

Campaign Signs

From the Mayor's Office:

Metro Ordinance 6.04.020 Prohibited within the public right-of-way and on public property -- will be strictly enforced.

- A. It is unlawful for any person to attach, place, paint, or affix any sign or advertisement, whether permanent or temporary, within any public right-of-way within the jurisdiction of the metropolitan government.
- B. It is unlawful for any person to attach, place, paint, or affix any sign or advertisement, whether permanent or temporary, on any metropolitan government property without the express permission of the metropolitan government.

This ordinance applies to political messages and campaign signs.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL POLITICAL SIGNS PLACED WITHIN ANY PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY IN DAVIDSON COUNTY WILL BE REMOVED AND DESTROYED.

The Davidson County Election Commission does not have jurisdiction over campaign signs.

- It is helpful and appreciated by our polling locations – particularly churches and other private facilities – if you or your campaign workers remove your signs as soon as possible after Election Day.
- If your signs are on private property, the owner of the property or legal resident can remove your signs.
- Campaign signs and stands are not recyclable in curbside bins or at recycling drop-off sites. Candidates and their supporters are encouraged to donate them to a creative reuse center as an alternative to trash.

The following sections of Tennessee election law (T.C.A.) pertain to campaign signs/advertising:

2-1-116. Removal of campaign advertising.

(a) After the conclusion of a primary, general, or special election, candidates in such election shall be responsible for the removal of any signs, posters, or placards advocating their candidacy, which have been placed on highway rights-of-way or other publicly owned property. The removal of such materials shall be accomplished within a reasonable period of time following the election, not to exceed three (3) weeks.

(b) Any candidate in a primary election who will also be a candidate in a general or special election following that primary shall not be required to remove any signs advocating such candidate's candidacy until after the conclusion of the general or special election.

(c) This section shall not be construed as being penal in nature. There shall be no punitive measures taken against a candidate or workers if all signs are not removed.

2-7-143. Tennessee Freedom of Speech Act.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Freedom of Speech Act."

(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, during the period beginning sixty (60) days before the first day voting begins pursuant to § 2-6-102(a)(1) for an election until the first day after voting ends for such election:

(1) This state, a local government, or any other political subdivision of this state:

(A) Shall not regulate the shape or quantity of political or campaign posters or signs placed on private property that is located more than one hundred feet (100') from a polling place if the signs or posters are placed on the property by the owner of the property or any lawful resident of a residence on the property;

(B) May prohibit, notwithstanding subdivision (b)(1)(A), any political or campaign poster or sign covered by this section from exceeding:

(i) For commercial property, thirty-two square feet (32 sq. ft.) in size; and

(ii) For residential property, sixteen square feet (16 sq. ft.) in size; and

(C) Notwithstanding subdivision (b)(1)(A), may adopt reasonable restrictions limiting the number of political campaign signs or posters that may be placed on property; provided, that such restrictions authorize an owner or resident to place at least one (1) poster or sign on the property per candidate, issue, or subject; and

(2) A homeowners' association shall not, by covenant, condition, restriction, or rule, prohibit the display of political or campaign posters or signs placed on private property by the owner of the property or any lawful resident of a residence on the property. A homeowners' association may adopt reasonable covenants, conditions, restrictions, or rules with respect to the placement and removal of political or campaign posters or signs placed on homeowner association common space and private property maintained by the owner or resident, including limiting the size of campaign posters or signs in those common and private property areas to four square feet (4 sq. ft.).

(c) A lessor of residential property may require a lessee to obtain the written permission of the lessor prior to placing any political or campaign posters or signs on such residential property. Any such requirement must be included in the lease or rental agreement.

(d) This section applies to any clause, covenant, condition, restriction, or rule contained in any agreement or contract between a homeowners' association and property owner or between a lessor and lessee executed or modified after July 1, 2017. Rev 7.16.26