

SPECIAL EVENTS IN MADISON PARKS – GENERAL POLICIES

Policy for Administrative Permitting of Election Campaign Events in Parks.

“Election Campaign Events” are defined as an event to be held in a City Park by a recognized candidate for public office or their surrogate, for the purpose of taking action to influence the nomination, election or re-election of an individual to public office, or to influence the vote in a referendum, that is of a size and criteria that requires a Park Event Permit under existing policies and procedures.

Outdoor rallies for election campaign events, especially those for national office, are often scheduled on short notice. Parks are a traditional public forum for expression and with a permit for such events in a City Park, with appropriate restrictions, candidates can efficiently and safely speak to a large number of people, without closing streets and causing traffic and Metro transit detours typically associated with on-street events. Therefore the Park Commission wishes to establish a procedure to review and approve permits for such events through an expedited administrative process.

Below are the details of the policy for Election Campaign Events:

- Not required to apply 180 days in advance as is required for new events of any kind.
- Not required to apply 60 days in advance of the event date for returning events.
- If applying less than 30 days prior to the proposed event date, not required to appear before the Board of Park Commissioners due to the BPC’s limited monthly meeting schedule.
- Shall pay the applicable late fee established by the BPC for applications filed later than the deadlines above.
- All other applicable rules, permits, fees and conditions shall apply per existing policies for all Park Events Permits, including security and safety measures coordinated with the Madison Police Department.
- All applicable fees associated with such Park Event use shall apply.
- The Board of Park Commissioners delegates authority to Parks staff, to be assigned by the Superintendent of Parks, to administratively process and, if all applicable conditions are met, approve and issue a Park Event Permit for Election Campaign events, consistent with this policy.

Date adopted by Park Commission: 12.11.2019