

POLITICAL SIGNS, ELECTION DAY GUIDELINES & CAMPAIGN LITERATURE

POLITICAL SIGNS (up to Election Day)

There are State, County and Municipal ordinances and laws that govern political signs.

Excerpt from Horry County Zoning Ordinance: 1005. Signs for which a permit is not required.

(h) Political or campaign signs subject to the following: 1. Such signs shall not be placed within a public right-of-way. 2. Such signs shall not be attached to trees, fences or utility poles. 3. Such signs shall not be larger than thirty-two (32) square feet in area. 4. Such signs are allowed no sooner than forty-five (45) days prior to an election and all such signs shall be removed within three (3) days after the election.

Excerpt from State law: Certain signs authorized Section 4. Section 57-25-140 (A) "...signs of thirty-two square feet or less advertising agricultural products of a seasonal nature, signs of a political nature, signs erected by or on the behalf of eleemosynary, civic, nonprofit, church, or charitable organizations, or signs advertising special community events which are erected temporarily for ninety days or less. (D) **No sign permitted under this section may obscure or otherwise interfere with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, signal, or device nor obstruct or interfere with the driver's view of approaching, merging, or intersecting traffic....**

Section 7-25-210. Vandalizing or removing political campaign sign; exceptions; penalty.

(A) It is unlawful to deface, vandalize, tamper with, or remove a lawfully placed political campaign sign prior to the election without the permission of the candidate or party. (B) This section does not apply to a governmental entity when a political campaign sign is removed because of noncompliance with applicable law, or because an employee of the governmental entity removing the sign is working within the course and scope of his employment. (C) A person who violates the provisions of subsection (A) is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

NOTE: Signs are not permitted to be placed on utility poles of any kind!!! This presents a danger to utility workers!!!

ELECTION DAY GUIDELINES

POLITICAL SIGNS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED WITHIN 200 FEET FROM THE ENTRANCE OF THE POLLING PLACE THAT THE VOTERS ARE USING TO ENTER THE POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY!!!

The Board of Elections and Voter Registration for Horry County has full jurisdiction over the two hundred feet from the entrance of the polling place that the voters are using to enter the polling place. Any property outside this area is under the jurisdiction of the polling place.

CANDIDATES: Title 7-25-180 (B) "A candidate may wear within two hundred feet of the polling place a label no larger than four and one-fourth inches by four and one-fourth inches that contains the candidate's name and the office he is seeking. If the candidate enters the polling place, he may not display any of this identification including, but not limited to, campaign stickers or buttons."

A candidate may greet voters within the two hundred feet as long as the voters are not intimidated. Poll Managers have the authority to ask the candidate to leave if the voters complain. If the intimidation continues to disrupt the orderly conduct of the election, the Board of Elections and Voter Registration will be notified.



CAMPAIGN LITERATURE

Title 7-25-180 (A) "It is unlawful on an election day within two hundred feet of any entrance used by voters to enter the polling place for a person to distribute any type of campaign literature or place any political posters..."

It is against state law for voters to display their support for any candidate in the form of T-shirts, hats, buttons, posters or any other paraphernalia within 200 feet of the entrance to the polling place.

POLL WATCHERS: Title 7-13-860 "...Each watcher appointed hereunder must be a qualified voter in the county where he is to watch, and must be certified, in writing, to the managers of the voting precinct to which assigned. This certification must be signed by the primary or nonpartisan candidate or, in the case of watchers jointly representing all candidates of a political party, by an appropriate party official. Watchers must, at all times wear visible identification specifying the candidate or party, as appropriate, which they represent. The identification badge of a poll watcher may not exceed four and one-fourth by four and one-fourth inches with individual letters on the badge not exceeding one-quarter inch in height or width. Badges may not be a color that has a fluorescent quality. After qualification, watchers must be placed in an area designated by the poll managers. No watcher may conduct himself in a manner that will interfere in the orderly conduct of the election or influence any voter in the casting of his ballot."

PRIMARY ELECTIONS: "Each candidate who is not unopposed in a primary, ...may appoint a watcher for any voting place where his name appears on the ballot."

GENERAL, MUNICIPAL OR SPECIAL ELECTIONS: "...each nonpartisan candidate, including announced write-in candidates in a general or special election, may appoint a watcher for any voting place where his name appears on the ballot. However, in any general or special election, all candidates who are certified by a political party must be jointly represented at each polling place by not more than two watchers from the party for each one thousand registered voters or fraction thereof registered at the polling place..."