MINNEHAHA COUNTY
LIMITED PUBLIC USE POLICY

(Adopted: November 28, 2023)

Minnehaha County buildings exist to accommodate the business of county government, the courts, and the citizens of Minnehaha County. As such all buildings, adjacent grounds, sidewalks and parking facilities are nonpublic forums. While Minnehaha County appreciates those citizens who wish to take an active role in federal, state and local government decisions, county buildings must accommodate many people every day without any unnecessary delay or inconvenience.

In an effort to preserve public safety and provide citizens the opportunity to conduct their county business without unnecessary disruption or inconvenience while at the same time provide for locations from which individuals or groups ("Utilizers") may circulate petitions, distribute information, and engage in other first amendment activities ("Political Activity"), the Minnehaha County Commission has approved the following "Limited Public Use Policy."

Utilizers may conduct Political Activity, in accordance with this Limited Public Use Policy, outside of the Minnehaha County Administration Building ("Administration Building") except in the Zone of Non-Interference described below.

AREA WHERE POLITICAL ACTIVITY IS PROHIBITED

Minnehaha County Administration Building

> In order to preserve general accessibility to the Administration Building through the west main entrance ("West Entrance") including, without limitation, by means of the handicap accessible curb ramp, Utilizers may not stand, sit, or lie in or otherwise position themselves upon or otherwise occupy the portion of concrete sidewalk beginning immediately adjacent to the West Entrance, then west for Nine and One-quarter feet (9.25'), then north for Twenty-Four feet (24'), then east for Six feet (6'), then south for Fifteen feet (15'), then east for Three and One-quarter feet (3.25') to the exterior of the Administration Building as designated in the color-coded diagram below.

This area is hereinafter referred to as the "Zone of Non-Interference."

CONDUCT DURING POLITICAL ACTIVITY

1.   Utilizers must remain outside of county buildings when conducting any Political Activity;
2.   Utilizers may approach individuals for the purpose of asking them to sign a petition provided the Utilizers remain outside of the Zone of Non-Interference and follow all other provisions of this Policy;
3.   Utilizers shall not, at any time, prevent access to county buildings or obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic within the parking area or as individuals enter or leave county buildings;

4. Utilizers must conduct themselves in a polite, courteous and professional manner including, but not limited to, respecting an individuals' right to decline to sign a petition;
5. Utilizers must respect the rights of others including, but not limited to, petition circulators and other individuals engaged in Political Activity;
6. Utilizers shall not follow any individual into any building, the Zone of Non-Interference or other area of the county campus where Political Activity is prohibited;
7. Utilizers shall not place any material in the Zone of Non-Interference, including, without limitation: petitions, signs, banners, pamphlets, tables, and chairs;
8. Utilizers shall not leave any material unattended, including, without limitation: petitions, signs, banners, pamphlets, tables, and chairs – any unattended material may be disposed of in the appropriate garbage or recycling receptacles;
9. Utilizers may seek refuge inside of the Administration Building in the event of severe weather provided that all Political Activity cease inside the Administration Building and such individuals do not impede those entering and leaving the building; and
10. The Administration Building is designated as a polling place and as such, the provisions of SDCL 12-18-3 apply during all period of absentee voting and on the day of any election.

Note: Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Commission Office (3rd floor of the County Administration Building).