

Bulletin Board & Information Distribution Policy — Summary of Key Changes

Proposed October 2026 revision | Comparison with the January 2018 policy

OVERVIEW

Replace the January 2018 policy with a clearer framework for community bulletin boards and printed literature distribution. The draft defines eligible uses, protects viewpoint-neutral treatment within those uses, and establishes consistent operating and review procedures.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED POLICY

- **Defined community-information purpose (Secs. 1, 3).** Community boards serve identifiable local and regional events, programs, services, resources, jobs, volunteer opportunities, and requests for assistance—not unrestricted personal opinion statements unrelated to an eligible purpose.
- **Eligibility and exclusions (Secs. 3, 5).** Explicitly includes lost-and-found and missing-pet notices and continuing public-service information. Ordinary commercial advertising remains excluded; a fee or fundraising component does not automatically disqualify an otherwise eligible community program.
- **Nonpartisan election information (Secs. 3, 5, 6).** Retains BCLD’s distinction between nonpartisan voter information and forums, which are eligible, and materials campaigning for or against parties, candidates, measures, or initiative, referendum, and recall petition campaigns, which are excluded.
- **Designated spaces and unauthorized distribution (Sec. 2).** Applies to physical posting and distribution areas at the main library, branches, and bookmobile, as designated; excludes digital displays. Unauthorized literature left on shelves, in books, or on furnishings may be removed.
- **Self-service posting and maintenance (Secs. 2, 4, 7).** Eligible notices may be posted directly on designated self-service boards without advance staff approval. Posted rules, size and duration limits, periodic inspections, and viewpoint-neutral rotation govern use. Staff may remove clearly ineligible or expired notices without individual notice or routine written records.
- **Protection against interference (Secs. 4, 7).** Prohibits unauthorized removal, relocation, alteration, obscuring, or defacement of another person’s posting. Concerns must be directed to staff; interference may trigger the Patron Code of Conduct. Taking copies intended for public pickup remains permitted.

- **Fair review and administration (Secs. 5, 7–9).** Staff explain removal reasons upon inquiry; disputed decisions may receive Director reconsideration and applicable administrative review. Legality questions go to the Director, who may consult counsel. Permanent non-endorsement notices and recordkeeping rules are established.

WHAT REMAINS CONSISTENT

A community posting is not District sponsorship or endorsement. The policy does not govern library collections, curated displays, patrons' lawful personal expression, or programs managed under other BCLD policies. Its restrictions apply to designated community posting and distribution areas.