

## **Political Sign Policy (*Sample*)**

This policy will serve as a guide to political candidates, party chairs, campaign workers, and county employees concerning the placement of political signs adjacent to public right of ways on the county secondary road system. This policy is a local regulation, established by resolution, and is designed to acquaint candidates with how the county enforces state law concerning the placement of political signs adjacent to county secondary roads. This is a supplement to the state policy on political signing titled, "Guide to Iowa Outdoor Advertising Sign Regulations," used to guide candidates on county highway signing policy.

### **General Prohibitions:**

1. No sign may encroach on or hang over the county right of way.
2. No sign may be lighted so it impairs the vision of a motor vehicle driver.
3. No sign may obstruct the view of any highway or railroad or any intersection such that the sign makes it dangerous to use the highway or creates a sight distance obstruction.
4. No sign may imitate or resemble an official traffic control sign, signal, or device.
5. No sign may obscure or physically interfere with an official traffic control sign, signal, or device.

### **Political Sign Definition:**

Chapter 306C of the Iowa Code defines a political sign as "an outdoor sign of a temporary nature, not larger than 32 square feet in surface area, erected for the purpose of soliciting votes or support for or in opposition to any candidate or any political party under whose designation any candidate is seeking nomination or election or any public question on the ballot in an election held under the laws of the state." Political sign may be erected upon private property adjacent to county secondary roads as allowed by state code on primary highways.

Signs adjacent to county roads must be removed within seven days following the election.

Signs improperly placed within the county road right of way must be removed within 24 hours of notification. Secondary road employees will first try to notify the candidate to remove the sign from the right of way. If the secondary road employee is unable to contact the candidate, the county party chair will be notified of the improper placement of the sign. Contact with and messages left on an answering machine will constitute sufficient notice for removal of a political sign.

If the sign is not removed within the 24-hour period following notification, the sign will be removed by secondary road employees and taken to the maintenance garage where it can be collected by the candidate. The candidate will be billed the cost of sign removal for any signs removed by county employees.