

RON DESANTIS GOVERNOR 605 Suwannee Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450 JARED W. PERDUE, P.E. SECRETARY

November 8, 2023

#### Notice to candidates for election to offices in the State of Florida

The Department of Transportation's Office of Right of Way would like to remind you of State Law regarding political campaign signs:

- (1) Signs placed on the state rights of way Political campaign signs may not be placed in the right of way of any state or national highway [Chapter 479.11(8), Florida Statutes]. A joint effort by the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Highway Patrol produced a brochure explaining that the unauthorized use of the public right of way is prohibited by Florida law. This brochure further outlines how the right of way is regulated and how to recognize the location of the right of way line. The brochure is available on our website, <a href="http://www.fdot.gov/rightofway/">http://www.fdot.gov/rightofway/</a>. Please feel free to print and copy the brochure for distribution. We recommend campaigns make this brochure required reading for volunteers who post candidate signage.
- (2) Signs placed on private property Temporary political campaign signs may be placed on private property with the permission of the owner. Such signs do not require a permit under state law.

Please advise your campaign workers to ensure that signs are placed on private property. Signs placed on the state rights of way must be picked up by Department staff and placed in one of the Department's maintenance yards. We will make every effort to place a courtesy call to your campaign office advising of sign removal and the location of the maintenance yard where the signs have been stored.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact the Department's Outdoor Advertising Office in Tallahassee at (850) 414-4569.

Sincerely,

Scott Foltz, Director Office of Right of Way

# USAGE AND REMOVAL OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ADVERTISEMENTS

FLORIDA STATUTE 106.1435

- (1) Each candidate, whether for a federal, state, county, or district office, shall make a good faith effort to remove all of his or her political campaign advertisements within 30 days after:
  - (a) Withdrawal of his or her candidacy;
  - (b) Having been eliminated as a candidate; or
  - (c) Being elected to office.

However, a candidate is not expected to remove those political campaign advertisements which are in the form of signs used by an outdoor advertising business as provided in chapter 479. The provisions herein do not apply to political campaign advertisements placed on motor vehicles or to campaign messages designed to be worn by persons.

- (2) If political campaign advertisements are not removed within the specified period, the political subdivision or governmental entity has the authority to remove such advertisements and may charge the candidate the actual cost for such removal. Funds collected for removing such advertisements shall be deposited to the general revenue of the political subdivision.
- (3) Pursuant to chapter 479, no political campaign advertisements shall be erected, posted, painted, tacked, nailed, or otherwise displayed, placed, or located on or above any state or county road right-of way.
- (4) The officer before whom a candidate qualifies for office shall notify the candidate, in writing, of the provisions in this section.
- (5) This provision does not preclude municipalities from imposing additional or more stringent requirements on the usage and removal of political campaign advertisements.

History.-s. 1, ch. 84-221; s. 20, ch. 84-302; s. 14, ch. 87-224; s. 647, ch. 95-147.

CANDIDATE SIGNATURE	DATE OF RECEIPT



### **EXECUTE** OF FORT LAUDERDALE

## **SHOW ME A SIGN!**

Here's what to know about your election signs.

#### WHEN SIGNS GO UP AND COME DOWN



Temporary election-related signs can be displayed 60 days prior to an election-related event.



Signs must be removed within 30 days after the election OR withdrawal or elimination of candidacy OR upon being elected.

### WHERE SIGNS CAN BE DISPLAYED





Only on private property with permission of the property owner.



Signs placed on public or private property without the consent of the property owner may be removed by the city and a fee may be charged to the sign owner.

#### **SIZE MATTERS**



The top of a sign can be no more than three feet above ground level.

3.3 square feet 480 square inches

square feet

2,304 square inches

In all other districts, signs should be no larger than 16 square feet (2,304 square inches) in total area.

Signs should be no larger than 3.3 square feet (480 square inches) in residential districts except RO (Residential Office), ROA (Limited Residential Office), or ROC (Planned Residential Office).

#### **GOOD TO KNOW**

- These provisions do not apply to signs displayed on motor vehicles.
- Lettering and images are allowed on both sides of the sign.

**Contact Information:** 

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