



VILLAGE OF CLEMMONS

Information on Political Signs in the Village of Clemmons

Per the Clemmons Unified Development Ordinances (UDO):

Political signs are not to exceed two (2) square feet in size and are allowed in any zoning district in Clemmons.

- The 2-square feet area calculation includes only the “copy area” as opposed to the overall sign dimension.
- The total face of the sign cannot increase the overall dimensions by more than 75% of the total copy area.
- Incorporating the dimensional standards listed above, the total sign dimension cannot exceed 3.5 square feet (2 x 1.75).

Political signs larger than 2 square feet in size must have a permits from the Inspections Division and must be allowed in the zoning district where they are to be located. If you have any question, please call City-County Inspections at 747-7427.

Per Clemmons Policy:

Political signs may be placed in the right-of-way only 2 weeks prior to an election including one-stop early voting. Signs will be removed except during this 2-week period prior to the election.

Political signs must be removed within 48 hours following the election.

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 136-32:

§ 136-32. Regulation of signs.

(a) **Commercial Signs.** – No unauthorized person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any warning or direction sign, marker, signal or light or imitation of any official sign, marker, signal or light erected under the provisions of G.S. 136-30, except in cases of emergency. No person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any traffic or highway sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial or political advertising, except as provided in subsections (b) through (e) of this section: Provided, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the erection or maintenance of signs, markers, or signals bearing thereon the name of an organization authorized to erect the same by the Department of Transportation or by any local authority referred to in G.S. 136-31. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The Department of Transportation may remove any signs erected without authority or allowed to remain beyond the deadline established in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) **Compliant Political Signs Permitted.** – During the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting under G.S. 163-227.2 and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day, persons may place political signs in the right-of-way of the State highway system as provided in this section. Signs must be placed in compliance with subsection (d) of this section and must be removed by the end of the period prescribed in this subsection.

(c) **Definition.** – For purposes of this section, "political sign" means any sign that advocates for political action. The term does not include a commercial sign.

(d) **Sign Placement.** – The permittee must obtain the permission of any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected. Signs must be placed in accordance with the following:

- (1) No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.
- (2) No sign shall be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.
- (3) No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection.
- (4) No sign shall be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road.
- (5) No sign shall be larger than 864 square inches.
- (6) No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.

(e) **Penalties for Unlawful Removal of Signs.** – It is a Class 3 misdemeanor for a person to steal, deface, vandalize, or unlawfully remove a political sign that is lawfully placed under this section.

(f) **Application Within Municipalities.** – Pursuant to Article 8 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, a city may by ordinance prohibit or regulate the placement of political signs on rights-of-way of streets located within the corporate limits of a municipality and maintained by the municipality. In the absence of an ordinance prohibiting or regulating the placement of political signs on the rights-of-way of streets located within a municipality and maintained by the municipality, the provisions of subsections (b) through (e) of this section shall apply. (1921, c. 2, s. 9(b); C.S., s. 3846(r); 1927, c. 148, ss. 56, 58; 1933, c. 172, s. 17; 1957, c. 65, s. 11; 1973, c. 507, s. 5; 1977, c. 464, s. 7.1; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1030, s. 39; 1993, c. 539, s. 981; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 2011-408, s. 1.)



July 2013

TO: All Political Candidates

RE: POLITICAL SIGNS

This letter will be given to you as you file to run for office and will explain the zoning regulations for political signs. Please remind your campaign workers who install your political signs of these regulations.

Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Section 3-2.1(E)(16) for the City of Winston-Salem states:

- (16) **Political Sign.** A political sign shall not exceed two (2) square feet in size. Within the City of Winston-Salem, additional provisions of Section 38-25 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Winston-Salem shall apply.

Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Section 3-2.1(B)(1)(e) for Forsyth County and all municipalities except Kernersville states:

- (e) **Political Signs.** Political signs shall not exceed two (2) square feet in size.

Signs are measured by multiplying the width in inches by the length in inches and dividing by 144 inches per square foot.

Placement:

- Political signs are allowed in any zoning district on private property with the permission of the property owner;
- Generally, signs must be placed outside the right-of-way and cannot be attached to utility poles or other utility structures within the right-of-way. The width of rights-of-way vary throughout the community, but for the purpose of enforcement in residential areas only, **signs located more than twelve (12) feet behind the curb or pavement edge will be considered to be out of the right-of-way and on private property. Right-of-way width varies in commercial, office and industrial areas.**
- Per NCGS 136-32, signs may be placed within the right-of-way of roads/street maintained by the State of North Carolina, **subject to the restrictions contained within the statute. A copy of this statute is attached to this memo.** Since many of the main arterials (Peters Creek Parkway, Silas Creek Parkway, New Walkertown Road, Reynolda Road, Country Club Road, Main Street, Robinhood Road, etc.) switch maintenance back and forth between the City and State along their length, we will consider these and similar "arterials" to be state-maintained for the purposes of enforcement. Such exemptions are not valid for neighborhood streets. If in doubt, please contact Inspections staff for clarification.

City of Winston-Salem Code Section 70-17(a)(1)–(3) makes the posting of signs in the right-of-way a **Civil Penalty punishable by a \$ 50.00 fine for each sign and for each day that the violation continues.**

Signs larger than two (2) square feet must have permits from the Inspections Division and must be located in a zoning district that permits larger signs.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any question, please call 727-2628 or 727-2830.