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## Guidelines for Democracy & Agriculture Tent

The purpose of having a Democracy & Agriculture Tent at the Common Ground Country Fair is to provide a non-partisan space for fairgoers to engage with candidates on the election ballot, learn about political party and candidate platforms, and discuss ballot and election initiatives. MOFGA recognizes that agricultural fairs and municipal festivals are important for political campaigns and ballot initiatives. We also recognize that agricultural policies affect us all and we encourage participants to ask candidates about how their platforms relate to agriculture.

The Democracy & Agriculture Tent will promote public awareness of and engagement in election, party, and ballot campaigns across the political spectrum and encourage respectful discourse among all participating in the tent. MOFGA does not endorse, recommend, or favor any candidate running for or holding public office, irrespective of whether that candidate does or does not attend or otherwise participate in the Democracy & Agriculture Tent at the Common Ground Country Fair. MOFGA expects civil discourse and will not tolerate hate speech or discrimination.

### Participation

1. The tent is open to all political parties registered in Maine, to all candidates on the current year's election ballot, to all candidates who have declared officially for federal election, 501(c)(4) organizations, and to ballot and election initiatives.
2. Tent space is open to all qualified parties, candidates and those mentioned in guideline #1; however, those participating in this tent must respectfully share the tent space, and materials cannot be hung from the tent.
3. Participants must conduct themselves in a respectful manner. Participants who are unable to listen and show respect for their opponents will be excused from the Democracy & Agriculture Tent. Anyone participating in hate speech or discrimination will be asked to immediately leave the fairgrounds.
4. Participants may share campaign materials with fairgoers only in the Democracy & Agriculture Tent.





5. Candidates and their support staff may roam the fairgrounds and talk with fairgoers in a respectful manner but must refrain from handing out campaign literature or otherwise leafleting fairgoers outside of the Democracy & Agriculture Tent.
6. The Common Ground Country Fair prohibits helium balloons, and single-use, disposable campaign paraphernalia.
7. The tent has an information table where tent participants may have small stacks of recyclable campaign literature at a communal information table. MOFGA is not responsible for maintaining orderly presentation of campaign literature. The Democracy & Agriculture Tent Coordinator may choose to clear the table if it becomes too cluttered. Tent participants are responsible for taking all materials home at the end of the day.
8. The Common Ground Country Fair encourages candidates to use their time in the Democracy & Agriculture Tent to learn from fairgoers rather than deliver stump speeches.
9. Those participating in the Elections & Agriculture Tent will need to pay Fair admission for themselves and any support staff. The Fair provides the tent, tables, and chairs for this area.
10. All participants must also follow the Fair General Guidelines.

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