

# A Guide to Campaigning in City of Grapevine

## **POLITICAL SIGNS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Do I need a permit for political signs?**

No, political signs do not require a permit.

### **When can I put up signs on private property?**

Signs can be placed on private property at any time with permission of the land owner. However, signs located at intersections should not impede the view of pedestrians or vehicles.

### **When can I put up signs on public property?**

Political signs are not allowed on public property, including but not limited to parks, City facilities, school district property or state or federally owned property, at any time, with the following exceptions:

#### **Political Signs in Public Right-of-Way**

*(See the following section on public-right-of-way below for more details.)*

Political signs are only allowed in the public right-of-way during the voting period. Political signs may be placed within the public right-of-way beginning on the first day of early voting and must be removed within 72 hours after election day.

- Signs cannot be any larger than 2'x2'.
- The sign stake cannot be more than 9 gauge in diameter.
- Signs cannot be attached to utility poles or street signs.

#### **Political Signs at Polling Locations**

Beginning on the first day of early voting, signs can be placed at active polling locations. Signs must be removed within 72 hours after election day.

- No more than 25 signs per candidate or ballot measure.
- Signs cannot be any larger than 2'x2'.
- The sign stake cannot be more than 9 gauge in diameter.

### **Are political signs allowed in the City's Historic Districts?**

No, signs are not allowed in any right of way within any designated Historic District.

### **Are political signs allowed on State Highways?**

No, political signs are not allowed on any street maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), this includes State Highway 114, State Highway 121, State Highway 360, and State Highway 26. See Appendix “A” from the Texas Department of Transportation.

### **Are political signs allowed in City Parks?**

No, signs are not allowed on any public property, this includes all municipal parks. Furthermore, signs are prohibited on the Corps of Engineers property within the Lake Parks.

### **What happens if a political sign is illegally placed?**

If Code Enforcement determines a sign is illegally placed the candidate will be notified and given the opportunity to remove the sign. If the sign is not removed by the candidate within the designated time frame, Code Enforcement will remove the sign. Signs that are a public safety concern will be removed immediately. Once removed by the City, the signs are discarded.

Signs placed on state highways will be immediately removed by TXDOT.

### **What language is required on political signs?**

The Texas Election Code and the Texas Ethics Commission mandates language that is required to be on political signs. View their guide “Political Advertising What you need to know” on their website at [www.ethics.state.tx.us](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us). See Appendix “B” from the Texas Entics Commission.

### **Who do I contact to inquire about a political sign?**

For questions about political signs, contact the City Secretary’s Office at 817.410.3148 or Code Enforcement at 817.410.3124.

### Determining the Right-of-Way

The location of public right-of-way varies for each roadway. However, the right-of-way can generally be identified as the area between the street and sidewalk. If no sidewalk exists fire hydrants, utility poles, street signs and/or fences can be used to determine the right-of-way. The area between the street and these markers is considered right-of-way. Signs should never be placed in the corner of intersections so that they impede the view of vehicular traffic.



## CAMPAIGNING AT THE GRAPEVINE LIBRARY

Early Voting will take place at The Grapevine Municipal Library. The Library is also one of the voting sites on Election Day.

Recognizing the Library has a large patron base that must also be accommodated, certain regulations will apply to candidates who wish to campaign at the Library during voting.

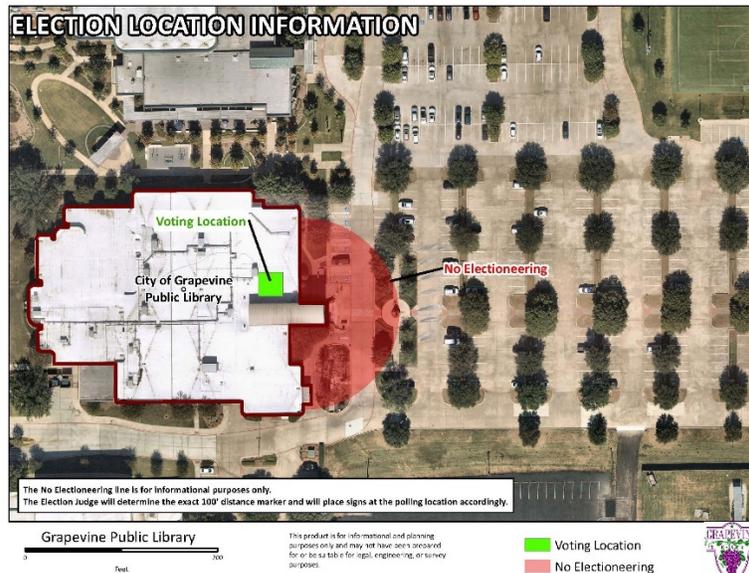
The City will designate parking spots to accommodate the number of candidates listed on the municipal and school district ballots. Each candidate may use one of the designated parking spots to set up tents, place tables, etc. Each candidate will be allowed one parking spot. The spots will not be designated to a specific candidate so it will be first come first serve for use of the space.

