

PLACEMENT OF POLITICAL SIGNS

Signage bearing political messages **may not** be placed within **250 feet of the polling place** in public ways; also applies to the Absentee Voting location (**Town Office**).

The Department of Transportation has provided the following information concerning statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to placement of political posters and signs.

It is suggested that this information be passed on to all campaign workers & supporters.

The provision of Title 23, M.R.S.A., Sub Section 1913-A and Department Regulation, provide for political posters and signs as follows:

- May be erected within the right-of-way limits of public ways **no sooner than six (6) weeks prior** to the primary or general election and **must be removed no later than one week following the date of the election**, primary or referendum.
- Posting is **limited to 6 weeks between January 1st and June 30th and another 6 weeks between July 1st and December 31st.**
- Sign **must** contain: owners **name, contact info**, and the **chosen 6-wk period dates**.
- Signage; **similar/same message**: may be placed **no closer than 30' of one another**.
- May be erected on **private property outside the right-of-way limits of public ways** (this includes **ditches**) at any time prior to the primary or general election, limited in size to a maximum of 50 square feet.
- Shall **not be erected or maintained on any traffic control signs/posts or devices, public utility poles or fixtures, upon any trees or painted or drawn upon rocks or their natural feature**. They must be affixed to their own stake or post, may be attached to a building or dwelling (with permission), or displayed on vehicles.
- May be displayed to view to all public ways except for the Interstate Highway System; Signs **may not** be placed within the limits of any controlled access highway nor erected **within 660 ft.** of the nearest edge of the Interstate Highway System in such a manner **that the message may be read from the Interstate Highway**.
- Traffic safety should be of the utmost consideration in placement of political signs. Candidates and campaign workers should take great care **not to place signs or posters where same could create a traffic hazard**.
- The **unauthorized** removal or destruction of political signs is a civil violation under Maine law (Title 23 MRSA, Section 1917-A), and may carry a fine of up to \$250. Specifically, the law states that “a person who takes, defaces or disturbs a **lawfully** placed sign bearing political messages relating to a general election, primary election or referendum commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of up to \$250 may be adjudged.