



<b>Type:</b>	System
<b>Authority:</b>	Board
<b>Resolution No:</b>	BMPL 2018-92 on 4-26-18; POL-SYS.2018.50
<b>Associated Documents:</b>	Municipal Elections Act, 1996 Municipal Elections Modernization Act, 2016 Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes [Town POL.COR.18.01]
<b>Original Approval:</b>	04-26-2020
<b>Amended On:</b>	05-21-2020; 11-25-2021
<b>Reviewed On:</b>	

### Legal Framework

The Library must comply with legislation related to elections. These regulations are included in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* as amended by Bill 181, the *Municipal Elections Modernization Act, 2016*. Specifically, Clause 88.18 *Use of municipal, board resources* states:

*Before May 1 in the year of a regular election, municipalities and local boards shall establish rules and procedures with respect to the use of municipal or board resources, as the case may be, during the election campaign period.*

### Scope

This policy applies to Board members and Personnel of the Library in their dealings with candidates and political parties, and the use of BMPL resources during the campaign periods for municipal, provincial and federal elections.

#### SYS.2018.50.1 Commitment Statement

The BMPL must act and appear to act in a non-partisan way at all times, but especially during elections, while supporting the democratic process, freedom of expression and informed discussion on political issues.

#### SYS.2018.50.2 Campaign Contributions

In accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act*, Section 70(4), the *Elections Finances Act*, Section 16(1), and *Canada Elections Act*, Section 404(1), the Board may not make a contribution to the campaign of any candidate or political party in the form of money, goods or services.

#### SYS.2018.50.3 Use of Library Resources and Property

1. All candidates and political parties have equal access to publicly available resources and services of the BMPL.
2. Meeting rooms, including the L.E. Shore Boardroom and Gallery and the Craighleith Heritage Depot meeting space, may be rented in accordance with the Blue Mountains Public Library Meeting Rooms Policy.
3. Candidates may rent equipment as part of a room rental.

4. Candidates may not use operational resources of the BMPL such as equipment, supplies, or staff.
5. Candidates may not use the BMPL logo nor Craigeith Heritage Depot logo in any campaign material.
6. 'All-candidates' meetings may be held at the BMPL, either as a Library program, or as sponsored by another group, provided that all candidates are invited to attend such meetings. A candidate may not be featured or promoted in association with any other regular BMPL program or event.
7. Candidates and political parties are permitted to distribute campaign materials on public right-of-ways at the BMPL, unless prohibited by a municipal by-law.
8. In accordance with the *Canada Elections Act* section 81.1(1) federal election candidates or their representatives are allowed to campaign in facilities that are available for free to the public. During municipal and provincial elections, candidates will be granted the same right to campaign in the BMPL facilities.
9. In accordance with the Blue Mountains Public Library Community Information Policy, during an election the BMPL will provide an area where candidates may make available up to 25 copies of their campaign brochure; will promote awareness of the election; and provide general information on elections.
10. No election sign or poster specific to a candidate or political party may be posted on the grounds of the Blue Mountains Public Library including both L.E. Shore Memorial Library branch, Craigeith Heritage Depot, and 177 Bruce St, S. which has been designated for BMPL use.
11. Public Wi-Fi may be used by the public for any personal political communications, providing it meets other public use policies and procedures.
12. Public Wi-Fi may be used by any third party advertiser providing it meets other public use policies and procedures and has filed a Notice of Registration as a Third Party.

#### **SYS.2018.50.4 Employee and Volunteer Participation in Election Campaigns**

1. Any BMPL employee running as a candidate in the municipal election will comply with Section 30 of the *Municipal Elections Act*.
2. BMPL Personnel involved in a political campaign must be politically neutral in carrying out his or her BMPL duties and must not participate in campaign activities during his or her working hours.

#### **SYS.2018.50.5 Library Board Members as Candidates**

When a member of the Board is running for an elected office:

1. They shall not receive additional supports or services not available to any candidate;
2. They may not utilize Board Meeting time to promote their campaign;

#### **SYS.2018.50.6 Library Board Member Exclusions**

It is recognized that Members of the Board are holders of their appointed position until the end of the Board term. Nothing in this Policy shall preclude a Member of the Board from performing their job as a Board Member.

#### **SYS.2018.50.7 Requests for Information about the Library**

1. The CEO will coordinate requests for information about the BMPL received from candidates or

political parties.

2. Information that is provided by the BMPL to one candidate or political party will be provided to all other candidates and political parties upon request during an election.
3. Any candidate or political party may request a meeting with the CEO or tour of the BMPL facilities and services.

**SYS.2018.50.8**

**Related Policies**

1. BMPL *POL-PUB.2018.86 Room Rentals*
2. BMPL *POL-PUB.2018.58 Community Information*