



City Clerk's Office
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July 23, 2019

As you know, Salt Lake County has begun mailing the ballots for the upcoming primary election. As you meet with residents and are perhaps faced with questions regarding registration or voting procedures, etc., feel free to put them in touch with either Tangee or myself with any questions. We get many of the same questions each year but if you stump us and we don't know the answer, we will certainly get it for you.

Jamie Brooks 801-569-5115
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Also, the City has contracted with the Salt Lake County Clerk's Office for election services and those folks have a plethora of knowledge about all things election related. They can be reached at 385-468-7400.

A candidate has expressed interest in spending a couple of hours at Ron Wood Park near the splash pad to hand out free snow cones and campaign. The equipment the candidate wishes to take to the park is a table and snow cone machine. A request has been made to allow the candidate to plug the machine into City Power. If that were not permissible, the candidate would use a generator.

There are no City ordinances that would prohibit such activity, but there are some applicable regulations, limitations, and restrictions that need to be followed. First, any candidate considering such activity will be required to comply with all Salt Lake County Department of Health Regulations, including but not limited to food handler's regulations. The candidates should contact Salt Lake County for guidance on those regulations.

Second, candidates, like all park-goers, are not allowed to utilize City power sources for activities such as those described above due to concerns about the cost of providing electricity for private use. The use of a generator, however, is not prohibited by City Code. That being said, all park-goers are required to comply with Salt Lake County Department of Health noise regulations in their use of the Park. See City Code 8-13-6(T). Thus, candidates should be cognizant of the noise their generator will make.

Third, candidates, along with all other park-goers, are prohibited from posting, placing, or erecting any signs or banners while campaigning and distributing snow cones. See City Code 8-13-4 and 8-13-6(a). Signs and banners are only permitted to be displayed in the park when (i) an individual has a reservation or permit for park use, (ii) the sign or banner is displayed in the immediate area they reserved, (iii) the sign is expressly specified in the reservation or permit, and (iv) the sign or banner complies with all other applicable provisions of City Code. See City Code 8-13-4. Because Ron Wood Park is a "first-come-first-served" park (other than reservation of the sports fields) and the activity is not a permitted special event, banners and signs are not permitted under City Code.

Finally, like any other First Amendment distribution in the park, the candidate or others acting on his behalf (i) cannot impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic while distributing their snow cones and/or campaign literature (this would include blocking access to anything in the Park, including entrances and exits to the splash pad, restrooms, pavilion, play structures, parking lots, etc.); and (ii) they can only distribute snow cones and/or literature to individuals willing to accept them (i.e. cannot leave stacks of flyers all over the park, cannot force a flyer, snow cone, or conversation on someone who declines it, etc.)

Thanks for taking the time to read through the legalese. It may not be the most riveting topic but it's important. If you would like to peruse the City codes that have been cited above, you can do so at https://sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=680. If you have any trouble locating the specific code you're interested in, please let me know and I would be happy to send you a copy of it.