

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 **for a maximum of 12 weeks per calendar year** (amended 2017).
- May not exceed **4 ft by 8 ft** in size.
- Sign must contain: owner's **name, address and date sign was erected**.
- 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 (amended 2015).
- 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, nor shall they be erected in a rotary traffic island, a control-of-access area; or a median less than 6 feet wide**. They must be affixed to their own stake or post, may be attached to a building or dwelling (with permission), or displayed on vehicles. (amended 2019)
- 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-B), and may carry a fine of up to \$250. Specifically, the law states that "a person who takes, defaces or disturbs a sign placed within the public right-of-way in accordance with Section 1913-A, Subsection 1, paragraph L commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of up to \$250 may be adjudged" (amended 2015).