

*Political
Signs
&
Candidate's
Do's & Don'ts*

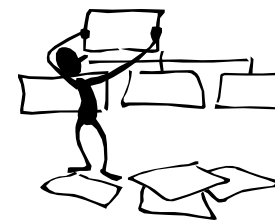
*Prepared and Distributed by:
Marilyn Bowers, Ex. Director
Charleston County
Board of Elections &
Voter Registration*

*4367 Headquarters Rd
POB71419
Charleston SC 29415*

PHONE: (843) 744-VOTE (8683)

E-Mail: mbowers@charlestoncounty.org

Website: <http://vote.charlestoncounty.org>



POLITICAL SIGNS (up to Election Day)

There are State, County, and Municipal ordinances and laws that govern political signs. As a candidate, you should be aware of these. For further details, you should contact each enforcement agency.

Certain signs authorized

Section 4. Section 57-25-140 (A) "... signs of thirty-two square feet or less advertising agricultural products of a seasonal nature, signs of a political nature, signs erected by or on the behalf of eleemosynary, civic, nonprofit, church, or charitable organizations, or signs advertising special community events which are erected temporarily for ninety days or less. **(D) No sign permitted under this section may obscure or otherwise interfere with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, signal, or device nor obstruct or interfere with the driver's view of approaching, merging, or intersecting traffic.....**

NOTE: Signs are not permitted to be placed on utility poles of any kind!!!! This presents a danger to utility workers!!!

SECTION 7-25-210. Vandalizing or removing political campaign sign; exceptions; penalty.

(A) It is unlawful to deface, vandalize, tamper with, or remove a lawfully placed political campaign sign prior to the election without the permission of the candidate or party.

(B) This section does not apply to a governmental entity when a political campaign sign is removed because of noncompliance with applicable law, or because an employee of the governmental entity removing the sign is working within the course and scope of his employment.

(C) A person who violates the provisions of subsection (A) is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

ELECTION DAY" GUIDELINES

POLITICAL SIGNS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED WITHIN 200 FEET FROM THE ENTRANCE OF THE POLLING PLACE THAT THE VOTERS ARE USING TO ENTER THE POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY!!!

The Board of Elections and Voter Registration for Charleston County has full jurisdiction over the two hundred feet from the entrance of the polling place that the voters are using to enter the polling place. Any property outside this area is under the jurisdiction of the polling place. **Contact:** Marilyn Bowers, Executive Director (843) 745-2277

CANDIDATES: Title 7-25-180 (B) "A candidate may wear within two hundred feet of the polling place a label no larger than four and one-fourth inches by four and one-fourth inches that contains the candidate's name and the office he is seeking. If the candidate enters the polling place, he may not display any of this identification including, but not limited to, campaign stickers or buttons."

A candidate may greet voters within the two hundred feet as long as the voters are not intimidated. Poll

Managers have the authority to ask the candidate to leave if the voters complain. If the intimidation

continues to disrupt the orderly conduct of the

election, the Board of Elections and Voter Registration will be notified.

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE: Title 7-25-180 (A) "It is unlawful on an election day within two hundred feet of any entrance used by the voters to enter the polling place for a person to distribute any type of campaign literature or place any political posters...."

POLL WATCHERS: Title 7-13-860 ".....Each watcher appointed hereunder must be a qualified voter in the county where he is to watch, and must be certified, in writing, to the managers of the voting precinct to which assigned. This certification must be signed by the primary or nonpartisan candidate or, in the case of watchers jointly representing all candidates of a political party, by an appropriate party official. Watchers must, at all times, wear visible identification specifying the candidate or party, as appropriate, which they represent. The identification badge of a poll watcher may not exceed four and one-fourth inches by four and one-fourth inches with individual letters on the badge not exceeding one-quarter inch in height or width. Badges may not be a color that has a fluorescent quality. After qualification, watchers must be placed in an area designated by the poll managers. No watcher may conduct himself in a manner that will interfere in the orderly conduct of the election or influence any voter in the casting of his ballot."

PRIMARY ELECTIONS: "Each candidate who is not unopposed in a primary, ...may appoint a watcher for any voting place where his name appears on the ballot."

GENERAL, MUNICIPAL OR SPECIAL ELECTIONS: "....each nonpartisan candidate, including announced write-in candidates in a general or special election, may appoint a watcher for any voting place where his name appears on the ballot. However, in any general or special election, all candidates who are certified by a political party must be jointly represented at each polling place by not more than two watchers from the party for each one thousand registered voters or fraction thereof registered at the polling place...."