



NOTICE

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

CHAPTER 15-A OF THE DALLAS CITY CODE

TEMPORARY POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS ALLOWED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY; REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

Section 15A-15(a) states a temporary political campaign sign may be placed in accordance with this article on public property that serves as an early voting location or election day voting location for an election that has been ordered by a governmental entity. 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.

Section 15A-15(b) states a temporary political sign placed on public property under this article may not: have an effective area greater than 20 square feet; be more than eight feet high; be illuminated; have any moving elements; be placed in or over any public right-of-way; or project more than 18 inches from a wall, roof, parapet, or eaves.

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

PLACEMENT AND REMOVAL OF TEMPORARY POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS

Section 15A-16(a) states a person commits an offense if the person places, or causes the placement of, a temporary political sign on public property in violation of any provision of Section 15A-15; places, or causes the placement of, a temporary political sign on public property earlier than: two calendar days before commencement of early voting if sign is being placed at an early voting location; or two calendar days before election day, if the sign is being placed at an election day voting location; fails to remove all temporary political campaign signs that the person placed, or caused to be placed, from the public property no later than: two calendar days after the last day of early voting, if the sign is at an early voting location; or two calendar days after election day, if the sign is at an election day voting location; or fails to remove any temporary political campaign sign that the person placed, or caused to be placed, from the public property within 24 hours after notification from the city that the sign is in violation of this article.

Section 15A-16(b) states the city may without notice, confiscate and dispose of any sign that is: placed in violation of this article; or not removed as required by this article.

QUESTIONS REGARDING ENFORCEMENT:

- ❖ CODE COMPLIANCE SERVICES – 214.670.5708
 - After Hours/Weekends – Dial 311
- ❖ OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY, ELECTIONS – 214.670.5657


Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

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)]

- 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;

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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Code Compliance
City of Dallas
3112 Canton Street, Room 100
Dallas TX 75226
Ph: 214-670-3118

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