

Littering Statutes for Political Candidates in North Carolina

§ 14-156. Injuring fixtures and other property of electric-power companies.

It shall be unlawful for any person willfully and wantonly, and without the consent of the owner, to take down, remove, injure, obstruct, displace or destroy any line erected or constructed for the transmission of electrical current, or any poles, towers, wires, conduits, cables, insulators or any support upon which wires or cables may be suspended, or any part of any such line or appurtenances or apparatus connected therewith, or to sever any wire or cable thereof, or in any manner to interrupt the transmission of electrical current over and along any such line, or to take down, remove, injure or destroy any house, shop, building or other structure or machinery connected with or necessary to the use of any line erected or constructed for the transmission of electrical current, or to wantonly or willfully cause injury to any of the property mentioned in this section by means of fire. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. (1907, c. 919; C.S., s. 4328; 1993, c. 539, s. 94; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 136-32. Regulation of signs.

(a) Commercial Signs. - No unauthorized person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any warning or direction sign, marker, signal or light or imitation of any official sign, marker, signal or light erected under the provisions of G.S. 136-30, except in cases of emergency. No person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any traffic or highway sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial or political advertising, except as provided in subsections (b) through (e) of this section: Provided, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the erection or maintenance of signs, markers, or signals bearing thereon the name of an organization authorized to erect the same by the Department of Transportation or by any local authority referred to in G.S. 136-31. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The Department of Transportation may remove any signs erected without authority or allowed to remain beyond the deadline established in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Compliant Political Signs Permitted. - During the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting under G.S. 163-227.2 and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day, persons may place political signs in the right-of-way of the State highway system as provided in this section. Signs must be placed in compliance with subsection (d) of this section and must be removed by the end of the period prescribed in this subsection.

(c) Definition. - For purposes of this section, "political sign" means any sign that advocates for political action. The term does not include a commercial sign.

(d) Sign Placement. - The permittee must obtain the permission of any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected. Signs must be placed in accordance with the following:

- (1) No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.
- (2) No sign shall be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.
- (3) No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection.
- (4) No sign shall be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road.
- (5) No sign shall be larger than 864 square inches.
- (6) No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.

(e) Penalties for Unlawful Removal of Signs. - It is a Class 3 misdemeanor for a person to steal, deface, vandalize, or unlawfully remove a political sign that is lawfully placed under this section.

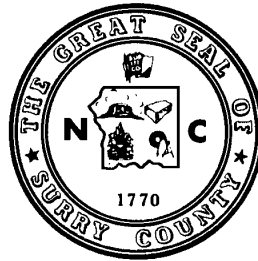
(f) Application Within Municipalities. - Pursuant to Article 8 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, a city may by ordinance prohibit or regulate the placement of political signs on rights-of-way of streets located within the corporate limits of a municipality and maintained by the municipality. In the absence of an ordinance prohibiting or regulating the placement of political signs on the rights-of-way of streets located within a municipality and maintained by the municipality, the provisions of subsections (b) through (e) of this section shall apply. (1921, c. 2, s. 9(b); C.S., s. 3846(r); 1927, c. 148, ss. 56, 58; 1933, c. 172, s. 17; 1957, c. 65, s. 11; 1973, c. 507, s. 5; 1977, c. 464, s. 7.1; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1030, s. 39; 1993, c. 539, s. 981; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 2011-408, s. 1.)

19A NCAC 02E .0415 ADVERTISING SIGNS WITHIN RIGHT OF WAY

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to erect or place any advertising or other sign, except regulation traffic and warning signs approved by the Department of Transportation, on any highway or the right of way thereof, or so as to overhang the right of way, or to permit the erection or placing of any advertising or other sign, as herein prohibited, on any highway right of way which is situated over any land owned, rented, leased or claimed by such person, firm or corporation. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or other corporation that has erected, or placed, or permitted to be erected or placed, any advertising or other sign, as herein prohibited, or for any person, firm or corporation owning, renting, leasing or claiming any land over which a highway or highway right of way is situated, and on which highway or highway right of way any advertising or other sign has been erected or placed, to allow such advertising or other signs to remain on state highway or right of way thereof.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 136-18(10); 136-30;
Eff. July 1, 1978.*

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CAMPAIGN SIGNS AT POLLING PLACES

Signs and electioneering are not allowed within 50 foot of the entrance of a polling site. The only exception to this is **Dobson Town Hall** (Dobson #1) at 307 N. Main Street, Dobson. The buffer zone at this polling location is 25 foot.

