

RESOLUTION NO. _____**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANSFIELD, TEXAS
ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR POLITICAL VENDING AT CITY EVENTS**

WHEREAS, the City of Mansfield, Texas (“City”) is a home-rule municipality created in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 9 of the Texas Local Government Code and operating pursuant to its Charter; and,

WHEREAS, the City desires to establish a policy regarding certain political activities at city events.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANSFIELD, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1.

For purposes of this resolution, the following words have the following meanings:

“City Events” means special events organized by the City, including events that may be jointly organized with community organizations or with external sponsors, including, but not limited to, Barks & Rec 5k, Haunted Mansfield, Hometown Holidays, Juneteenth Celebration, Mansfield Rocks, Music Alley Music & Arts Festival, Rockin Kids Tri, Snowman Run, Veterans Day Parade and Salute.

“Political Vending” means a person or entity’s participation, through the use of a booth or by sponsorship, in a City Event as a method to promote a political campaign, political affiliation, or political position.

SECTION 2.

The City routinely organizes City Events which have been an avenue for the City, through its funding, image, and branding, to provide events which not only provide entertainment, but also promote an underlying message of community, unity, and local and regional pride. The City Council recognizes that the public trust and perception of the City’s impartiality may be damaged by sponsorships or events that could be perceived as being politically oriented, and that when the City loses public trust and public perception of impartiality, it loses its ability to govern effectively in the interests of its citizens, and the benefits of the City Events become diminished. The purpose of this resolution is to create a policy to limit Political Vending at City Events in order to reaffirm the City’s position in remaining impartial to any political viewpoints, and to avoid any action which could be construed as political advertising, as that term is defined in the Texas Election Code.

SECTION 3.

It is the City's policy that Political Vending may not take place at City Events. City staff is authorized to implement this policy in writing on applications or other policies regulating City Events, as applicable.

SECTION 4.

This resolution and policy shall not be implemented to prohibit members of the public from exercising any rights protected by First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

SECTION 5.

This resolution shall become effective from and after its passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 22ND DAY OF AUGUST, 2022.

Michael Evans, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susana Marin, City Secretary