

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Putting up political signs”

As people put up political signs in anticipation of the November 4 general election, there are some City of Norfolk signage policies to be aware of.

Although there isn't any ordinance regulating when signs can go up, traditionally people wait approximately 30 days before an election before posting signs, according to Steve Nordhues, City of Norfolk Building Official.

There are, however, certain City ordinances that regulate the placement of political signs in residential and non-residential areas.



In a residential area, all signs must be smaller than eight square feet in size. The sign should not be more than six feet high. A sign needs to be placed at least five feet from the property line adjacent to a street. Signs should never be placed on a lawn in such a way as to obstruct a person's view of oncoming traffic.

In non-residential areas, there can only be one sign per premises. These signs cannot exceed 32 square feet in size. As in residential areas, signs must be placed so as not to be a traffic hazard or block a person's view of oncoming traffic.

There can not be signs in medians, on bridges, on traffic signals or attached to public street signs. They also can't be placed in public parks or City owned property or on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

If a sign is placed in an unsafe manner or in an unauthorized area, City of Norfolk officials will attempt to contact the candidate or person associated with that particular campaign. If the problem is not corrected City officials will then remove the sign.

“The purpose of having City ordinances that regulate political signs is for safety reasons. People who want their candidate or proposal made known to the public can do so but not if the sign that they place on their lawn makes it difficult to drive safely. Large signs placed close to a roadside may obstruct the view of drivers, making it difficult to see pedestrians, oncoming cars and bicycles,” Nordhues said.

All political signs must be removed within five days of the election which this year would be November 9. Nordhues said the removal of the signs in a reasonable amount of time prevents them from becoming eyesores and ultimately debris along the roadside.

“Most political signs are meant to be up only temporarily and do not withstand Nebraska weather so will deteriorate rapidly,” Nordhues said.

For more information about placing political signs contact Nordhues at snordhues@ci.norfolk.ne.us.