



Wild Oats Market Tabling and Petitioning Policy

Wild Oats recognizes that individual member-owners may hold a wide range of opinions on any given local, regional or national issue. While we encourage their participation in community education and the political process, we do not allow tabling or petitioning on Wild Oats property except as stated herein.

Opportunities are provided for not-for-profit organizations, with whom we partner, to network with our community, with priority given to those non-profit groups that have a direct impact on our Mission and Ends Policy and/or our role as a cooperative.

In general, Wild Oats prioritizes the following issues:

- Cooperative Principles
- Food and Food Access
- Nutrition and Health Products
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Environmental Issues
- Consumer Safety
- Social and Economic Justice

Individuals or other groups seeking to make their voices heard through tabling or petitioning on Co-op property should collaborate with one of our non-profit partners.

Issues that are particularly divisive, politically partisan, or religious in nature will be excluded from consideration for purposes of tabling or petitioning. On all other issues, it is expected that partnering organizations will educate and inform in a fair and balanced manner. Wild Oats' management reserves the right to use its discretion in interpreting this policy.

Any questions, comments or concerns should be directed to our Marketing & Owner Relations Manager at (413) 458-5317 x17 or marketing@wildoats.coop

The following is required to table or collect petition signatures on Co-op property:

- Apply at least one week in advance with our Marketing & Owner Relations Manager to confirm date, time and availability. Fundraising or the sale of any items in front of the store must be approved in advance and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Signature gathering for petitions is not permitted unless it concerns an issue that the Co-op chooses to sponsor, such as legislation of organic food production standards or the labeling of GMO ingredients.
- Generally, tabling or petitioning is limited to up to two times per month per group. Only one group at a time may table or collect petition signatures.
- Upon arrival, and before setting up, checking in with the Customer Service Manager or PIC (Person In Charge) is required. You will then be instructed as to where to set up and given a copy of our current Tabling Policy.
- Groups must provide their own table and chairs.
- A display with materials about the organization's goals or relevant materials and staffed with the organization's representatives is required. The organization must be clearly identifiable. Representatives of the organization or others present with the organization are also requested to refrain from wearing any political or religious messages or endorsements while tabling.
- Harassment of our customers is our greatest concern. Individuals working or volunteering for the approved organization are requested NOT to directly (verbally or physically) approach people entering or exiting the Co-op, or in the Co-op's parking lot. Co-op Staff who observe anyone violating these guidelines, or not upholding respectful and appropriate behavior, have the authority to ask groups to change their behavior or leave the premises.

Please share this policy with anyone helping you. Staying behind your table and accepting when a customer is not interested will help to ensure compliance with this policy. Customer complaints about solicitation will be taken very seriously. Overly aggressive tactics or harassment will lead to the **permanent loss of an organization's privileges.**

Last Updated 12/21/20