



YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Yadkinville, NC 27055

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CAMPAIGN SIGNS

Campaign signs and electioneering are not permitted within 50-feet of the voter entrance of any polling location.

Polling Places	Placement	Removal
Early Voting	30 Days before early voting starts. GS163-227.2	10 days after early voting ends. GS 136-32. 30 Days after the election, any person may remove and dispose of signs without penalty.
Election Day	Public Facility: 36 hrs. before the polls open on election day. GS163-129d	Public Facility: 36 hrs. after the polls close on election day GS 163-129d
Private Property	House, business, and religious institution fronting: The owner must give permission for political signs to be posted. See attached information for polling places at churches	At the discretion of the property owner.
Municipalities	See attached information	See attached information

NC DOT – REGULATION OF POLITICAL SIGNS

§ 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 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. Any political sign remaining in the right-of-way of the State highway system more than 30 days after the end of the period prescribed in this subsection shall be deemed unlawfully placed and abandoned property, and a person may remove and dispose of such political sign without penalty.

(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 (see local municipal ordinances below).** - 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. Any such ordinance shall provide that any political sign that remains in a right-of-way of streets located within the corporate limits of a municipality and maintained by the municipality more than 30 days after the end of the period prescribed in the ordinance is to be deemed unlawfully placed and abandoned property, and a person may remove and dispose of such political sign without penalty. 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; 2017-6, s. 3; 2018-146, ss. 3.1(a), (b), 6.1; 2019-119, s. 1.)

§ 14-156. Injuring fixtures and other property of electric-power companies.

It shall be unlawful for any person willfully and wantonly, and without the consent of the owner, to take down, remove, injure, obstruct, displace or destroy any line erected or constructed for the transmission of electrical current, or any poles, towers, wires, conduits, cables, insulators or any support upon which wires or cables may be suspended, or any part of any such line or appurtenances or apparatus connected therewith, or to sever any wire or cable thereof, or in any manner to interrupt the transmission of electrical current over and along any such line, or to take down, remove, injure or destroy any house, shop, building or other structure or machinery connected with or necessary to the use of any line erected or constructed for the transmission of electrical current, or to wantonly or willfully cause injury to any of the property mentioned in this section by means of fire. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. (1907, c. 919; C.S., s. 4328; 1993, c. 539, s. 94; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

19A NCAC 02E .0415 ADVERTISING SIGNS WITHIN RIGHT-OF-WAY

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to erect, place, or allow any advertising, or other sign, except regulation traffic and warning signs approved by the Department, on any highway or the right-of-way thereof, or so as to overhang the right-of-way, or to permit the erection or placing of any advertising or other sign, as herein prohibited, on any highway right-of-way which is situated over any land owned, rented, leased, or claimed by such person, firm, or corporation. History Note:

Authority G.S. 136-18(10); 136-30; Eff. July 1, 1978; Readopted Eff. February 1, 2019.

§ 14-384. Injuring notices and advertisements.

If any person shall wantonly or maliciously mutilate, deface, pull or tear down, destroy or otherwise damage any notice, sign or advertisement, unless immoral or obscene, whether put up by an officer of the law in performance of the duties of his office or by some other person for a lawful purpose, before the object for which such notice, sign or advertisement was posted shall have been accomplished, he shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. Nothing herein contained shall apply to any person mutilating, defacing, pulling or tearing down, destroying or otherwise damaging notices, signs or advertisements put upon his own land or lands of which he may have charge or control, unless consent of such person to put up such notice, sign or advertisement shall have first been obtained, except those put up by an officer of the law in the performance of the duties of his office. (1885, c. 302; Rev., s. 3709; C.S., s. 4503; 1993, c. 539, s. 256; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

Complaints about political signs

Political signs on DOT right-of-way are allowed by GS 136-32. Signs can be placed on these right-of-way 30 days prior to the start of one-stop/early voting. Complaints about the timing of placement, removal and location are not matters for a County Board of Elections or the NC State Board of Elections. Citizens should refer those complaints to the local DOT District office. Citizens can call the NCDOT toll free at 877-368-4968 (Raleigh) during normal business hours, M-F, 8am-5pm.

Links to all district offices can be found on the NCDOT website.

<https://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/highways/Pages/contact.aspx>

NCDOT Contact

NC Division of Highways – Division 11 Right of Way Office

Phone 336-667-9111 801 Statesville Road, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

<https://apps.ncdot.gov/dot/directory/authenticated/UnitPage.aspx?id=1167>

MUNICIPAL SIGN ORDINANCES (political signs)

BOONVILLE

TOWN OF BOONVILLE POLITICAL SIGN ORDINANCE

Political signs within Boonville city limits shall be regulated as follows:

1. No political signs shall be placed in a public right-of-way or within eight (8) feet of a public street.
2. No political signs shall be placed on utility or telephone poles or on any other structure erected by a duly constituted governmental body.
3. Political signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in size.
4. Political signs shall not be erected more than 60 days before election day and must be removed within seven (7) days following the election.
5. Permits for county election candidates shall be obtained per section 41.12 of the Zoning Ordinance Book of the Town of Boonville.
6. Removal of all political signs shall be performed per section 41.12 of the Zoning Ordinance Book of the Town of Boonville.
7. Any person violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and upon convictions, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred (\$500.00) dollars or imprisonment of not more than thirty (30) days, in the discretion of the court, in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 14-4(a).

