



# CAMPAIGN SIGNS

Campaign signs are one of the most visible aspects of a campaign. Frequently, over zealous campaign workers place signs where they violate state and/or federal laws. In some instances, illegal signs pose a threat to public safety, especially where they appear in intersections, medians, on bridges, utility poles or along side walks. Other times signs are placed on public property or private property without the owner's permission.

The Nebraska Department of Roads receives many calls each year regarding political signs, and the laws that govern their use. This information has been prepared to inform candidates and political committees about the laws that govern the use of political signs. In addition, information is provided about the penalties for non-compliance.

## Signs on the highway right of way

- No campaign signs, posters, political advertisements shall be placed within a highway's right of way.
- This includes intersections, medians, entrance and exit ramps, sidewalks, and the ditches and land that make up the right of way bordering the length of each highway.
- Markers, fence-lines, or the placement of utility poles can often be used to visually determine the "right of way".
- Maintenance crews of the Nebraska Department of Roads will remove any signs that are improperly placed within the state highway right-of-way. These signs will be stored for a brief period of time in State Roads Department maintenance yards across the state, where the owners can reclaim them.
- Those needing further information concerning the boundaries of right-of-way corridors should contact their Nebraska Department of Roads' district office. NDOR district offices are located in Lincoln, Omaha, Norfolk, Grand Island, Bridgeport, North Platte, McCook and Ainsworth.

## Signs on private property

- Nebraska State laws that comply with the Federal Highway Beautification Act prohibit the erection of new advertising signs adjacent to certain routes, unless specifically authorized by law or rule and regulation.

- These laws are cited as Neb. Rev. Stat. 39-201 to 39-226.
- Political signs are considered to be a Class III advertising signs, which are only allowed in zoned or unzoned commercial or industrial areas and require a permit with the Nebraska Dept. of Roads.
- To review the rules and regulations [click here \(rules\)](#).
- To review the routes controlled [click here \(routes\)](#).
- If you don't want to erect a new sign your campaign message may be placed on already existing, legally permitted billboards by agreement with the owner of the sign.
- Chapter 39-221 states that any person, firm, company, or corporation violating any of the provisions of sections 39-212 to 39-222 shall be guilty of a Class V misdemeanor.

The Nebraska Department of Roads requests your compliance with the State Law and with the rules and regulations. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.