the Library reserves the right to refuse to display any materials which contain obscene, profane or graphic language or visual depictions. This regulation does not apply to materials that are distributed through self-closing, secure, standalone dispensers (i.e., newspapers) that have been approved to be on Library grounds by the Board of Trustees.