HRL Political Solicitation Policy – University student government elections

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, University Police will be called for assistance. A resident found in violation of solicitation guidelines will be subject to the student conduct process.

The University of Minnesota and Housing & Residential Life encourage all student residents to become politically informed and involved in the student government process.

The Fair Campaign Practices Act of the 1976 Minnesota Statutes (210A.43) 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:
   - reasonable numbers of person(s),
   - reasonable hours,
   - prior appointments.

In an attempt to furnish a consistent procedure in all residential communities for candidates, the following Housing & Residential Life guidelines have been established and pertain only to the annual All Campus Elections Committee elections for Minnesota Student Association (MSA), college, and other university board elections.

1. Prior appointments will be required with the Residence Director of the community 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. Door-to-door campaigning in residential communities is limited to only candidates running for any position covered by All Campus Elections Committee rules.
3. Door-to-door campaigning in the residential communities is limited to the hours between 3:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. no earlier than two weeks prior to the election through the day prior to the actual election.
4. All candidates, on their arrival and departure, must check in and out with the residential community’s information desk each time they enter and exit a building for campaigning. All candidates 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.
5. All candidates 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.

6. Campaigners must furnish identification to building staff when it is requested or halt campaigning temporarily, if asked, while staff verify their approval to be in the building or their status as signed in for campaigning.

7. Candidates must refrain from knocking on any resident room door where the resident has posted the following notice or a notice reading with similar intent (ACEC or MSA Candidates: Please refrain on knocking on this door to campaign). Failure to adhere to this request may result in immediate removal from the community and termination of any subsequent door-to-door campaigning in all our residential buildings for the specific candidate in violation of this guideline.

8. Candidates may not post flyers or any campaign literature on residents’ doors or place any campaign literature under residents’ room doors or in door jambs.

9. Candidates who adhere to the established guidelines for door-to-door solicitation will not be required to be escorted by a resident of the community.

10. Any candidate residing in a residential community is expected to adhere to these guidelines.

11. Residential post office boxes may not be used for campaign literature (unless sent via U.S. mail). Special information tables are available in each residential location for dispersing campaign materials (materials must be given to the Residence Director or Assistant Residence Director in each community for placement on the information table).

12. Residential dining service areas may not be used for campaign purposes.

13. Violations of any Housing regulations may result in the immediate removal of candidates from the residential community and may result in the termination of any subsequent door-to-door campaigns by the candidates in the residential properties.