

## Campaign Signs

Minnesota Statute 211B.045 states all noncommercial signs of any size may be posted from forty-six days before a state primary election until ten days following the state general election.



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### CITY OF MENDOTA HEIGHTS ELECTION SIGN POLICY

1. Election signs are permitted on private property in any district provided such signs are removed within ten (10) days following the state general election or within ten (10) days following the election the sign relates to.
2. Signs may be posted beginning 46 days before the state primary in a state general election year, or more than one month preceding the election the sign relates to in a year during which no state general election is being held.
3. Signs are permitted only on private property, with the permission of the property owner. Signs are not allowed to be placed in city parks or any public property.
4. Signs are not allowed to be placed in state, county or city right-of-way. The county is specific in that signs may not be placed within 30 feet of the edge of traveled lanes.
5. On Election Day, signs may not be located within 100 feet of the building in which a polling place is situated or anywhere on the public property on which a polling place is situated.

**CAUTION** - City staff members will remove signs located within city right-of-way or on city property. Signs the city removes will be retained at the Public Works Garage and may be picked up during the Public Works Department hours.

### DAKOTA COUNTY SIGN POLICY

Placing signs on state or county right-of-way is prohibited. M.S. 160.27 prohibits advertisements on highway right-of-ways. If placing signs on private property you must first obtain permission from the landowner. County Highway Department personnel will remove private signs placed along county roads and within the road right-of-way that are within thirty feet of the edge of the traveled lanes. Confiscated signs are kept at the County Transportation Garage in Empire Township for ten days before disposing.

**Authority:** Minnesota Statute 160.27, subdivision 5: prohibits the placement of signs or objects on highway right-of-way.

## **Minnesota Statute 211B.11 Election Day prohibitions.**

Subdivision 1. Soliciting near polling places. A person may not display campaign material, post signs, ask, solicit, or in any manner try to induce or persuade a voter within a polling place or within 100 feet of the building in which a polling place is situated, or anywhere on the public property on which a polling place is situated, on primary or election day to vote for or refrain from voting for a candidate or ballot question. A person may not provide political badges, political buttons, or other political insignia to be worn at or about the polling place on the day of a primary or general election. This section applies to areas established by the county auditor or municipal clerk for absentee voting.

Campaign signs and campaigns materials cannot be displayed and campaigning cannot be conducted on Election Day at the following locations:

- Within a polling place.
- Within one hundred feet of the building in which a polling place is situated.
- Anywhere on public property which is a polling place.



Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Boulevard  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-1899

April 10, 2012

TO CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

This letter is to remind you that state law prohibits the placement, painting, printing or affixing of advertisements on any object within the limits of any highway in Minnesota. This prohibition in Minnesota Statutes, section 160.27, applies to political campaign signs as well as to all other forms of advertising. The law applies to all state, county, city and township roads and highways.

In addition, the Minnesota Outdoor Advertising Control Act (Minnesota Statutes, section 173.15) prohibits erecting advertising devices:

- On private land without the consent of the owner or occupant;
- On public utility poles;
- On trees or shrubs; and
- By painting or drawing on rocks or natural features.

The Federal Highway Administration office in Minnesota monitors Minnesota's compliance with federal highway beautification laws. State transportation employees are responsible for administering these laws on state highways and must remove signs that violate the laws. County, city and township employees administer these laws on their roads.

Since political campaign workers may not be familiar with the laws, please distribute this information to those who place signs on your behalf. Local Mn/DOT offices should be contacted for assistance when signs are being placed where the specific highway right-of-way cannot be clearly identified. When improperly placed signs are removed by Mn/DOT employees, every effort will be made to temporarily store the sign and notify the candidate so that the signs can be retrieved by the candidate or the candidate's workers.

I sincerely request your cooperation in ensuring your campaign workers are aware of these laws. Mn/DOT employees will make every effort to be fair and impartial in administering the law so that all advertisers can expect equal treatment under this law.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Thomas K. Sorel'.

Thomas K. Sorel  
Commissioner