Mount Carmel Baptist Church (Mt. Airy #9) at 124 Mt. Carmel Church Road, Mount Airy has requested that campaign signs not be posted on their property until after 5 pm on the day before the Election.

PLEASE REMOVE ALL CAMPAIGN SIGNS FROM THE POLLING LOCATIONS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ELECTION. ALL SIGNS PLACED AT ONESTOP LOCATIONS WILL NEED TO BE PICKED UP BY THE CLOSE OF ONESTOP (at 1:00pm the Saturday before the Election). ALL SIGNS NOT PICKED UP WILL BE REMOVED AND DESTROYED BY THE COUNTY.

Town of Dobson

12.10 Temporary Signs Limited

A. Temporary Signs Permitted Without a Permit

The following temporary signs are permitted without a zoning permit in all zoning districts, but shall be in conformance with all other requirements of this ordinance.

1. Campaign or election signs shall be permitted provided that :
 - a. Individual signs shall not exceed 16 square feet in area nor four (4) feet in height.
 - b. All signs shall be removed within seven (7) days after the election for which they were made.
 - c. No signs shall be permitted in the public right-of-way.

Municipalities can fine anyone not in compliance with these regulations.

Town of Pilot Mountain

§153.064 SIGNS.

(1) Temporary signs permitted without a permit. The following temporary signs are permitted without a zoning permit in all zoning districts, but shall be in conformance with all other requirements of this ordinance.

- (a) Campaign or election signs shall be permitted provided that:
 - I. Individual signs shall not exceed sixteen square feet in area nor four feet in height.
 - II. All signs shall be removed within seven days after the election for which they were made.
 - III. No signs shall be permitted in the public right-of-way.

Municipalities can fine anyone not in compliance with these regulations.

TOWN OF ELKIN

Political Sign Regulations

71.7.17 Political: The following regulations shall apply solely to political signs, posters, etc.:

- a. Signs are to be located entirely on private property, outside of any public right-of-way. For the purposes of this section only and for the benefit of candidates and their campaign staff, the right-of-way is interpreted to be from the ditch line on one side of the road to the ditch line on the opposite side of the road. In cases where the ditch line is not visible, the right-of-way shall be interpreted to be a minimum of 10 (ten) feet from the edge of the pavement on one side of the road to 10 (ten) feet from the edge of pavement on the opposite side of the road.
- b. Signs shall be located a minimum of thirty-five (35) feet from the intersection of the pavement of two or more roads measured parallel to the road surface.
- c. No signs shall be placed on public utility poles, telephone poles, or any other sign or sign support structure erected by a duly constituted governmental body.
- d. Portable signs, as defined in Section 71.3.19, shall not be allowed for political use.
- e. Political signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet in size. They cannot be erected more than forty-five (45) days before Election Day and must be removed 7 days following the election.
- f. The Zoning Officer or his designee may remove signs placed in violation of these regulations.
- g. The candidate will be held responsible for violations and must obtain written permission from property owners before posting signs. **Amended 12/13/04**