****Also, zoning book says on page 24: Section 41.12: "For political signs, the county party chairman or his or her designee shall be responsible for securing the permit for all his or her party's candidates and removing the signs after the election. For non-partisan elections the candidate(s) or his or her designee shall be responsible for removing signs after the election".**

EAST BEND

East Bend Town Hall Sign Ordinance

- (2) Advertising Signs: Advertising signs shall be limited to one per lot, and shall be no larger than three hundred (300) square feet in area, and shall be permitted only in the HC, CS, and I-1 use districts. Signs shall be on the same lot as the business.
- 1015.07 Non-Conforming Sign: Any sign existing at the time of the adoption of this zoning ordinance which does not conform with the requirements of this ordinance shall be made to conform with such requirements within (5) years after the date of adoption.
- 1015.08 Local Interest Signs: Local interest signs may only be placed after obtaining a permit (but no fee required) from the Zoning Administrator. The person obtaining the permit shall be responsible for ensuring the sign(s) is (are) taken down within three (3) working days after the scheduled event. For political signs, the County Party Chairman or his designee shall be responsible for securing the permit for all his party's candidates and removing the signs after the election.
- 1015.09 Flag Display
- (c) The Town does not prohibit an official governmental flag from being flown or displayed if the official governmental flag is flown or displayed.
 - (1) In accordance with the patriotic customs set forth in 4 U.S.C. 5-10, as amended; and
 - (2) Upon private or public property with the consent of either
The owner of the property or of any person having lawful
Control of the property
 - (d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, for the purpose
Of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare, reasonable
Restrictions on flag size, number of flags, location, and height
Of flagpoles are not prohibited, provided that such restrictions shall
Not discriminate against any official governmental flag in any manner.
 - (e) For the purposes of this section, an "official governmental flag" shall
Mean any of the following:
 - (1) The flag of the United States of America.
 - (2) The flag of nations recognized by the United States of America.

JONESVILLE

TOWN OF JONESVILLE SIGN REGULATIONS -ARTICLE 10

10-11.8 Political Campaign Signs

- (a) No political campaign sign shall be placed in a public right-of-way or within ten (10) feet of the street pavement, whichever is greater.
- (b) No signs shall be placed on public utility poles, telephone poles, or any other sign or sign support structure erected by a duly constituted governmental body.
- (c) No signs shall be placed on roofs nor painted on roofs.
- (d) Portable signs, as listed in Section 10-11.7, shall not be used for political purposes.
- (e) Political campaign signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet in size. They cannot be erected more than sixty (60) days before election day and must be removed seven (7) days following the election by persons responsible for erecting them.
- (f) Any political campaign sign that is in violation of this ordinance shall be removed by the Town of Jonesville at the expense of persons responsible.

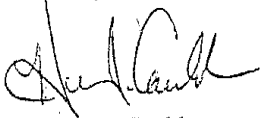
Civil penalties for violation of this subsection.

- (a) No warning citation shall be required for a violation of this article. Upon a violation of this article, the zoning enforcement officer shall issue a civil citation to the offender. The zoning enforcement officer or his designee is further authorized to remove signs placed within the public right-of-way without prior notification.
- (b) All violations of this section shall subject the offender to a civil penalty of \$50.00.
- (c) Each day's continuing violation shall be a separate and distinct offense.

YADKINVILLE

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Yadkinville recently passed an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that prohibits any sign, including political signs, from being placed on utility poles, or any government sign posts. Please inform all candidates of these restrictions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Caulder', written in a cursive style.

Herman J. Caulder
Town Manager

POLITICAL SIGNS AT POLLING PLACES

1. BOONVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Electioneering signs will be allowed on Election Day only on the front lawn of the Family Life Center and must be removed by the end of Election Day

2. BRANON FRIENDS MEETING

Electioneering signs will be allowed on Election Day only. No signs shall be placed on the cemetery property or in the parsonage yard. Signs may be placed on tables but no signs will be permitted on walls or church buildings. All signs must be removed by 8:00 PM on Election Day.

3. YADKIN COUNTY VFW

Electioneering signs will be allowed on Election Day

4. WINDSOR CROSS ROADS COMMUNITY BUILDING

Electioneering signs will be allowed on Election Day where specified.

5. UNION CROSS FAMILY CENTER

Electioneering signs will be allowed on Election Day where specified, but not on the buildings.

6. SWAM CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL

Electioneering signs will be allowed on Election Day only, and none permitted to be on the church buildings at all.