

East Providence Public Library

Solicitation Policy

The East Providence Public Library has an obligation to protect both the safety of library users and to ensure that all users can freely access and enjoy the library's services. Free and unimpeded access to the library building is a necessary precondition for meeting this obligation.

Active solicitation within the library building and on the library grounds, including its driveway and parking area, is not permitted unless it is part of a library function or an activity related to fund raising for the library and under the general supervision of library staff.

Active solicitation refers to any person-to-person communication for the purpose of (1) obtaining contributions and donations, (2) selling merchandise, coupons, or tickets, (3) collecting signatures, (4) distributing educational or promotional materials, (5) recruiting members or clients and (6) financial solicitations/transactions.

The passive solicitation and collection of donations by community-based, non-profit organizations is permitted. Notices may be posted to a public bulletin board and bins placed in approved areas to collect items for this purpose. Use of these resources is subject to the approval of the library director or branch manager. The library assumes no responsibility for contents collected or donated. The library does not permit any exchange of monies or funds for this purpose.

Except for signs promoting library functions or activities related to fund raising for the library, all signs and banners, including lawn signs, must be approved by the library director first and will remain posted for a limited time only.

Handbills, flyers, leaflets, pamphlets, or other written materials that advertise, promote, or inform persons about a person, business, company, or food service establishment are prohibited from being distributed on library property or being placed on vehicles in library parking lots.

As an exception to active solicitation, candidates with nomination papers may solicit signatures outside of the library building as long as it is done in a reasonable and unobtrusive manner.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as preventing the sale of publications, artwork, or recordings by writers, artists or performers who have been engaged by the library for a presentation or performance.

The library director shall make the final determination as to whether a solicitation is active or passive, and if the activity is permitted under this policy.