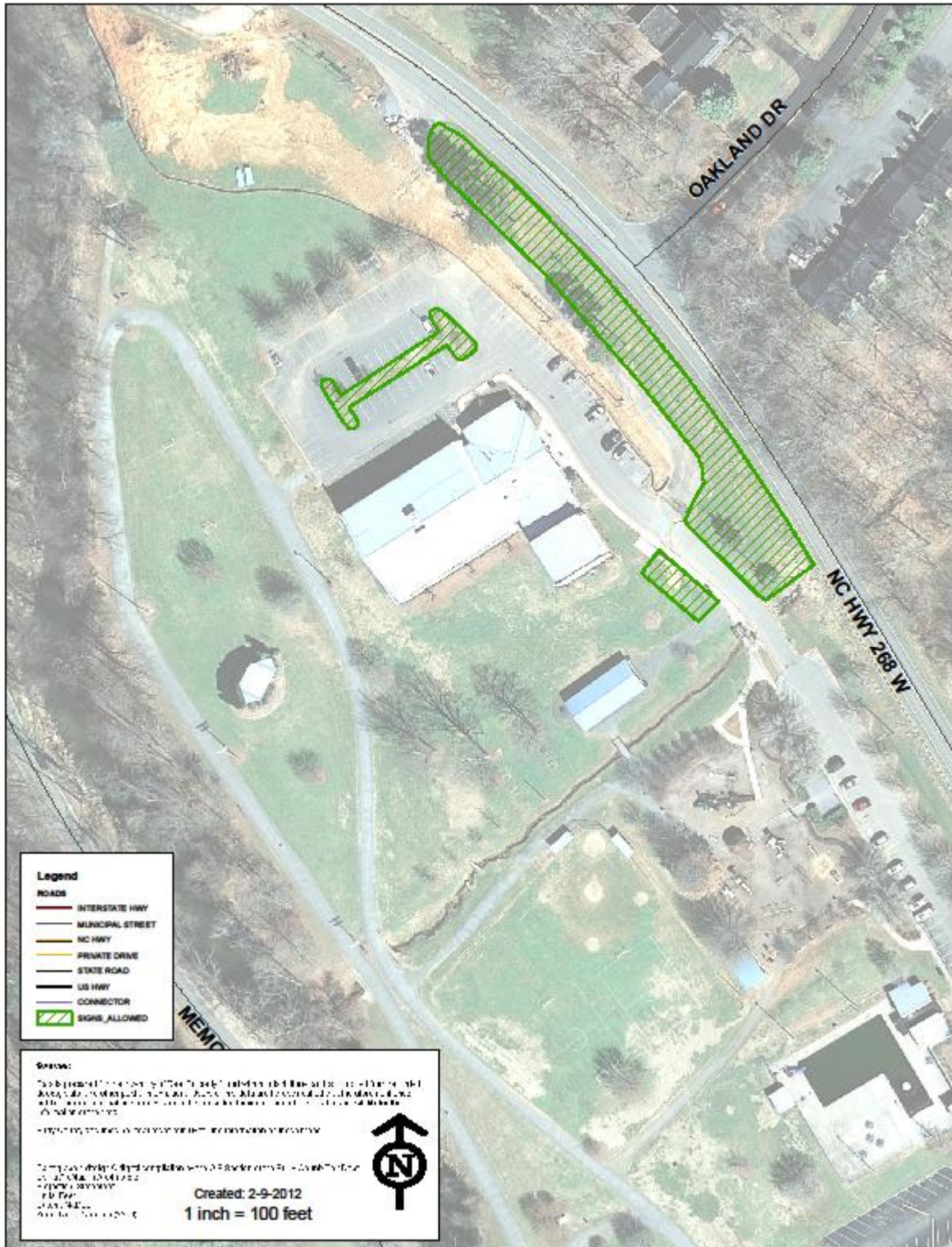
§ 90.18 ADVERTISING.

It shall be unlawful for any person to place or erect any structure, sign, bulletin board, posthole or advertising device of any kind whatsoever in any town recreation facility, or to attach any notice, bill, poster, sign, wire, rod or cord to any tree, shrub, fence, railing, post or structure within any town recreation facility. This section and its prohibition shall not apply to any signs lawfully erected in specified areas at polling places the day of the election and removed at the close of polling on Election Day.

(Ord. eff. 12-12-2011)

Municipalities can fine anyone not in compliance with these regulations.

Elkin Recreation Center Signage allowed in Green Striped areas only



City of Mount Airy

Sec. 9.1. – Signs Not Requiring A Permit and Certain Temporary Signs

Signs listed in this section including sign face changes are exempt from the permit requirements of this ordinance and may be erected in any zoning district provided they comply with the conditions described herein. Signs permitted in this section shall not be considered in determining maximum permitted sign area. However, if a sign exceeds the size or in any other way does not comply with these limitations, it shall be subject to all other provisions of this ordinance, and shall be included in computing the maximum permitted sign area. No such signs except government signs, shall be located within the road right-of-way as determined by the Surry County tax maps, placed on government and utility poles or placed within any sight distance triangle as described in Section 3.14.

Political Signs: Erected in connection with public elections or campaigns. Such signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet each and shall be removed within 15 days after the campaign.

Municipalities can fine anyone not in compliance with these regulations.