

## Guidelines for Common Ground Country Fair Elections & Agriculture Tent

The purpose of having an Elections & 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 and learn about political party and candidate platforms. MOFGA recognizes that agricultural fairs and municipal festivals are important for political campaigns. The Elections & Agriculture Tent will promote public awareness of and engagement in election campaigns across the political spectrum and encourage respectful discourse among political parties and candidates. 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 Elections & Agriculture Tent at the Common Ground Country Fair.

### Participation

1. The tent is open to all political parties registered in Maine, to all candidates on the current year's election ballot, and to all candidates who have declared officially for federal election.
2. Tent space is open to all qualified parties and candidates; however, candidates must make room for each other in and around 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 Elections & Agriculture Tent.
4. Participants may share campaign materials with fairgoers only in the Elections & 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 Elections & 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 candidates and parties 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 Elections & Agriculture Tent Coordinator may choose to clear the table if it becomes too cluttered. Candidate and parties 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 Elections & Agriculture Tent to learn from fairgoers rather than deliver stump speeches.