



CITY OF MEMPHIS DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

281 E. Parkway N., Memphis, TN 38112

Dear Political Candidates:

Subject: Campaign Signs

This is a courtesy notice for all political candidates and their campaign teams. As you campaign in the upcoming election, please be mindful of City of Memphis Ordinance Sections 10-12-9, 15-4.4.7, and 15-4.9.9 through 15-4.9.16 with regard to (1) where campaign signs can and cannot be legally placed, and (2) potential penalties associated with violations of the ordinance sections. Copies of these ordinance sections are enclosed with this notice and can also be accessed via the following website:

https://library.municode.com/tn/memphis/codes/code_of_ordinances.

Ordinance Section 10-12-9 states that signs placed on public property are subject to removal, citation, and possible fines of \$50.00 per sign plus court costs. Public property is generally considered to include, but is not limited to, rights-of-way or easements (*for example, the grassy area between the sidewalk and the curb*), medians, public buildings, utility poles, traffic signs, overpasses, bridges, parks, trees, and the “clear sight triangles” at intersections (*including driveways*).

Ordinance Section 15-4.4.7 (*Section 4.4.7 of the Memphis and Shelby County Unified Development Code*) identifies the “clear sight triangle” areas at the various types of intersections within which signs not meeting the specified height restrictions (*usually 3 feet measured relative to the centerline of the adjacent roadway lane*) cannot be legally placed. The dimensions of the “clear sight triangle” area vary with intersection type, traffic control type (*traffic light, stop sign, yield sign, or none*), and posted speed limit. As a general rule, campaign signs at intersections will not be in violation of this ordinance if they are located at the following distances from the tip of the corner and *both* curbs: 14 feet for intersecting through streets controlled by traffic lights or stop signs; 24 feet for intersecting through streets controlled by yield signs or with no traffic control present; and 10 feet for all other types of intersections (*including driveways*).

Ordinance Section 15-4.9.9 (*Section 4.9.9 of the Memphis and Shelby County Unified Development Code*) identifies the size, number, and location of temporary signs that are allowed on a property. As a general rule, signs will not be in violation of this ordinance if they are no more than 8 feet in height, 16 square feet in area if on a property less than 2 acres in area (*32 square feet if on a property greater than 2 acres*), and set back at least 10 feet (*residential/mixed use districts*) or 15 feet (*industrial districts*) from the right-of-way and 15 feet from any other lot line. A total of 4 temporary detached signs are allowed on a residential district property, whereas only 1 temporary detached sign is allowed on a mixed use or industrial district property.

When identifying illegal signs, Division of Public Works enforcement personnel make no distinctions based on the type of sign or subject matter. During the course of daily operations, all signs found on public property and, if appropriate, otherwise in violation of the above-referenced ordinances will be removed and logged regarding date, location, subject, and – if listed – telephone number.

We have found that one illegally placed sign often attracts other illegal signs to the same location. Consequently, if you or members of your campaign team see signs on public property or at other locations in violation of the above-referenced ordinances, please do not also place your signs at the location. Furthermore, given that most candidates are not directly involved in the placement of all of their signs, we respectfully request that you distribute and/or post copies of this notice and the enclosed ordinance sections for all members of your sign committee to read. Finally, please be aware that all campaign signs must be removed within 2 weeks after election day. Questions regarding this notice and the enclosures can be directed to Environmental Enforcement Department at 901-636-4770 or eecomplaints@memphistn.gov.

Thank you for your assistance in this important community matter.

City of Memphis
Division of Public Works
Neighborhood Improvement
Environmental Enforcement