

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP, MAINE
POLICY ON PETITIONS, POSTINGS, AND DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS IN MUNICIPAL
BUILDINGS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that municipal buildings remain safe, orderly, and accessible for the conduct of public business, while respecting applicable constitutional protections. This policy establishes reasonable, content-neutral rules governing the posting, distribution, and placement of materials, including petitions, within Town-owned buildings.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Town-owned or controlled buildings, including but not limited to the Town Office, the Fire Department, the Hahn Center and to all members of the public, employees, and officials.

3. General Principle

Municipal buildings are designated as nonpublic forums for the purpose of First Amendment analysis. The Town may impose reasonable, viewpoint-neutral restrictions on the use of its facilities to ensure efficient government operations.

4. Prohibited Activities

Unless expressly authorized under this policy:

1. No person shall leave, place, or distribute petitions, flyers, advertisements, or other materials on counters, desks, or other surfaces within Town buildings.
 2. No person shall post materials on walls, doors, windows, or fixtures.
 3. No person shall solicit signatures, contributions, or support for petitions or causes inside municipal buildings.
 4. No materials may be affixed to Town property using tape, tacks, or other fasteners.
-

5. Designated Posting Areas

The Town may establish a designated public bulletin board for community notices.

- Use of such space shall be first-come, first-served unless otherwise managed.
 - All materials must be dated and identified with the name of the responsible party.
 - The Town reserves the right to remove materials that are:
 - Undated or anonymous
 - Duplicative or outdated
 - Physically damaged or exceeding space limits
 - The Town does not endorse any materials posted.
-

6. Petitions

1. The Town recognizes the legal right of individuals to circulate petitions under Maine law.
 2. However, Town facilities shall not be used as distribution points for petitions unless specifically authorized.
 3. Petitioners may conduct lawful activities outside Town buildings, subject to applicable laws and ordinances.
 4. Nothing in this policy restricts the lawful submission of petitions to Town officials for certification or processing as required by law.
-

7. Election and Voting Period Restrictions

During any election, additional restrictions may apply within and around polling places as required by Maine law. No political materials or petition activity shall occur within restricted areas established for voting.

8. Enforcement

- The Town Clerk or designee is authorized to enforce this policy.
 - Unauthorized materials may be removed without notice.
 - Individuals who refuse to comply may be directed to leave the premises.
-

9. Content Neutrality

This policy shall be applied in a content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral manner. No distinction shall be made based on the subject matter or viewpoint of any petition or material.

10. Severability

If any provision of this policy is found invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

11. Effective Date

Adopted by the Selectboard on: 8/10/2026
Effective Date: 8/11/2026

Signed:

X Randy Lee

Chair, Selectboard

Cullen Burke

Town Clerk