

OCEAN SHORES PUBLIC LIBRARY



Policy: 12 Sales, Solicitation, and Electioneering

12.0

The Ocean Shores Public Library (OSL) provides library services to its patrons and the public in a welcoming environment free from commercial and political pressures. Therefore, this policy restricts sales and solicitation, and electioneering within the library.

12.1 Sales and Solicitation

Individuals, groups, and organizations are prohibited from selling goods or services or soliciting funds in the OSL building or on library grounds (i.e. lawn, parking lot, etc.). Activities in association with the Friends of the Library, the OSL Foundation, or as a component of a library-sponsored program or event (e.g. sale of books at an author or performer event) are exempt.

12.2 Charitable Donations

The Ocean Shores community has many charitable and non-profit organizations. These organizations may wish to use bins or containers to collect contributions (e.g. clothes, food, eyeglasses, recycling, etc.). The library does not wish to prioritize one organization over another. Therefore, the limited space in the library must exclude such collections. Staff can provide referrals to community organizations.

12.3 Political Campaign Activities

RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits the use of public office or public facilities to directly or indirectly support a campaign for election or any ballot proposition. The library is not intended to be a forum for the support or opposition of political candidates or ballot measures.

Therefore, OSL will not permit the display or distribution of:

- Materials that support or oppose any current or pending ballot measure or political candidate.
- Materials asking library visitors to sign a petition or letter.

OSL does allow:

- Official election information
- Washington State and/or local Grays Harbor County pamphlets
- Independent non-partisan information such as the League of Women Voters

RCW 42.17A.555 does not prevent OSL from making meeting rooms available on a nondiscriminatory, equal access basis for political uses such as electioneering or the signing of petitions. However, any such activity must be confined to the meeting room or outside of the building. OSL's Meeting Room Use, Policy 10 applies.

12.4 Sales and Canvassing Outside the Library

Sales, canvassing, or the circulation of petitions outside the library building is governed by the Ocean Shores Municipal Code, Chapter 5.20, Solicitation and Canvassing.