



Board of County Commissioners • Escambia County, Florida

Jack R. Brown
County Administrator

April 19, 2016

The Honorable David H. Stafford
Escambia County Supervisor of Elections
213 Palafox Place, Second Floor
Pensacola, Florida 32502

Re: Escambia County Sign Ordinance

Dear Mr. Stafford:

Please provide the following information regarding the Escambia County Sign Ordinance to all candidates seeking office this year:

Section 5.8-4(a) of the Escambia County Land Development Code notes that political signs are exempt from the permitting requirements of this Article. However, exempt signs shall be safely constructed, situated, and maintained in such a manner as to not create a hazard or nuisance to the public. It also notes that political signs are subject to the restrictions of Section 5.8-6.

Section 5.8-5 of the Code addresses temporary signs and states that any temporary sign must at all times be maintained off the right-of-way.

Section 5.8-5(4) of the Code specifically allows temporary political campaign signs without permit in all zoning districts, subject to size and removal restrictions. In residential districts (RR, LDR, LDR-PK, MDR, MDR-PK, HDR, HDR-PK, and HDMU per Section 5.8-7), the maximum size per sign is 12 square feet. The maximum signage per zoned lot in all other districts is 32 square feet.

Section 5.8-5(4) also contains provisions for removal of political signs. Each candidate running for office is required to remove all of his/her political campaign advertisements *within* thirty calendar days after: 1) Withdrawal of candidacy; 2) Having been eliminated as a candidate; or 3) Being elected to office. The removal requirement does not apply to content on billboards operated by advertising businesses.

Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack R. Brown", is written over a horizontal line.

Jack R. Brown
County Administrator

Political / Campaign Sign Requirements



A political sign is a temporary sign announcing or supporting political candidates or issues in connection with any national, state, or local election.

Political signs subject to the restrictions of Section 5.8-5(4) are considered exempt from the permitting requirements. However, exempt signs shall be safely constructed, situated and maintained in such manner as to not create a hazard or nuisance to the public.

Any temporary sign must be maintained off the right-of-way at all times.

Section 5.8-5(4) *Political signs.* Temporary political campaign signs are allowed without permit in all zoning districts subject to the following restrictions:

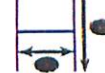
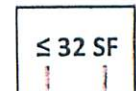
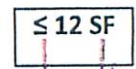
A. The following dimensional standards shall be:

Residential districts, maximum size per sign.....12 sq.ft.
All other districts, signage per zone lot..... 39 sq.ft.

B. Each candidate for political office shall remove, or be responsible for the removal of all of his/her political campaign advertisements within 30 calendar days after:

1. Withdrawal of candidacy;
2. Having been eliminated as a candidate; or
3. Being elected to office.

CHOOSE THE
SIZE THAT'S
RIGHT FOR
YOUR CAMPAIGN



However, a candidate is not expected to remove those political campaign advertisements that are in the form of a billboard erected by an outdoor advertising business.

It shall be unlawful to erect or maintain any sign which constitutes a traffic hazard or a detriment to traffic safety by reason of its size, location, movement, coloring or method of illumination. No sign shall obstruct vehicular vision between 3 feet and 9 1/2 feet measured vertically from the street level at the base of the sign. Any sign which obstructs the vision between pedestrians and vehicles using the public right-of-way including, but not restricted to, those not meeting visibility standards in this Code is prohibited. Prohibited signs include, but are not limited to, privately placed signs in public rights-of-way, signs attached in any way upon telephone poles, utility poles, fences, bridges, sidewalks, trees or other natural objects and projecting signs that project into the public right-of-way or the site triangle of motorists or do not maintain a minimum clear height of 9 1/2 feet above ground.