

2.10 POLITICAL ELECTION SIGNS AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ELECTION SIGNS

This Standard is applicable to all single-family lots and street rights-of-way, including medians and cul-de-sac island areas within The Woodlands. Primary authority over street rights-of-way rests with Montgomery or Harris County. Signs placed within the street rights-of-way in The Woodlands Township must comply with applicable state and county laws and regulations as well as these Standards. Where any applicable mandatory state law governing elections applies, said law takes precedence over any conflicting standard contained herein.

A. Definitions

1. **Political election** is an election administered by the Montgomery County Elections Administrator, Harris County Election Administrator or by The Woodlands Township.
2. The Woodlands Township **nongovernmental elections** are elections administered by or on behalf of The Woodlands Township, including but not limited to, Residential Design Review Committee and Village Association elections.
3. **Political election sign** is a placard, banner, flag or device that promotes a political candidate or a ballot item for a political election. A two-sided sign is considered one sign.
4. **Nongovernmental election sign** is any sign that promotes a candidate or a ballot item for an election administered by or on behalf of The Woodlands Township. A two-sided sign is considered one sign.
5. For purposes of this section, the word **sign**, when used alone, shall include both political election signs and The Woodlands Township signs.

B. Location, Duration and Number

1. No person may place a sign on any right-of-way of a road unless authorized by The Woodlands Township or its designee. This section does not apply to the right-of-way of a road or highway in the state highway system.
2. One political election sign promoting a candidate for each office or issue on the political election or nongovernmental election ballot may be placed by an owner of a lot on his or her lot beginning the 90th day preceding the day of the political election or nongovernmental election and must be removed within 10 days following the day of the political election or nongovernmental election.
3. Two Residential Design Review Committee and Village Association nongovernmental election signs promoting each candidate or issue on the nongovernmental election ballot may be placed a minimum of 25 feet from the building entrance at each early-voting polling place during the 24-hour period preceding the day early voting in a nongovernmental election begins and must be removed within 24 hours following the day early voting ends.
4. Nongovernmental election signs may be placed at each polling place 24 hours before the day of the election and must be removed within 24 hours following the day of the election.

C. Sign Criteria

Political election signs must:

- Not contain any offensive language or graphics, or display anything that may be deemed offensive.
- Not be portable.
- Not be lighted, accompanied by music, sound, balloons or streamers, or be portable and be distracting to motorists.
- Be ground-mounted and not attached in any way to plant material, traffic control devices, light standards, trailers, vehicles or other existing structures or objects.
- Be no larger than four feet high by six feet wide.
- Not exceed five feet in total installed height (including post, if any).

Nongovernmental election signs must:

- Be in good repair and aesthetically pleasing in keeping with the character of the community.
- Not be lighted, accompanied by music, sound, balloons or streamers, or be distracting to motorists.
- Not exceed six square feet in area.
- Not exceed five feet in total installed height (including post, if any).

D. Lot Owner Approval

Political election signs may not be placed on a lot without the prior written consent of the owner of the lot. Nongovernmental election signs may not be placed on a lot without the prior written consent of the owner of the lot.

E. No Message Approval

Approval of a sign does not imply approval of the message.

F. Removal

The Plan Review Committee, The Woodlands Township or its designee has the right to remove any sign in violation of this Standard.

APPROVALS

Pre-Approval

Political election signs and nongovernmental election signs are pre-approved and require no application as long as they comply with this Standard.

Committee and Staff Approval

All other signs require an application and must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Plan Review Committees or its designee.

The Woodlands Township reserves the right to approve signs and banners in locations other than the designated major intersections attached for permitted locations for certain signs. Only one two-sided sign will be allowed at any one of the major intersections listed.

If for any reason it is determined by staff that an application is to be reviewed by a Plan Review Committee, it will not be eligible for staff approval and will be posted for committee review at the next available Plan Review Committee meeting.