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HISTORIC  
**FRANKLIN**  
TENNESSEE

## **CAMPAIGN SIGNAGE DURING GENERAL ELECTIONS**

Pursuant to the Tennessee Freedom of Speech Act of 2017, found at T.C.A. § 2-7-143, property owners or legal residents may place campaign signs on their own private properties for sixty (60) days prior to a general election, including early voting, until one (1) day after that general election. A copy of the Act is included here for convenience.

Signs must be more than one hundred feet (100') from a polling place and cannot be placed in the public right-of-way. Signs placed within the public right-of-way will be removed and discarded. Generally, signs located behind public sidewalks, or the utility pole line when no public sidewalks are present, are outside of the public right-of-way. Signs placed in the medians and on utility poles will be removed and discarded.

Lessors and HOAs have limitations in how they regulate political campaign signs under the Act, specifically T.C.A. § 2-7-143(b)(2) and § 2-7-143(c). Details can be found in the attached copy of the Act.

In addition, the following types of signs are **prohibited** in the City of Franklin at all times:

- Bench signs;
- Freestanding canopy signs, except as permitted in Paragraph 5.1.4.K, Gas Stations;
- Home occupation signs;
- Government imitation signs;
- Inflatable or similar balloon-type devices larger than 18 inches in diameter that require tethering;
- Moving signs;
- Noisy mechanical devices;
- Signs on parked vehicles;
- Roof signs, including signs painted on roofs or that extend above the highest point of a roof;
- Searchlights;
- Signs on natural features such as trees, other living vegetation, and rocks;
- Trailer signs;
- Signs projected onto surfaces using light;
- LED electronic message center signs;
- LED display screens;
- Strings lights attached to or part of a sign;
- Any other sign not expressly permitted by this Ordinance, the Municipal Code, or the Historic District Design Guidelines, as applicable.

Questions may be directed to the BNS Zoning Section at 615-794-7012.

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### 2-7-143. Tennessee Freedom of Speech Act.

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- (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Freedom of Speech Act."
- (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, during the period beginning sixty (60) days before a general election until the day after the next subsequent general election:
- (1) This state, a local government, or any other political subdivision of this state:
    - (A) Shall not regulate the shape or quantity of political or campaign posters or signs placed on private property that is located more than one hundred feet (100') from a polling place if the signs or posters are placed on the property by the owner of the property or any lawful resident of a residence on the property;
    - (B) May prohibit, notwithstanding subdivision (b)(1)(A), any political or campaign poster or sign covered by this section from exceeding:
      - (i) For commercial property, thirty-two square feet (32 sq. ft.) in size; and
      - (ii) For residential property, sixteen square feet (16 sq. ft.) in size; and
    - (C) Notwithstanding subdivision (b)(1)(A), may adopt reasonable restrictions limiting the number of political campaign signs or posters that may be placed on property; provided, that such restrictions authorize an owner or resident to place at least one (1) poster or sign on the property per candidate, issue, or subject; and
  - (2) A homeowners' association shall not, by covenant, condition, restriction, or rule, prohibit the display of political or campaign posters or signs placed on private property by the owner of the property or any lawful resident of a residence on the property. A homeowners' association may adopt reasonable covenants, conditions, restrictions, or rules with respect to the placement of political or campaign posters or signs placed on homeowner association common space and private property maintained by the owner or resident, including limiting the size of campaign posters or signs in those common and private property areas to four square feet (4 sq. ft.).
- (c) A lessor of residential property may require a lessee to obtain the written permission of the lessor prior to placing any political or campaign posters or signs on such residential property. Any such requirement must be included in the lease or rental agreement.

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Tennessee law requires removal of these signs within one (1) day after the general election to which they pertain. Please remember to remove these signs as soon as possible after the election.