

# TOWN OF COLLIERVILLE

## Frequently Asked Questions about Political Signs

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### **SIGNS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY, TRAILS & MEDIANS. CANDIDATES MUST HAVE PERMISSION FROM PROPERTY OWNER BEFORE ERECTING SIGNS.**

**Are political signs allowed?** Yes, and please note that political signs are exempt from sign permits. Candidate/campaign ground mounted signs must meet certain basic rules.

- ❑ The number of signs is limited to 1 per campaign or candidate per lot per street frontage for developed or vacant property.
- ❑ "Ground mounted" political signs cannot be larger than 6 square feet per side (double face signs are allowed provided the total of both sides combined does not exceed 12 square feet). This applies in both residential and nonresidential areas.
- ❑ Signs can be no more than 5 feet tall unless attached to another structure such as a tent.
- ❑ Ground mounted political signs should be securely affixed to the ground or to an approved supporting structure.
- ❑ Signs cannot be affixed to trees, utility poles, or fences.
- ❑ Signs attached to a tent, or similar structure affixed to the ground, are considered a "ground mounted" sign.
- ❑ Political signs cannot be within the public "right-of-way" for a road or within a pedestrian easement. Temporary political signs should be placed behind the sidewalk or 10 feet back from the curb.
- ❑ No sign shall be placed within the election rules boundary (as established by the Election Commission).

**Does the Town regulate signs within buildings?** Yes, but only to a point. Signs inside of a building and set back more than 10 feet from a window are exempt from the sign ordinance. If closer than 10 feet to the window, a political sign inside of a building is regulated the same as any "temporary window sign". The Zoning Ordinance does not allow for political signs attached to the outside of buildings; however, political signs can be placed inside of buildings as "temporary window signs". Such signs shall not cover more than 15 percent of the aggregate window and door area. LED, or similar technology, electronic message center window signs are prohibited.

**Can we use handheld signs?** Yes, but please consider safety. A handheld sign is any sign that is held by or otherwise mounted on a person (i.e., sandwich board). Clothing and hats are not considered signs.

A handheld sign is not included in the maximum number of allowed signs but must be held by a person. A handheld sign that is placed on the ground or propped against something becomes a ground mounted sign and is counted toward the maximum limit of 1 per candidate/campaign.

Handheld political signs can be displayed within the public right-of-way, but public sidewalks and streets cannot be blocked per the Town Code. The right-of-way is considered to extend a minimum of 10 feet from the edge of the pavement of the road, or to the dedicated right-of-way boundary, whichever is farther. Please note that these types of signs can distract motorists and place the sign holders too close to moving vehicles.

In short, please consider holding political signs at least 10 feet behind a curb of the road for safety but the Town will not prohibit you from displaying handheld signs in the right-of-way unless you're blocking the sidewalk or street.

**Can we have signs on parked vehicles or trailers?** Yes, with limitations. Political signs placed on or affixed to parked vehicles (including "wraps" and magnetic signs but excluding bumper stickers) or trailers, and are visible from the street, are allowed but the maximum size for political signs affixed to parked vehicles or trailers is 32 square feet and the maximum height is 4 feet above the bed of the truck or trailer. On non-residential property, parked vehicles with signs may remain no more than 2 consecutive hours or no more than 4 total hours between sunrise and sunset if visible from the public right-of-way. Parked vehicle political signs that are in a residential driveway are exempt from any time limitations. A vehicle "wrap" size measures the sign area, not the entire vehicle.

**Do the same rules apply for early voting?** Yes, all political sign regulations apply to early voting.

**How long can signs remain after the election?** Obsolete or clearly abandoned signs are considered a nuisance and the Town may remove them. Please make plans to remove all signs promptly after the election to keep our Town beautiful.

**Does the Town regulate flags?** While the Town does not regulate the content of flags, there are other applicable regulations. For flags and flagpoles on multifamily and nonresidential properties are regulated as signs (only one allowed if attached to building or three if ground-mounted). Flagpoles on single-family residential properties shall be located a distance equal to or greater than their own height above grade from the nearest property line; but, in no event shall a flagpole in a residential district exceed a height of 20 feet above grade. There is a maximum of one flagpole per lot in all residential districts.