



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Office of the County Administrator

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Ocala, FL 34471
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March 17, 2020

Wesley Wilcox, Supervisor of Elections
981 NE 16 Street
Ocala, FL 34470

Re: Political Signs

In anticipation of our community's upcoming elections, I would like to share a few reminders regarding the placement of political signs within the right-of-way or on public properties. Please share those reminders with candidates and those affiliated with the election process this season.

- Placement of political signs in the public right-of-way, or on any county property, is prohibited, including county property where a voting precinct may be located.
- All signs not in compliance with the Marion County Land Development Code, see enclosed, will be removed and temporarily housed for two (2) weeks from the date of removal at the Baseline Solid Waste facility, before proper disposal.
- Unsuccessful candidates shall remove their signs within two (2) weeks after election date. Also, all signs shall be removed within two (2) weeks after final election.

Candidates and their representatives may retrieve any confiscated signs from the Baseline Landfill transfer station at 5601 SE 66th Street, Ocala. Signs will be located in a labeled container to the west of the transfer station at the southern part of the parking area.

For your convenience, I have also attached an excerpt of the Marion County Land Development Code, which provides further details on authorized placement of signs. The Marion County Land Development Code addressing sign placement provisions can be found online by searching the Municode Library at https://library.municode.com/fl/marion_county, and reviewing article 4, division 4 – advertising signs.

Should you or any candidate have questions regarding this matter, please contact our Code Enforcement Office at 352-671-8900 for assistance. Thank you very much for your assistance in distributing this information.

Sincerely,

Mounir Bouyounes, PE
County Administrator

cc:

Matthew Minter, County Attorney
Angel Roussel, Assistant County Administrator
Tracy Straub, County Engineer

Sam Martsof, Growth Services Director
Jody Kirkman, Solid Waste Director
Robin Hough, Code Enforcement Supervisor

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Marion County Land Development Code, Article 4 Zoning, Division 4 Advertising Signs

Sec. 4.4.2. - Exempt signs. The following signs are exempt from the regulatory and permitting requirements of this Code. Exempt signs shall not be located or constructed so that they create a hazard of any kind.

(12) Political signs. Political signs proposed to be located in a residential zoning classification shall not exceed eight square feet and shall be located behind the property line. Political signs proposed to be located in all other zoning classifications shall not exceed 32 square feet and shall be located behind the property line. Said signs may be placed or erected on private property with the permission of the owner, except in the sight triangle which occurs on the corners of intersecting streets or on the corners of driveways. Refer to [Section 7.3.1](#) for construction details. Signs exceeding 32 square feet in size shall obtain a sign permit.

Signs shall not be placed or erected in the public right-of-way or on utility poles located on public right-of-way. When edge of right-of-way is questionable, signs shall be located behind power poles or fence lines.

County shall have the right to immediately remove any and all signs in the sight triangle, in the right-of-way and on utility poles located in the right-of-way in order to protect the life and safety of the traveling public and utility company employees.

All signs shall be removed within two weeks after the final election date of each candidate or issue.

(Ord. No. 13-20, § 2, 7-11-2013)

FLORIDA STATUTE 106.1435 Usage and removal of political campaign advertisements.

(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.

City of Dunnellon Code of Ordinances – Political Signs

Section 10.14. - Political signs.

The following provisions shall be applicable to political signs located within the City of Dunnellon:

1. No political sign may be erected more than 60 days prior to the election in which the candidate's name or the issue will appear. Any such sign shall be removed by the candidate, his agent, or the occupant of the premises

within five days after the election in which the candidate is eliminated or elected, whichever occurs first, or after the resolution of the respective issues by referendum.

2. There shall be no placement of nuisance signs within the public rights-of-way of the City of Dunnellon.

3. Political signs in residential districts shall be temporary and not exceed six square feet in area per sign face, and the signs in nonresidential districts shall not exceed 16 square feet in area per sign face. Each residential parcel can have no more than one sign per candidate or referendum issue. Political signs shall be allowed in agricultural zoning districts provided they have a 50-foot separation. Political signs may only be allowed within a public zoning district on election day in accordance with F.S. Ch. 102.031.

4. Political signs in residential areas shall be located wholly on the private property, shall be placed at least five feet from all rights-of-way and 15 feet from all property lines and shall not exceed five feet in height. Political signs in nonresidential districts shall be located wholly on the private property, shall be placed at least five feet from any rights-of-way and 15 feet from all side property lines and shall not exceed ten feet in height. Signs shall not unduly restrict the line of sight for traffic or otherwise pose a danger to the public.

5. Computation of area of individual political signs. The area of a sign face shall be computed by means of the smallest square, circle, rectangle, triangle, or combination thereof that will encompass the extreme limits of the writing, representation, emblem, or other display, together with any material or color forming an integral part of the background of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the backdrop or structure against which it is placed, but not including any supporting framework, bracing, or decorative fence or wall when such fence or wall otherwise meets the zoning ordinance regulations and is clearly incidental to the display itself.

Computation of area of multifaced signs. The sign area for a political sign with more than one face shall be computed by adding together the area of all sign faces visible from any one point. When two identical sign faces are placed back to back, so that both faces cannot be viewed from any point at the same time, and when such sign faces are part of the same sign structure, the sign area shall be computed by the measurement of one of the faces.

6. No political sign placed within a residential district shall be illuminated. (Ord. No. 95-02, 3-13-1995; Ord. No. 04-09, § 2, 8-23-2004)