

Princeton Public Library **Policy on Political Neutrality** - passed by the Library Board 4/3/2023

The Princeton Public Library is a taxpayer-funded government entity which serves a diverse group of people holding a spectrum of political beliefs. As such, we will be careful to maintain political neutrality. Integrity in this matter is essential to maintaining our reputation as a professionally run hub for research and information, a valued public service, and a community gathering space for everyone.

In the following policy, we define “political” broadly. We include entities, movements, images, and slogans which, while not promoting a specific party or candidate, nevertheless exist to push a political agenda. Example: “Black Lives Matter,” or “Come and Take It.”

1. On library property, there will be no displays, signs, or programs which promote any politician, political agenda, or politically-aligned cause.

a. Previously elected officials may hold public listening sessions, but must refrain from campaigning during these events. If possible, an elected official from the opposite party should also be scheduled for a listening session at the library within a few weeks.

2. While at work, library staff will not wear any clothing, jewelry, or accessories which promote any politician, political agenda, or politically-aligned cause.

a. Outside of work, staff are free under their 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment right to speak freely, but not as a representative of, or on behalf of, the Princeton Library.

b. While working, tattoos with political themes must be fully covered by clothing, makeup, or Band-Aids.

3. While at work, library staff will not promote, verbally or in writing, any politician, political agenda, or politically-aligned cause.

4. On our library website, on the library’s social media, in the library’s email, and in other online spaces while acting in their capacity as library staff, Princeton Public Library staff will refrain from promoting any politician, political agenda, or politically-aligned cause.

a. We acknowledge that all documents and correspondence written by, or sent to or from, employees acting in the capacity of library staff are a matter of public record.

5. While taking into account the actual desires of the majority of local patrons, and statistical trends in local patrons’ checkout preferences, we will strive to keep our collection of materials balanced.