Prior to Early Voting, the City Secretary will email each municipal candidate a map of the Library that designates the parking spots that candidates can use. This map will also show the location of the reserved voter parking spaces. This document and associated map will be provided to the Grapevine Colleyville Independent School District to distribute to their candidates as well.

Political signs are allowed at the Library beginning the first day of early voting, however, candidates are limited to no more than 25 2'x2' signs. The sign stake cannot be more than 9 gauge in diameter.

Tents, tables, and standing are not allowed in any of the parking islands.

Campaigning is not allowed anywhere within 100' of the entry to the polling places. This area will be designated and enforced by the Election Judge.



**Other Sources for Political Sign information:**

- City of Grapevine, City Code, Chapter 20 Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Ways at [www.GrapevineTexas.gov](http://www.GrapevineTexas.gov)
- Texas Election Code, Chapter 255
- Texas Ethics Commission, [www.ethics.state.tx.us](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us) 512.463.5800
- Texas Department of Transportation 512.416.3030

**Note:**

A copy of this document will be provided to each candidate when they file for a place on the ballot.

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Political and Campaign Signs**

Right of Way Division

**Interstate and Primary Highways**

During campaign season, the landscape blooms with a special kind of flower - the political sign. Unlike wildflowers which are welcome anywhere, putting campaign signs on public lands is illegal. So before you plant that sign, learn the law and keep Texas beautiful.

TxDOT only controls the location of commercial signs, and never controls the content of any signage. If you have questions about what may be on a political sign, please contact the Texas Ethics Commission at (512) 463-5800.

**Frequently Asked Questions****Where can I place political signs?**

You can place your signs anywhere so long as they are:

- 1) not in the highway right of way;
- 2) not in a location that poses a safety hazard (e.g. blocking sight to a driveway); and
- 3) placed with the landowner's permission.

Always make sure to check with local authorities (cities, counties, etc.) as they may have their own restrictions on sign placement.

**When can I place political signs?**

Cities and counties may have their own time restrictions for political signs, however TxDOT does not enforce any timing restrictions.

**There is a sign on private property posing a safety hazard**

If you believe a sign or signs create a safety hazard, contact local law enforcement as they can have the owner remove or relocate their sign(s).

**There are signs located on the Right of Way (ROW)**

Signs cannot be placed on the ROW as per Texas Transportation Code §393.002. "A sheriff, constable, or other trained volunteer authorized by the commissioners court of a county may confiscate a sign placed in violation of Section 393.002." [TEX. TRANS. CODE §393.003]. For state-maintained highways, your local TxDOT district office also has the authority to remove signs located on state owned right of way.

**Where is the ROW?**

If you are unsure where the ROW starts or ends, you should contact your local TxDOT district office.

**Online Information**

This same information is available online on TxDOT's website and can be accessed by the below method:

Go to  
[www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)  
 ↓  
 Select "Do business"  
 ↓  
 Select "Right of Way"  
 ↓  
 Select "View campaign sign laws"  
 OR  
 Search Online:  
 "TxDOT Campaign Signs"

**Contact Us**

The contact information for your local TxDOT office can be found online at:

[www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) → About → TxDOT Districts

Then find your county and select the "Discover" link for specific contact information.

For any other questions concerning signs along Texas highways, contact the TxDOT Commercial Signs Regulatory Section:

[ROW\\_OutdoorAdvertising@txdot.gov](mailto:ROW_OutdoorAdvertising@txdot.gov)

or by phone:

(512) 418-3030

## Appendix “B”

### **RULES FROM TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION**

#### **Where and when can I post my campaign signs?**

The Texas Ethics Commission generally does not regulate the placement or removal of political signs. The Texas Ethics Commission primarily regulates the disclosure statements that must appear on political advertising signs. You may find this guide from TXDOT to be helpful: <http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/row/political-signs.pdf>.

Before distributing any political advertising, a candidate must have a treasurer appointment on file with the proper filing authority.

The answer to this question largely depends on where the signs are placed, and whether there are any local government restrictions set by the county, city, or HOA. Regarding signs placed on city-owned public property, you may wish to contact the city attorney to see if the city has any restrictions, such as a 90 day. Regarding signs placed on rural roads, those are regulated by Chapter 394 of the Texas Transportation Code and you may wish to contact TXDOT. <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/right-of-way/outdoor-signs.html>.

Also, note that Chapter 259 of the Election Code actually prohibits municipalities and HOAs from adopting and enforcing regulations, such as any 90 day restrictions, that prohibit the placement of certain political advertising signs within an HOA or on private property. <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/EL/htm/EL.259.htm>.

Information copied for the website of the Texas Ethics Commission on December 30, 2024.

[https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/resources/FAQs/FAQ\\_COH\\_Legal.php#Q22](https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q22)