



BILLERICA COUNCIL ON AGING

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DIRECTOR

Political Solicitation Policy

It is the policy of the Billerica Council on Aging and the Billerica Senior Center to treat everyone equally. The Senior Center is a public building and, as such, the public has a civil right to be in the Senior Center.

Article 9 of the Massachusetts Constitution protects the right to solicit nomination paper signatures and ballot-access on municipal property that is regularly open to the general public for municipal business, subject only to reasonable time, place and manner regulations.

Reasonable Time, Place and Manner:

Time:

Mondays, at mid day, between the hours of 10a.m and 2:30pm, shall be the designated time when signatures may be solicited.

Place:

The Billerica Council on Aging requires that candidates who seek signatures may do so in the senior center's front lobby. This area is on the left side as you enter main door of the senior center. We ask that entrances and corridors are kept clear as we are a handicapped accessible facility and must keep the lobby area passable.

Manner:

Any candidate seeking to gather signatures or to actively campaign must notify the Council on Aging Director, or the director's designee, twenty-four in advance of their intention to drop by the senior center for this purpose. When the candidates arrive at the senior center, they must sign in at the reception desk.

Candidates for office, or the candidate's designee(s) duly authorized by the candidate to act on his or her behalf, must follow these guidelines *inside* the senior center:

- no distribution of bumper stickers, buttons, flyers, food, etc., while visiting the senior center building;
- no active campaigning including speeches, and soliciting donations;
- no involvement of the media without specific clearance from the COA director or the director's designee;

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With respect to enforcement of the policy, the Council on Aging and its Director do exercise care, custody and control of the subject property, and as custodian, they may adopt regulations regarding access to and use of the property. With the right to adopt policies and regulations comes the right to enforce same. Any person's failure to heed the Director's (or her designee's) notice of non-compliance or order to comport with the policy would be subject to removal from the property as a trespasser. If necessary, the Police could be called in to enforce the order.

Approved: January 2012