

POLICY

CATEGORY/SECTION

BOARD - GENERAL

SUBJECT

POLITICAL NEUTRALITY POLICY**AUTHORITY**

Governance and Procedural By-Law Number 03-2021

Elections Act, R.S.O. 1990

Canada Elections Act, S.C. 2000

INTENT OF POLICY

To provide clear and consistent guidelines with regard to partisan political activities in District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) direct owned housing, office buildings, and any other owned or leased buildings as they pertain to requests to the Board for deputations, public events, or other formal gatherings by elected municipal, provincial, and/or federal officials or their representatives; electoral candidates; and/or other political organizations.

DEFINITIONS

Elected representative: an elected or appointed municipal, provincial, federal official, or official designate.

Electoral candidate: a registered candidate in a municipal, provincial, or federal election – as defined under the Municipal, Ontario, and Canada Elections Acts – during an election period.

Political organization: any organization that involves itself in the political process, including political parties, non-governmental organizations, or advocacy groups.

POLICY

The TBDSSAB, as a publicly-funded, non-profit corporation, maintains a position of neutrality in the arena of partisan politics as a principle of public accountability and transparency. As such, the TBDSSAB does not, as a corporate entity, officially endorse any political viewpoint, nor does it have the authority to censure or discriminate against the freedom of thought, belief, or other fundamental freedoms of the Board, Administration, tenants, clients, and/or other individuals as enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

IMPLEMENTATION / BOARD APPROVAL DATE:

January 18, 2018

REVISION DATE(S): 2022Mar3-Hskpg-By-law

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STANDARDS OF APPLICATION

1. Requests made by electoral candidates to address the Board will be reviewed by the TBDSSAB Board of Directors and must be submitted a minimum of 30 days prior to the desired target date.
2. Requests made by elected representatives to address the Board will be reviewed by the Board Chair.
3. Requests by municipal, provincial, or federal representatives for TBDSSAB participation in public events should be addressed to the Board Chair submitted to the Board within a reasonable timeframe prior to the desired target date.
4. In instances where a time sensitive decision is required regarding a request by an elected representative; by municipal, provincial, or federal representatives for TBDSSAB participation in public events; and/or other instances that could engender legal or reputational risks, the Board shall permit the Board Chair to use their discretion and political acuity to determine the proper course of action.
5. Requests to utilize common areas in multi-residential TBDSSAB direct owned housing or leased buildings for constituency meetings, electoral canvassing, or other political activities may be submitted directly to a tenant or tenants' association for approval, as guided by the Common Room / Resource Centre Rules. In instances where a tenants' association does not exist, requests should be directed to the CAO's Office which will notify the appropriate personnel in a timely manner.
6. During an election period, the Canada and Ontario Elections Acts give candidates and their representatives a right of access to buildings, land, streets or other places that are open without charge to the public. At no time, outside of an election period, will door-to-door canvassing of a TBDSSAB owned or leased property be permitted.

RELATED POLICIES

N/A

RELATED PROCEDURES

Common Facility Procedure – Housing Services

FORMS

Common Room / Resource Centre Rules