

City of Dallas
Department of Code Compliance
Municipal Regulation of Political Sign

Definitions:

"Political sign" is a sign that contains primarily a political message.

"Public property" means any property owned or operated by a governmental entity that is open to the public and used for a public purpose. "Public property" includes, but is not limited to, a library, park, school, government building, public right-of-way or easement.

"Temporary political campaign sign" means a sign that refers only to the issues or candidates involved in an election.

Regulations:

- A permit is not required for political signs on private property with consent of the property owner unless the sign:
[Texas Local Government Code §216.903(d), §51A-7.209(c), and §51A-7.602]
 1. has an effective area greater than 36 feet;
 2. is more than eight feet high;
 3. is illuminated;
 4. has any moving elements;
 5. is on public property or an easement that allows the city to use the property for public purposes;
 6. is on a structure that is available for rent or purchase, such as billboards;
- Signs may not be placed in the public right-of-way.
[§51A-7.203(b)]
- Signs that require permits may not be placed on roofs.
[§51A-7.203(a)]
- A temporary political sign may be placed on public property that serves as an early voting location or election day voting location for an election. Only signs that refer to a candidate or issue that is on the ballot at a particular voting location may be placed at that voting location.
[§15A-15(a)]

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- A temporary political sign placed on public property may not:
[§15A-15(b)]
 1. have an effective area greater than 20 square feet;
 2. be more than eight feet high;
 3. be illuminated;
 4. have any moving elements;
 5. be placed in or over any public right-of-way;
 6. project more than 18 inches from a wall, roof, parapet, or eaves.

- Nothing authorizes a person to place a temporary political campaign sign:
[§15A-15(c)]
 1. on public property owned or operated by a governmental entity, other than the city, if such placement is not allowed by the governmental entity;
 2. in a form, manner, or location prohibited by another city ordinance or state or federal law.

- A person commits an offense if:
[§15A-16(a)]
 1. the person places or cause the placement of, a temporary political campaign sign on public property in violation of any provision of city ordinance:
 2. places, or causes the placement of, a temporary political campaign sign on public property earlier than:
 - (A) two calendar days before commencement of early voting, if the sign is being placed at an early voting location;
 - (B) two calendar days before election day, if the sign is being placed at an election day voting location;

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3. fails to remove all temporary political campaign signs that the person placed, or caused to be placed, from the public property not later than:
 - (A) two calendar days after the last day of early voting, if the sign is placed at an early voting location;
 - (B) two calendar days after election day, if the sign is placed at an election day voting location;
 4. fails to remove any temporary political campaign sign from the public property within 24 hours after notification from the city that the sign is in violation.
- The city may, without notice, confiscate and dispose of any sign that is placed in violation or not removed as required.
[§15A-16(b)(1)(2)]

Contact:

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Sources: The Dallas City Code, Chapters 15A, 51A; Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 216; American Legal Publishing Corporation- Online Library