



# CITY OF ELIZABETHTON

## Guidelines for Political Signs

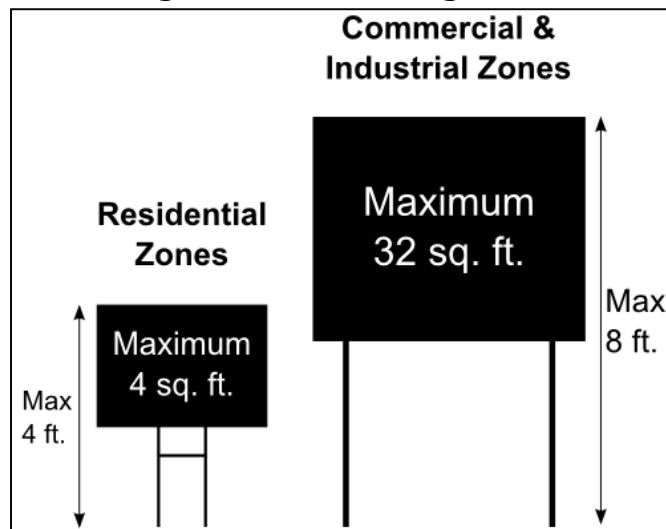
The Elizabethton Municipal Code defines a political sign as “a temporary sign intended to advance a political statement, cause, or candidate for an office.” Chapter 5 in Title 14 of the Elizabethton Municipal Code regulates signs throughout the city which include political signs. For a more detailed review of what is and is not acceptable regarding signs within the city limits, we encourage you to review this chapter on our website [www.Elizabethton.org](http://www.Elizabethton.org). You can also find a zoning map of the city on our website as well.

At this time, the City of Elizabethton does not require a permit for the placement of political signs, but does regulate the timing, maximum size, and location of these signs within the city limits. After reviewing these guidelines, we encourage you to ask any additional questions to our staff to ensure you and your campaign are in full compliance with the city’s sign ordinance. City staff are available anytime Monday thru Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm to answer any questions you may have.

### Sign Size

The Elizabethton Municipal Code allows for political signs, but limits the size of the signs based on the zone in which the sign is located. For all residential zones (R-1, R-2, and R-3), the maximum sign square footage is 4 square feet. Political signs in this zone are also limited to a maximum height of 4 feet. In the city’s commercial and industrial zones (M-R, B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, M-1, and M-2) much larger signs are permitted. A maximum sign size of 32 square feet with a maximum height of 8 feet is permitted. Figure 1 illustrates these maximum dimensions.

**Figure 1 – Political Sign Sizes**

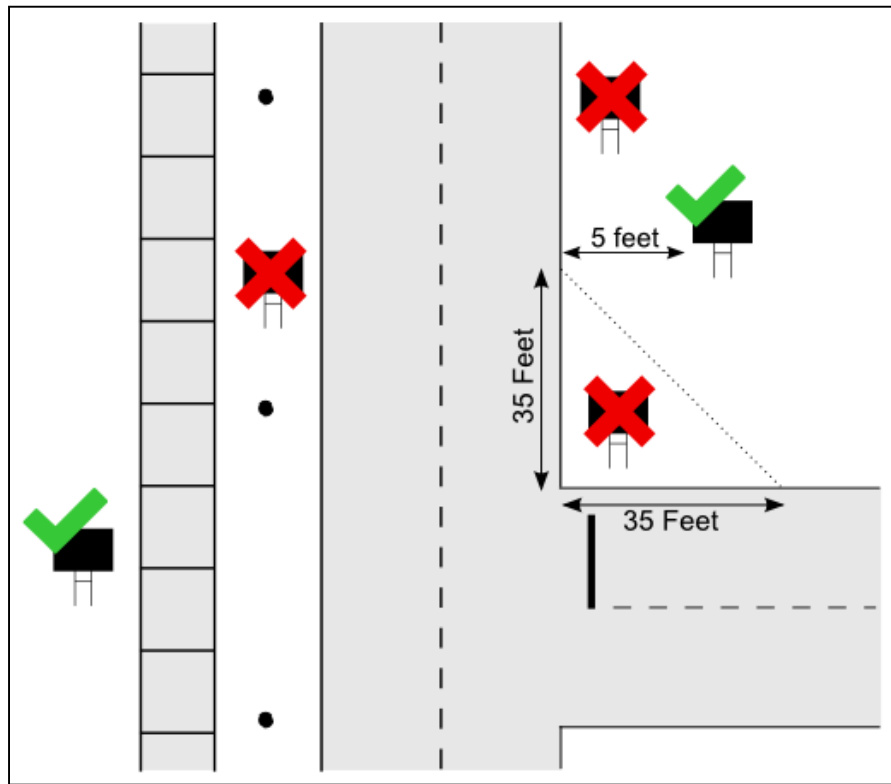


### Sign Location

In addition to sign sizes, the Elizabethton Municipal Code also regulates the location where political signs can be placed. The code specifically mentions that political signs cannot be in the public right-of-way and that they must be a maximum of 1 foot away from all property lines for signs 4 square feet and under and 5 feet away from all property lines for signs over 4 square feet. Signs also,

cannot be located within a 35 foot by 35 foot triangle at the intersection of any two (or more) roads. City enforcement staff recognize the difficulty in indentifying the public right-of-way and have advised the guidelines illustrated in Figure 2 in an attempt to meet the requirements of the ordinance.

**Figure 2 – Acceptable Political Sign Locations**



In most situations, power line poles and sidewalks are within the public right-of-way and, therefore, all political signs should be placed on the house or building side of all sidewalks and power line poles (whichever is furthest from the road). If there are no sidewalks or power line poles near where a political sign is desired to be placed, a minimum of 5 feet for signs under 4 square feet and a minimum of 10 feet for signs over 4 square feet should be between the top of the curb (if present) or the edge of the asphalt pavement and the political sign. In addition to the right-of-way, political signs of any size cannot be placed on city property or in city parks. If you are unsure of who owns the property, we advise not placing the sign on that property. No more than one sign per candidate is allowed for each parcel of property. The sign location guidelines apply to all zones within the city.

### **Sign Display Time**

The Elizabethton Municipal Code also regulates the time-frame in which political signs can be displayed. As Figure 3 illustrates, political signs of any size may be displayed in an appropriate location starting 90 days prior to the Election Day and must be collected no later than 14 days after Election Day. In the case of a primary election, the winning candidate's political signs may remain so long as the next election to be held is the general election for which the position the candidate is running is being voted upon. The sign display time guidelines apply to all zones within the city.

**Figure 3 – Sign Display Time-Frame**



### **Non-Compliant Signs**

We hope that you understand the importance of these guidelines and ask that you inform all of your campaigners to observe these guidelines as well. For those signs that are found in violation of these guidelines and the Elizabethton Municipal Code Title 14, Chapter 5, repercussions may include confiscation of the sign, required court appearance, a citation, and up to \$50 per day fines. We will, of course, do our best to contact you if we find a sign over four square feet in violation of these guidelines, but failure to bring the sign into compliance with the sign ordinance may result in any of the previously listed actions being exercised on the property owner. Confiscated signs may be retrieved from the Elizabethton City Garage (729 S. Sycamore St.) within 30 days of the sign being confiscated.

If there is ever a question regarding the appropriate size or placement of a political sign, please feel free to contact our Building Codes Division staff at 423-542-1503 and we'll be more than happy to meet with you to answer your question. We wish you luck and courage as you work to make our Constitution a living document, help our democracy flourish, and make our City and Country a place worth living.