

City of Whiteville
Summary of regulations for political signs
February 5, 2016

Whiteville Regulations: Political signs are considered Temporary Information Signs in Section 155.150(C) of the Whiteville Zoning Ordinance and do not require a permit. However, per Section 155.151 all political signs placed on a City-maintained street must be placed at least ten (10) feet from the right-of-way.

State of North Carolina Regulations: Political signs are regulated by the State in General Statute 136-32 as follows:

- **Compliant Political Signs Permitted.** – During the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of “one stop” early voting under G.S. 163-227.2 and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day, persons may place political signs in the right-of-way of the State highway system as provided in this section. Signs must be removed by the end of the period prescribed in this section.
- **Definition** – For the purpose of this section, “political sign” means any sign that advocates for political action. The term does not include a commercial sign.
- **Sign Placement** – The permittee must obtain the permission of any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected. Signs must be placed in accordance with the following:
 1. No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.
 2. No sign shall be closer than 3 feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.
 3. No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection at an intersection.
 4. No sign shall be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road.
 5. No sign shall be larger than 864 square inches.
 6. No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.
- **Penalties for unlawful Removal of Signs** – It is a Class 3 misdemeanor for a person to steal, deface, vandalize or unlawfully remove a political sign that is lawfully placed under this section.

Please contact Whiteville Planning Department at 910-640-1380 with questions regarding political signs.