

Sign Guidance for Candidates and Campaigns

The display of political campaign signs in Montgomery County is governed by the Montgomery County Code: Chapter 59 The Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance. Political campaign signs are regulated as temporary signs under the sign regulations. Below is general information for all candidates, campaign staff, and supporters/volunteers.

- Signs placed in County rights-of-way are subject to size, location and duration of display restrictions for public safety. Signs in the public rights-of way are limited to a maximum sign area of 5 square feet for each sign, a maximum height of 30 inches and must be at least 25 feet from an intersection. A maximum of 4 signs is permitted on weekends only.
- Signs are not permitted to be attached to utility poles, traffic control devices or placed in the median strip between roads.
- The State Highway Administration prohibits the placement of campaign signs adjacent to State roads. A State road is identified by a route number. Example: Route 355.
- Campaign signs on RESIDENTIAL properties must not exceed 10 square feet in sign area for each sign and a total sign area of 10 square feet on the property. The maximum sign height above ground is 5 feet. Signs may be displayed for up to 90 days.
- Campaign signs on COMMERCIAL properties must not exceed 50 square feet in sign area for each sign and a total sign area of 100 square feet on the property. The maximum sign height above ground is 26 feet. Signs may be displayed for up to 90 days.
- A sign permit is not required for a campaign sign. However, the sign must comply with the sign regulations.
- Banners, balloons, inflatables, flag banners, and any sign activated by the wind are not permitted.
- Signs may be placed at polling places designated by the Board of Elections and must be removed by 12 noon the day after an election date.
- Note: The City of Gaithersburg and City of Rockville have their own sign regulations. Contact these jurisdictions for information.

What are the penalties for not complying with the sign regulations?

Non-compliance can result in the issuance of a \$500 civil citation for each sign in violation and removal of illegal signs in the public right-of-way. A candidate and the sign installer can be held jointly responsible for compliance with the sign regulations.

Do I have to remove my signs?

Yes. Candidates, campaign staff and volunteers must remove their signs from all polling sites. Additionally, signs must be removed when directed by the Department of Permitting Services