

UMD Housing & Residence Life Political Solicitation Policy

Political solicitation may take place in residential facilities under specific guidelines. Any individual or group not following these guidelines is in violation of residence life regulations. Non-resident offenders should be asked to remedy their actions and leave the premises. If the parties involved refuse to leave, UMD Police Department will be called for assistance. A resident found in violation of solicitation guidelines will be subject to the student conduct process.

Political solicitation is usually conducted during the months of September through November in advance of a general election date, but may happen at other times based on the timing of primary or special elections. Because residents may register to vote in the precincts where their residential buildings are located, candidates for elected office seeking to represent the precincts often seek to campaign in the residential facilities. Housing & Residence Life encourages all student residents to become politically informed and involved in the electoral process.

The Fair Campaign Practices Act of the Minnesota Statutes (211B.20) allow residential communities to establish political solicitation guidelines for candidates or workers accompanied by candidates. Specified in the state law are the following:

1. Residents may deny admittance into their personal residential unit.
2. Reasonable and proper identification is required and an identification badge must be worn at all times by the candidate while he/she is in the residence halls or apartments.
3. Visits by candidates and workers accompanied by the candidate for the sole purpose of campaigning may be limited to:
 - i. reasonable numbers of person(s),
 - ii. reasonable hours,
 - iii. prior appointments.

In an attempt to furnish a consistent procedure in all residential communities for candidates, the following University guidelines have been established for the period in Advance of an Election Day. See additional section below for procedures On Election Day.

In Advance of Election Day Campaign Process for On-Campus Housing Facilities

1. Prior appointments will be required with the Associate Director for Residence Life one business day in advance of entry. Prior appointments allow our staff to provide advance notification to student staff and residents regarding the candidates' visits.
2. Reasonable number of campaign workers accompanying the candidate (per building/per visit) will be five (5) or less. No media may accompany the candidate, nor can any campaign staff or volunteers record in or broadcast video or audio from residential buildings without advance consultation with the UMD's Office of External Affairs.
3. Candidates and campaign workers (hereafter collectively known as 'campaigners'), on their arrival and departure, must check in and out with the Lake Superior Hall information desk. All campaigners will be asked to individually sign in and out, and will be given a copy of this policy to review and/or take with them at the time of sign in.
4. All campaigners must wear visible identification (including name and position for which they are campaigning) for the entire length of time they are in the residential community.
5. With proper identification and advance notice, campaigners will not be required to be escorted by a resident of the building and may spread out throughout the building to conduct campaigning.
6. Campaigners must furnish identification to building staff when it is requested or halt campaigning temporarily, if asked, while staff verifies their approval to be in the building or their status as signed in for campaigning.

7. Campaigners may distribute campaign literature supporting any candidate or campaign issue by handing it to residents or placing it under residents' room doors. Campaigners may not post flyers or any campaign literature on residents' doors.
8. Any resident may place notice on the door of his/her room requesting that campaigners not solicit at that door or disturb him/her. All campaigners are expected to abide by the notice.
9. Reasonable hours for campaigning are determined to be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
10. Any candidate or campaign worker residing in a residential community is expected to adhere to the same guidelines as non-residents.
11. During the hours of 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., campaigners may also request in advance to be present in public lobby areas of a building to greet and connect with residents and guests. At no time may campaigners affix banners, posters, or flyers to the residential facility promoting their candidate or initiative.
12. Tables for the purpose of non-partisan voter registration will be permitted in residential community lobbies as a service to residents.
13. Residential post office boxes may not be used for campaign literature unless that literature arrives via U.S. Mail. Special tables will be provided in the lobbies for dispensing campaign materials.

On Election Day Campaign Process for On-Campus Housing Facilities

Housing & Residence Life will grant political candidates extended access to the on-campus residence halls and apartments on primary or general election day for campaigning purposes as outlined below. All procedures remain in place for primary or general election days (unless altered by the extended access items listed below).

1. Candidates will be permitted access to campaign in on-campus residence halls and apartments on primary or general election days between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
2. Due to time limitations, campaigners will not be required to schedule visits in advance. However, campaigners must register at the Lake Superior Hall Information Desk and must wear identification badges at all times while in the residence halls/apartments.
3. Candidates and campaign workers accompanying a candidate will be allowed to distribute any campaign literature under resident room doors between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. even if a student places notice on his/her room door requesting that candidates not disturb him/her.
4. Housing & Residence Life may choose to partner with student organizations such as the UMD Student Association (SA) and/or MPIRG to conduct non-partisan, get out the vote efforts on an election day. Students affiliated with any such effort would be allowed access to the building under the terms of a special agreement.

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