

Electioneering – Campaign Free Zone Policy

APPROVED 11/17/2011

EFFECTIVE: 01/01/12

The Fremont Public Library serves as a polling place for local, state and federal elections. During an election voting period all state and federal election laws are enforceable on library grounds. For the purpose of this policy, an “election voting period” shall mean the period commencing the 22nd day preceding a general primary, consolidated primary, consolidated or general election and extends through the day of such election.

During an election voting period, the Library, in cooperation with election officers, shall place 2 or more cones, small United States national flags, or some other marker a distance of 100 horizontal feet from each entrance to the room used by voters to engage in voting, which shall be known as the “polling room.” If the polling room is located on the ground floor, then the markers shall be placed 100 horizontal feet from each entrance to the polling room used by voters to engage in voting. If the polling room is located on a floor above or below the ground floor, then the markers shall be placed a distance of 100 feet from the nearest elevator or staircase used by voters on the ground floor to access the floor where the polling room is located. The area within where the markers are placed shall be known as a “campaign free zone.” Currently, based on the location of the polling room, the campaign free zone includes an area no farther removed from the entrance than the perimeter of the overhang in front of the library’s main entrance.

At or near the door of each polling place, the Library, in cooperation with the election judges, shall place signage indicating the proper entrance to the polling place. In addition, the election judges shall ensure that a sign identifying the location of the polling place is placed on a nearby public roadway.

During an election voting period no judge of election, pollwatcher, or other person shall do any electioneering or soliciting of votes or engage in any political discussion within any campaign free zone; no person shall interrupt, hinder or oppose any voter while approaching within those areas for the purpose of voting. Furthermore, advertising pertaining to any candidate or proposition to be voted upon shall not be displayed in or within the campaign free zone.

The area on polling place property beyond the campaign free zone is a public forum for the time that the polls are open on an election day. A person shall have the right to congregate and engage in electioneering on any polling place property while the polls are open beyond the campaign free zone, including but not limited to, the placement of temporary signs.

(Reference: 10 ILCS 5/17-29; 10 ILCS 5/19A-15)