



## MEMORANDUM

To: Election Candidates

From: Ashley Owens, City Secretary

Date: January 1, 2021

Re: Political Sign Requirements

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Below is the City's Ordinance for Political Signs and Electioneering:

### **Article 6-15 Temporary Signs, Section 6-15-7. Political Signs and Polling Places**

1. Political signs:
  - (A) Political signs on private property are exempt from the provisions of this article if it:
    - i. Does not have an effective area greater than 36 square feet;
    - ii. Is eight feet or less in height;
    - iii. Is not illuminated; or
    - iv. Does not have any moving elements.
2. Electioneering at Polling Locations
  - (A) *Definitions.* The following words and phrases as used in this article shall have the meanings as set forth in this section:

*Electioneering* shall mean the posting, use, or distribution of political signs or literature, including the use of tents, chairs, booths, tables or other furniture or devices to post, use or distribute political signs or literature.

*Voting period* shall mean the period each day beginning the hour the polls are open for voting and ending when the polls close or the last voter has voted, whichever is later on Election Day and early voting days.

    - i. Regulations and Exceptions
      - a. The following regulations apply to electioneering on the premises of public property during the voting period.

(continued)

1. It is an offense for any person to engage in electioneering on driveways of the premises of a polling location. This restriction shall not apply to electioneering signs that are attached to vehicles that are lawfully parked at the premises of a polling location.
2. It is an offense for any person to attach, place or otherwise affix any electioneering sign, literature or material to any building, tree, shrub, pole or other improvement on public property used as a polling location.
3. It is an offense for any person to place any electioneering sign or literature within twenty-five (25) feet of the public road way adjacent to the public property where a polling location is located.
4. It is an offense for any person to place an electioneering sign on the premises that exceeds thirty-six (36) square feet and is more than eight (8) feet in height, including any supporting poles.
5. In addition to imposing any criminal penalty, electioneering sign(s) located in violation of this section may be removed and disposed of by the entity in control of the public property.
6. The authority to conduct electioneering on public property under this Article is limited to the property on the premises where the voting is conducted and only for the voting period.”

For a comprehensive review of political advertising requirements, please refer to the *Political Advertising Guide: What You Need to Know* or to the *Frequently Asked Questions* on the Texas Ethics Commission Resources webpage. For any questions about the local ordinance regulations of political signs, please contact the City of Coppel.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.