

CAMPAIGN SIGNS

January 2019

LANCASTER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

601 North 46th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68503-3720

Telephone: 402-441-7311
FAX: 402-441-6379

David J. Shively
Election Commissioner

www.lancaster.ne.gov/election

CAMPAIGN SIGNS

Campaign signs are one of the most visible aspects of a campaign. Frequently, overzealous campaign workers place signs where they violate city, county, state and/or federal laws.

The following information has been prepared to inform candidates and political committees about the proper placement of campaign signs.

POLLING PLACES

On Election Day, no electioneering is allowed within 200 feet of any portion of the building which is being used as a polling place.

- Electioneering includes posting of signs, handing out campaign literature, gathering petitions signatures, etc.
- A person may display yard signs on private property within 200 feet of a polling place or building designated for voters to cast ballots if the property is not under common ownership with the property on which the polling place or building is located.
- To report electioneering violations at polling places on Election Day, contact the Lancaster County Election Commission at 402-441-7311.

CITY OF LINCOLN

No campaign signs, posters or political advertisements shall be placed within street right-of-way or on City owned or controlled property.

- This includes parks, libraries, street intersections, medians, bridges, sidewalks, bike trails, drainage ways or adjacent land that makes up the right-of-way bordering the length of each street.

It is unlawful for any candidate for any public office, or for any person acting for or on the candidate's behalf, to fasten or attach in any manner whatsoever any political or campaign sign, poster, advertisement or notice upon:

- any portion of roadway between any sidewalk and street
- any tree, post, pole, hydrant, bridge or barricade
- or other public structure within the limits of any street
- or upon any public property within the jurisdictional area of the city
 - (Which would include the 3 mile limit)

Campaign signs placed on private property shall be positioned:

- a minimum of 2 feet behind the sidewalk or paved trail
- placed as to not obstruct free and clear vision from any driveway, alley or roadway intersection.

For further information on sight line restrictions:

<http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/engine/traffic/sds/pdf/figures.pdf>

Similarly, without first obtaining the consent of the owner, legal tenant or agent thereof, it is unlawful to fasten or attach in any manner whatsoever any political or campaign sign, poster, advertisement or notice upon:

- any private wall, window, door, gate, fence or sign
- or any building

How large can campaign signs be?

- In residential areas signs cannot exceed 30 inches in height or ten (10) square feet in area. In commercial, business and industrial areas signs cannot exceed forty (40) square feet in area, or six (6) feet in height.

What are the penalties for violating the ordinances which govern the placement of political signs in the City of Lincoln?

- Minimum fine of \$50 and a maximum of \$500 per location plus recovery of associated costs to remove and clear. (L.M.C. Section 14.40.010 & 22.05.210)

Call Dept. of Building & Safety at 402-441-7521, for clarification of residential vs. commercial areas.

INTERSTATE AND PRIMARY HIGHWAYS

No campaign signs, posters, political advertisements shall be placed within an Interstate or Highway Right-of-Way

- This includes intersections, medians, entrance and exit ramps, sidewalks and the ditches and land that make up the right-of-way bordering the length of each roadway.
 - Right-of-Way markers, fence-lines, or the placement of utility poles can often be used to visually determine where the right-of-way is located.
- Maintenance crews with the Nebraska Department of Transportation will remove any signs that are improperly placed within the State's right-of-ways. These signs will be stored for a brief period of time at the State's Department of Transportation maintenance yards where owners may reclaim them.
- The District Permit Officer at the Nebraska Department of Roads Office is in charge of the Advertising Control Program. If you have any questions concerning the placement of political signs along state and federal highways, call 402-471-0850, Ext. 1132.
- For further information: <https://dot.nebraska.gov>

STOLEN OR VANDALIZED SIGNS

Lincoln Police and Lancaster County Sheriff Office

402-441-6000

SIGN PLACEMENT COMPLAINTS

Within the Lincoln City Limits: Lincoln Transportation

402-441-7595

County Roadways: Lancaster County Sheriff

402-441-6000