

BURNET COUNTY ORDINANCE CONCERNING
CAMPAIGN SIGNS AT POLLING LOCATIONS

The following rules apply to political signs erected at a polling location on property owned or leased by Burnet County. These rules may also apply to other polling locations upon decision of a property owner. A campaign sign/political sign is one that contains primarily a political message with the purpose of advertising for a political candidate, a political party, or an issue to be voted upon at an election. No campaign sign/political sign shall be permitted to be placed upon at any Burnet County owned/leased property or upon any polling location in which the owner has elected to adopt these regulations at any time except when the locations are being used as a polling site as outlined under Texas Election Code Sec. 61.003.

The owner of any polling location which is utilized by Burnet County but which is not owned or leased by Burnet County may elect as to adopt these same rules while their location is in use as an official polling location. In such case, this ordinance may be enforced the same as if the polling location were owned or leased by Burnet County as such use serves a public purpose.

Regulations:

1. A permit fee shall not be required
2. Signs may be erected **no sooner than 24 hours before the start of voting for the election and shall be removed no later than 24 hours after the close of the polling location.**
3. The **maximum number** of signs allowed to be erected by a candidate or a ballot item at a polling location is **two (2) signs.**
4. A sign shall not be located so as to cause a safety or traffic hazard. A sign shall not be located within 10 feet of a public right of way and shall be placed within the landscape exterior area of the property.
5. A sign shall not be illuminated or projected nor shall it have any moving elements or parts.
6. A sign **must be ground-mounted, using a normal heavy wire rod type stake.** A stake must be hand pushed into the ground. No "T-Post" and driver may be utilized. A stake shall not interfere with a tree root, irrigation line, or any other underground structure. A stake shall not be placed in a flower bed.
7. A sign shall not interfere with other business being conducted at the location.
8. A sign shall be **no larger than 18"X 24" in size (3 square feet).**
9. No sign shall be placed closer than 100 feet of an outside door through which a voter may enter the building in which the polling place is located as outlined by Sec. 61.003 & Sec. 85.036 Texas Election Code.
10. A sign may not violate any other law, including but not limited to Ch 259 and Ch 255 Texas Elections Code.
11. The responsibility for any damaged caused to any underground structure by the erection of a political sign shall be borne by the campaign responsible for its placement.

Note:

After review by the appropriate authority, any sign not meeting these regulations that is place at a polling location in which these rules apply shall be removed without any notice and then disposed as trash.

All reports of violations at a Burnet County leased or owned property shall be made to the Burnet County Maintenance Department. Law enforcement and/or the Burnet County Attorney's Office may be contacted by the Burnet County Maintenance Department to assist in the determination. A private property owner who has allowed Burnet County to use his/her property as a polling location may elect to adopt these rules for use at their property. Any violations of these rules and regulations at a privately owned property where a polling location is open shall be reported to the owner or their designee who shall be responsible for the enforcement.

These regulations do not restrict a candidate being present and holding signs nor signs attached to occupied vehicles located in the parking lot that do not violate Sec. 61.003 & Sec. 85.036 Texas Election Code.

Approved on this 23rd day of August, 2022 by the Burnet County Commissioners Court.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Oakley", written over a horizontal line.

Judge James Oakley