



Guidelines for Candidates & Homeowners: Posting Temporary Charitable, Educational, Political or Religious Signs

Definition and Duration of Temporary Signs:

A temporary sign is one that is constructed of paper, cloth, canvas, fabric, cardboard, wallboard, wood, metal, or plastic or other light material, with or without frames, and which is intended to be displayed for a continuous period of **not more than sixty-seven days**, 60 days prior to the event/election and 7 days following the event/election.

Size of Temporary Signs:

Signs of not more than a total of six square feet in area, erected for charitable, educational, political or religious purposes are allowed without a permit.

Placement of Temporary Signs:

- No sign shall be erected at the intersection of any streets or of a street and driveway in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision; or at any location where it may interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device.
- No signs shall be attached to motor vehicles, trailers or other movable objects regularly or recurrently located for fixed display.
- No sign shall be attached to a satellite dish, or any other type of tower or smoke stack.
- No portion of any sign shall be located above the roof line of a building. Roof line means the intersection of the exterior wall and the roof.
- No freestanding sign shall be located within a required side or rear yard or within fifteen feet of a street line or extend more than twenty feet above adjoining ground level.
- No signs may be posted on private property without the consent of the owner or tenant. This includes the berm (the grass plot area between the curb and the sidewalk); the berm in most instances is part of the right of way and therefore signs may not be posted there.
- No signs may be placed anywhere on public property.
- No signs may be placed on utility poles or and standing poles or fences.

Penalties for Non-Compliance:

The Town may remove non-conforming signs without impunity.

For compliance with the State Election Laws relating to Political Signs and the 150 Foot Rule on Election Day, please contact the Town Clerk's Office.

(This policy is intended to be consistent with the intent of the sign bylaw to protect the historic character of the Town and maintain a level of sensitivity to the many significant monuments and memorial artifacts located around Town. This policy is not intended to restrict in any manner the placement of bylaw-exempt signs on private property, or within the public right-of-way immediately in front of the property of the sign owner as long as the sign will not cause damage, encroach upon a sidewalk or roadway, or otherwise create a hazard for passersby. This policy is also not intended to restrict the carrying of signs in any public place where the signs are not otherwise restricted. This sign policy is intended to be "content neutral" with respect to the placement of political and charitable signs on public property. As examples of "free speech", political signs enjoy the constitutional protections accorded under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and under Article 16 of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights. Towns cannot impose restrictions on protected speech that are greater than those placed on other types of speech.)

By restricting the placement and proliferation of unattended political and charitable signs to a limited number of public locations for a specified time period, this policy shall remain content neutral, while at the same time protecting the public interest in maintaining the Town's historic character.