

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Political Campaigning Policy

The Residence Hall Association Council¹ and UW-L Housing Office² have established the following guidelines for political campaigning and solicitation of ideas within the residence halls³.

Campaigning

The following policy and procedures regarding political campaigning are designed to allow candidates the opportunity to discuss issues, distribute literature, and provide residence hall students the occasion to talk with candidates. Likewise, this policy and these procedures are designed to protect students' rights to privacy and security.

Policy

Candidates in all elections pertinent to residence hall students may conduct timely door-to-door campaigns, hold open meetings in a designated meeting place, and distribute literature following the procedures below.

Procedures

1. To assure the security of residents, their property and the university property, all candidates and their representatives⁴ (no more than 2) must leave proper identification at the front desk⁵ prior to entering the living unit. While campaigning, candidates and their reps must wear visible identification provided by the front desk. Candidates and their reps must return this identification when they pick up their identification before leaving.
2. Door-to-door campaigning may only be conducted from 3:00-7:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and 3:00-5:00 P.M. Saturday and Sunday. During these visits, candidates are welcome to distribute literature only to those residents expressing an interest. Placement of materials under or on doors is prohibited.
3. Candidates must honor the wishes of students who choose not to speak with them or who do not invite them into their rooms.
4. To keep disruptions to a minimum, discussion among candidates, their representatives, and students are to occur in students' rooms only.⁶ Discussions in hallways are prohibited. Larger groups may meet in a designated area⁷ at the above times. The designated area should be reserved through individual hall councils.⁸
5. Materials to be posted must be approved by the Hall Director and follow the poster policies⁹ of each hall. All Posters not approved must be removed.
6. Candidates and their representatives who choose not to follow the above procedures will be asked to leave the residence halls and will not be allowed to return for the duration of the campaign.
7. Appeals may be made to the Residence Hall Association Council.¹⁰

¹ The Residence Hall Association Council no longer exists. For questions, please contact Residence Life at 608.785.8075; housing@uwlax.edu; or 1500 La Crosse St, La Crosse, WI 54601.

² UW-L Housing Office is now referred to as Residence Life.

³ Residence Halls are locked 24/7 by card access. Candidates wanting to campaign should call the front desk of the residence hall to gain access. Residence Hall desk numbers are located on each residence hall's page: <https://www.uwlax.edu/reslife/orl-resources/residence-halls/>

⁴ Candidates must be present with representatives when campaigning takes place.

⁵ Desks are located in the front lobby of each residence hall. They are open the following hours: Sunday-Wednesday 10am-10pm; Thursday 10am-midnight; Friday-Saturday 10am-2am <https://www.uwlax.edu/reslife/orl-resources/residence-hall-services/>

⁶ For the safety of the students and the candidates and representatives, it is encouraged that students keep their doors open when meeting with a candidate and representative in their rooms.

⁷ Designated areas can include lobbies or event spaces.

⁸ Hall Councils no longer exist. To reserve a space in a specific residence hall, speak with the live-in staff member for that building: <https://www.uwlax.edu/reslife/our-people/#tab-25969>

⁹ Campus publicity guidelines related to residence hall publicity can be found here in section 1(c):

<https://www.uwlax.edu/globalassets/offices-services/university-centers/cove-media/campus-publicity-guidelines-2020-2021.pdf>

¹⁰ Please see footnote 1.