

BAY COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

PETITIONING POLICY

The Bay County Library System recognizes the presentation of petitions as a fundamental right of political expression. However, aggressive solicitation toward patrons by petitioners, campaign workers, or volunteers is prohibited. Petitioning, solicitation, and campaign activities must not interfere with the patron's ability to enter or leave the library facility or parking lot.

The presence of petitioners outside of a library facility does not constitute the Library's endorsement of the policies, beliefs, or political affiliations of any person or group circulating petitions for signature.

In order to maintain orderly operation of activities, and for the comfort of patrons, the Library prohibits petition circulation inside any of its facilities except as provided below. Certain areas outside the Library may be used to gather signatures provided the petitioners adhere to the following rules:

- Petition circulation activity must take place outside the library building or bookmobile, at least 15 feet away from public entrances, book returns, and exits. However, petitioning activity may be allowed inside a library building during inclement weather at the discretion of the Director, Assistant Director, Managing Librarian, or person in charge of the building.
- Petitioners may not prevent patrons from getting in or out of their vehicles, use abusive language or behave in any way that is harassing or intimidating.
- Petitioners may not occupy areas designated by the Fire Department as fire or emergency lanes.
- Petitioners must provide their own supplies and equipment, such as tables and chairs, the placement of which must neither obstruct the ingress and egress of patrons, nor otherwise disrupt library activities.

The Library may, at its discretion, require that petitioners who violate any of these rules remove themselves from the premises.