

July 2017

Dear Candidates,

Please be aware of the City's regulations regarding the display of political signs. Per Sec. 7-13-2(d)(6) of the ***Unified Development Ordinance***, political signs are exempt from permitting and allowed in all zoning districts provided they can conform to the following requirements:

- Candidate (or issue) must be on a ballot.
- Signs may not exceed **eight square feet per face**, two faces per sign.
- Signs must be placed on private property and may not be placed in a **city** right-of-way (To assist in avoiding sign placement in a right-of-way it is recommended that signs be placed behind other features such as utility poles, street signs, sidewalks, stop signs, or street lights which typically identify the edge of a right-of-way).
- Signs may not appear more than 30 days prior to the first day of polling for the primary, or 45 days before the first day of polling for the general run-off or referendum – see specific dates below (this does not apply to the use of billboards, which are not limited by this standard).
- Signs must be removed within five days of the election – candidates and property owners are equally responsible for the removal of all political signs.

For 2017, the upcoming Primary Election date is **Tuesday, October 10, 2017** with early voting beginning on **September 21, 2017**. 30 days prior to the first day of polling for the primary election would be **August 22, 2017**. **This is the first day that political signs may be posted.**

The upcoming General Election date is **Tuesday, November 7, 2017** with early voting beginning **October 19, 2017**. 45 days prior to the first day of polling for the general election would be **September 4, 2017**.

In addition to signs located in a city right-of-way, the following signs are also prohibited in all zoning districts:

- Animated or Flashing
- Optical Illusion
- Portable or Moveable
- Roof
- Sandwich Board/A-frame
- Traffic Look-Alike
- Vehicle signs (when parked off-site in high visibility areas for extended periods of time)
- Wind - including balloons, streamers, and pennants
- Signs on roadside appurtenances, including benches, bus stop shelters, utility poles, trees, parking meters, trash cans, etc.

Please advise your staff and volunteers of the signage regulations. If you have further questions regarding signage, please do not hesitate to contact the Planning and Urban Design Department office at 828-259-5831. The City thanks you in advance for your cooperation with the sign regulations and sign placement.

Sincerely,

Shannon Tuch, Zoning Administrator