

REPORT

Oakville Public Library Board

Meeting Date: July 18, 2024

FROM: Oakville Public Library

DATE: July 9, 2024

SUBJECT: Political Use of Space and Resources policy – July 18, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Political Use of Space and Resources policy be received for feedback.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The Political Use of Space and Resources policy was approved by the OPL Board in May 2023 and slated for review in 2026.
- In May 2024, the Town of Oakville updated their Use of Corporate Resources during an Election Period policy.
- The Political Use of Space and Resources policy is based on the Town policy and the update from May 2024, has been incorporated into to the OPL policy to ensure alignment.
- The update primarily addresses the ability of candidates to use videos that have been posted to OPL's YouTube in accordance with YouTube's Terms of Service.

BACKGROUND:

The Political Use of Space and Resources policy was approved by the OPL Board May 2023 and slated for review in 2026. However, the Town of Oakville introduced an update to their Use of Corporate Resources during an Election Period policy in May 2024 that was subsequently approved by Council.

OPL's Political Use of Space and Resources policy is based on the Town's Use of Corporate Resources during an Election Period policy and is reviewed whenever an update is made to the Town policy.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Town updates to the Use of Corporate Resources during an Election Period policy included:

- clarity around candidate usage of the Town's YouTube and
- that complaints or concerns related to campaign finances may be addressed through the compliance audit process outlined in Section 88.33 of the Municipal Elections Act.

OPL has a YouTube channel and as such the town's update has been incorporated to allow candidates the ability to use videos posted to Oakville Public Library YouTube Channel, in accordance with YouTube's Terms of Service. The update has been highlighted within Appendix A for easy review.

The second update to the Use of Corporate Resources during an Election Period policy does not pertain to OPL and has not been added to the Political Use of Space and Resources policy.

The proposed update is intended to improve clarity regarding the use of municipal resources during an election period, ensure compliance with legal obligations, offer a fair and consistent experience for all candidates, and uphold the integrity of the electoral process.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A - Political Use of Space and Resources policy (2024)

Appendix B - Political Use of Space and Resources policy (2023)

Appendix C - Use of Corporate Resources during an Election Period policy

Prepared and Submitted by:
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