



To: Candidates for Public Office and Associates
From: Julia Halsted, Policy Governance & Community Relations Manager
Date: November 6, 2015
Subject: Signs in the Parks Prohibited

On August 11, 2015, the Rockford Park District Board of Commissioners updated their ordinance concerning advertising and solicitation in parks. This memo hereby provides notice that **political advertising and solicitation is prohibited** in Rockford Park District parks and facilities.

Board Ordinance Policy Section 9.01 “Advertising and Solicitation” defines political advertising and solicitation as, “*the promotion of an idea, belief, or position in an attempt to affect voting or influence or draw attention to public policy, including but not limited to advertising about a political party, representative, or candidate, political issues of public, private, or special interest,*” and states, “*Political advertising and solicitation shall be prohibited on District premises.*”

This policy reflects the purpose as well as the priorities of the Rockford Park District, which state that parks should “*meet or exceed citizen expectations for maintenance, repair, cleanliness, and appearance*”, “*provide natural areas*”, “*offer outdoor environmental education programs and places to learn about nature*”, and be recognized by citizens for its “*role in conservation, reforestation, and beautification in the District.*” These priorities received overwhelming support from citizens in the Board’s [2015 Citizen Survey](#).

Political signs found in parks may be removed with or without notice. Should you wish to retrieve these signs, they will be delivered weekly on Fridays by 5:00 p.m. to the Sinnissippi Park maintenance shop. The address is 1401 N. Second St., Rockford, IL. Enter the park from Ethel Ave. onto Arlington, stay right proceeding through the park past the playground and pickleball courts, but before the golf course clubhouse. Signs will be placed next to the large overhead door.

We thank you for your cooperation and please do not hesitate to call if you have additional questions at (815) 987-8855 or juliahhalsted@rockfordparkdistrict.org.