



PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

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Purpose:

To assure that any individual who circulates political petitions to collect signatures is aware of the requirements for doing so on library grounds and to set forth the possible ramifications for violation of policy or law.

Background:

The Arizona and United States Constitutions and Arizona laws afford persons the opportunity to influence government via the election of candidates and initiative and referendum processes. While library facilities are not traditional public forums for the direct expression of political speech, it may be appropriate for some political activities to occur on library grounds. Individuals seeking signatures on candidate nominating petitions or initiative or referendum petitions may do so outside of a library, so long as library activities are not disrupted and access to the library is not obstructed.

The Pima County Library District cannot and will not, in any way, control the content of any petition being circulated near any of its libraries. The presence of circulators outside of a library does not constitute the Library District's endorsement of any candidate nor support or opposition of the subject matter of any initiative or referendum. The presence of circulators outside of a library does not constitute the Library District's endorsement of the policies, beliefs or political affiliations of any person or group circulating petitions for signatures.

Policy:

The following requirements must be observed by all persons circulating petitions for signatures:

- Petitions must only be circulated outside of library facilities.
- Petition circulators may not block building entrances, exits or book drop areas.
- Petition circulators may not conduct activities in designated fire or emergency lanes or in parking spaces.
- Petition circulators must be aware of all laws applicable to the circulation of petitions for signatures.
- Petition circulators must follow the policies of any commercial, educational or government complex in which a library is located.

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The Library will not:

- Assume responsibility for any harm or injury suffered by petition circulators or by those who are signing a petition.
- Provide tables, chairs or any other amenities to petition circulators.
- Require registration of petition circulators.

Petition circulators who fail to comply with this (or any other county or city) policy will be asked to leave the premises. Law enforcement will be contacted if any petition circulator engages in what is believed to be unlawful behavior.

Adopted: August 7, 2007