DISTRIBUTING MATERIAL, CANVASSING, PERFORMING, OR SPEAKING ON LIBRARY PROPERTY Policy

The Alexandrian Public Library recognizes and supports the public’s right to free speech that includes presenting speeches, distributing petitions or other information, and advocating views or positions. However, the Alexandrian Public Library also has an obligation to provide library services to the public in an environment where access and privacy are maintained and where safe and unobstructed ingress and egress to Alexandrian Public Library property is provided. Therefore, the Alexandrian Public Library has established this policy to allow free speech while ensuring that the rights of others to use Alexandrian Public Library facilities are not impeded.

Note: This policy pertains to the use of the Alexandrian Public Library grounds and not the inside of the Alexandrian Public Library buildings. Persons wishing to reserve a designated meeting space on Alexandrian Public Library property should refer to the Meeting Room Policy, or speak with a staff member regarding which room they would like to use.

**Regulations:**

1. Persons wishing to distribute material, canvass, perform, or speak on Alexandrian Public Library property must obtain permission in advance from the person in charge of the location. A copy of this policy will be provided at the time of the request.
2. The library designates an area at least twenty-five feet away from any entry door to speak, canvass, perform, or distribute materials that is safe and ensures that library users will have unobstructed facility ingress and egress.

3. The conduct of persons speaking, canvassing, performing, or distributing information on Alexandrian Public Library grounds must be in compliance with Alexandrian Public Library policies and federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and statutes.

4. Distributing materials, canvassing, performing, or speaking may be done only during the operating hours of the Alexandrian Public Library location where the activity is taking place.

5. In the library’s aesthetic interest to maintain the premises free of debris and clutter, materials including, but not limited to, posters, flyers, placards, brochures, banners, or signs of any type may not be left unattended on Alexandrian Public Library grounds. The Alexandrian Public Library will remove and dispose of any unattended materials, including political campaign signs.

6. Notwithstanding the foregoing, APL recognizes that this policy may need suspension, relaxation, or adjustment on election days. APL facilities and space are customarily used as a voting precinct for federal, state, and local elections. APL believes that providing such facilities and space for the conduct of such elections provides an important service to the community and the democratic process. APL acknowledges that voting precincts on elections days are often accompanied by outdoor electioneering and campaigning in the form of signs, candidate and referenda support, polling, media coverage, and other activities. In such event APL will permit such activities provided they do not (1) violate federal, state, or local law, including but not limited to lawful restrictions on electioneering; or (2) unreasonably interfere with APL’s library services or its patron’s quiet enjoyment of, and ingress and egress to and from, the library.