

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 a few 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 District?

No, signs are not allowed in the City's 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.

Are political signs allowed in City Parks?

No, signs are not allowed on any public property, this includes the parks. Furthermore, signs are prohibited on the Corps of Engineers property around 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.

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 REC OF GRAPEVINE

Early Voting for municipal elections will take place at The REC of Grapevine. The REC is also one of the voting sites on Election Day.

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

The City will designate parking spots for each candidate to use 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.

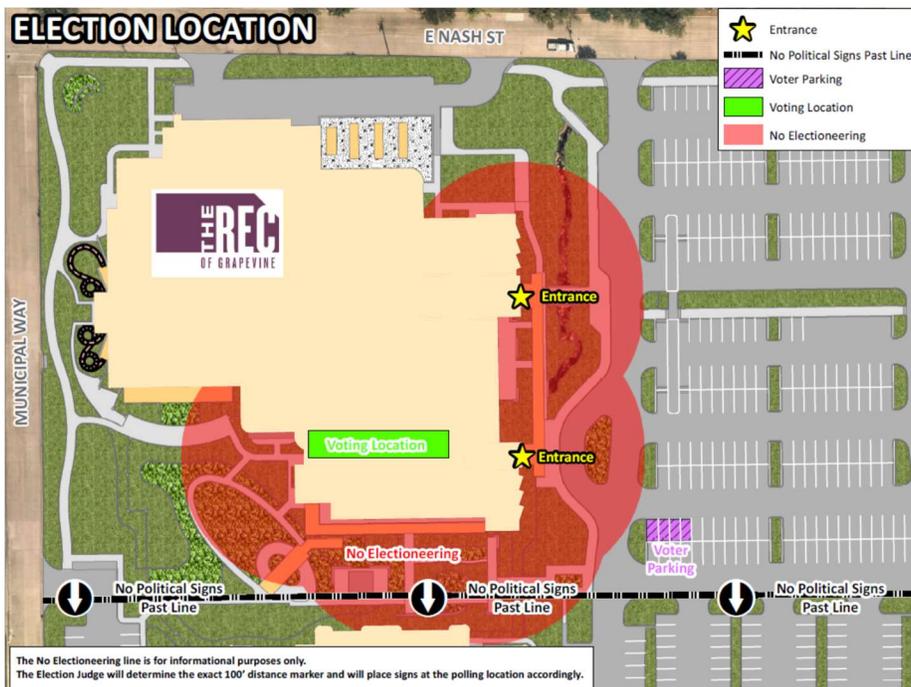
Prior to Early Voting, the City Secretary will email each candidate a map of The REC that designates the parking spots that candidates can use. This map will also show the location of voter parking spaces.

Political signs are allowed at The REC 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.

Political signs are not allowed at the Grapevine Public Library.



Other Sources for Political Sign information:

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