

# POLITICAL AND CAMPAIGN SIGNS

## NON-COMMERCIAL SIGNS VISIBLE TO PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

### PRIMARY HIGHWAYS

During campaign season, the landscape blooms with a special kind of flower - the political sign. Unlike wildflowers which are welcome anywhere, putting campaign signs on public lands is illegal. So before you plant that sign, learn the law and keep Texas beautiful.

TxDOT does not control the content of private signage. If you have questions about what may be on a political sign, please contact the Texas Ethics Commission at (512) 463-5800

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

##### Where can I place political signs?

As far as TxDOT is concerned, you can place your signs anywhere so long as they are not in the highway right of way or in a location that poses a safety hazard (e.g. blocking sight to a driveway). Always make sure to check with local authorities (Cities, Counties, Homeowner's Associations, etc.) as they may have their own restrictions.

##### When can I place political signs?

TxDOT does not control when signs may be displayed for elections. However, cities and counties may have their own time restrictions for political signs.

##### There is a sign on private property posing a safety hazard

TxDOT does not have the authority to remove non-commercial signage from private property. If you believe a sign or signs create a safety hazard, contact local law enforcement as they can have the owner remove or relocate their sign(s).

##### There are signs located on the Right of Way (ROW)

Signs cannot be placed on the ROW as per Texas Transportation Code (TTC) §393.002. "A sheriff, constable, or other trained volunteer authorized by the commissioners court of a county may confiscate a sign placed in violation of Section 393.002." (TTC §393.003). For state-maintained highways, your local TxDOT district office also has the authority to remove signs located on state owned right of way.

##### Where is the ROW?

Typically, the ROW edge can be estimated by using one of the following features (whichever is furthest from the pavement's edge):

- Utility Lines
- Fences

If they are present, ROW markers would be the best way to determine the edge of state property. If you are unsure where the ROW starts or ends, you should contact your local TxDOT district office.

### PRIMARY VS. RURAL HIGHWAYS

Interstates, US highways, and the majority of state highways, Farm to Market, and Ranch Roads in Texas are considered Primary Highways. The remaining public highways in Texas are considered Rural Roads.

TxDOT only regulates Rural Roads outside of incorporated city limits.

#### PUBLIC MAPS

TxDOT maintains a public map that shows which roads are considered Primary and which are considered Rural. To access this map, do the following:

Go to  
[www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)  
↓  
Select Business  
↓  
Select Commercial Signs  
↓  
Go to the bottom of the page and select "Commercial Sign Maps"

OR

Search Online:  
"TxDOT Commercial Signs and Regulated Highways Map"

### RURAL ROADS

On Rural Roads outside city limits, TxDOT controls the placement of political signage on private property. The placement of signs on the highway ROW is still prohibited on Rural Roads, and is handled the same as outlined above.

Political signs on Rural Roads must be:

1. On private property;
2. Erected no earlier than 90 days before an election and be removed no later than 10 days after the election;
3. Constructed of lightweight material; and
4. Not larger than 50 square feet.

For information on determining whether a roadway is a Primary or Rural Road, see above right or call our office at the number below.

For any other questions concerning political signs along Texas highways, contact the TxDOT Commercial Signs Regulatory Program by email at [ROW\\_OutdoorAdvertising@txdot.gov](mailto:ROW_OutdoorAdvertising@txdot.gov) or by phone at (512) 416-3030.