

ROOM USE POLICY

PURPOSE:

Albany Public Library maintains meeting room space and study rooms for use by community groups, associations, and agencies when such space is not being used for library-sponsored programming. The library endorses the principles adopted by the American Library Association in the Library Bill of Rights regarding meeting room use which state, "Libraries which maintain meeting rooms, exhibit space, or other facilities open to the public should make them available on equal terms to all persons, regardless of their beliefs or affiliations." Authorization to use meeting rooms does not constitute an endorsement by the library of a group or organization's positions or beliefs.

POLICY:

Albany Public Library makes its spaces available on equal terms to all qualified groups subject to the regulations below:

1. All meetings must be free and open to the public. Unless specifically approved by the Library Administration, no fees, dues or donations may be charged or solicited for any program.
2. Meeting rooms may not be used for commercial and/or for-profit purposes, including investment seminars, sales/service demonstrations, programs by private for-profit health care representatives, etc.
3. Library-sponsored programs take priority over all other meeting room reservations. The library reserves the right to cancel meeting room reservations at any time in the event of a conflict with a library-sponsored program. In these instances, the organization's contact person will be informed and every effort will be made to arrange alternate space for the displaced program. The library is not responsible for notifying group members of a cancellation or advertising a change in the meeting roomschedule.
4. Programs may not disrupt the use of the library by others. All persons using the meeting rooms are subject to all library rules and regulations. Meeting rooms may be used for performance or rehearsal of dramatic, musical, or theatrical productions, etc. as long as the specific activity does not disrupt other library activities.
5. All groups using the meeting rooms are expected to leave the facilities in a clean and orderly condition and are responsible for damage to library property. The library shall charge the group or organization if housekeeping or maintenance service is necessary. The minimum charge will be \$25.
6. Rooms must be vacated at closing. In the case of after-hours reservations, (see below) meetings must end no later than 9:00 pm.
7. To encourage the use of its meeting rooms for diverse events and to give all qualified groups access to this service, no group may reserve meeting rooms more than 90 days in advance and no group may book a meeting room more than 18 times in a 12-

month period.

8. The library shall not assume responsibility for the security of items brought into the meeting rooms. The library will not provide storage of material or equipment for a group or organization.
9. Alcohol and tobacco products are not permitted in the meeting rooms. No open flames or candles may be used in the meeting rooms.
10. Neither the name nor address of any Albany Public Library location may be used as the address or headquarters of a group or organization.
11. The library reserves the right to review all material distributed at meetings and to approve any signage to be displayed on library property.
12. Meeting rooms must be reserved by an adult (18 years of age or older). Persons bringing children to meetings must assume responsibility for their care and behavior.
13. The library reserves the right to determine the number of events that will be held simultaneously at its facilities.
14. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in the suspension of a group's meeting room privileges.
15. Library-sponsored or co-sponsored events may be exempt from some of the above regulations at the discretion of the Library Administration.
16. In cases of emergency cancellations, the library must be notified 1 hour before the reservation.

Study Rooms

Albany Public Library makes its spaces available on equal terms to all individuals or groups subject to the regulations below:

1. Study rooms are available on a first come, first served basis.
2. The library reserves the right to limit time in the space by 1-hour increments based on demand.
3. Study Rooms may be reserved up to one week in advance.

After-Hours Use

Our six locations with meeting rooms can accommodate after-hours use of the community meeting rooms. All of the rules detailed in the above policy are in effect for after-hours use. In addition, the following limitations are in effect for all after-hours reservations:

- After-hours reservations will be accepted for Monday-Thursday evenings.
- Meetings must end no later than 9:00 pm.
- A limited number of locations are available on any given night and appearance of availability in the request system does not guarantee actual room availability.

After-hours meeting room reservations must be made with the library **AT LEAST 24 hours IN ADVANCE OF THE USE DATE** to allow for appropriate staffing.

Room Set-up

The library staff will not be responsible for room set up or rearranging furniture or equipment in advance of a meeting. Organizations will be responsible for room set up and must return the room to the original arrangement at the completion of the meeting. Failure to comply may result in the suspension of a group's meeting room privileges.

Kitchen Facility Use

Light refreshments may be served only in those meeting rooms equipped with kitchen facilities. The organization is responsible for supplying all utensils and equipment and will be responsible for immediate clean-up of the meeting room and the kitchen. **All refuse from events serving food or drink must be removed from the building and premises by the organization at the completion of the meeting.** The library shall charge the group or organization if housekeeping or maintenance service is necessary. The minimum charge will be \$25. Additionally, failure to comply may result in the suspension of a group's meeting room privileges.

Audio-Visual Equipment Use

Requests for audio-visual equipment must be made at the time the room is reserved. The suite of equipment available at each location may vary – organizations should verify what is available at a specific location at the time the room is reserved. Trained library staff, when in the building, will provide basic assistance with library-owned equipment. If staff are not available, the library will provide simple written instructions for equipment use. **DVDs, videotapes, etc. are protected by copyright laws and, unless designated as public domain material or accompanied by Public Performance Rights, cannot be shown in any library meeting room.**

Meeting room use is contingent upon accepting the library's meeting room policy. [To continue to our room reservation request form, please visit the Reserve a Room page and click on the acceptance link to continue.](#)

PROCEDURE:

As stated above.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all library employees to ensure compliance with this policy.

APPROVED/REVIEWED:

Adopted: June 2016
Reviewed: December 2019
Amended: July 2021