

Sign Regulations

At the conclusion of a primary, general or special Election, candidates are responsible for the removal of any signs, posters, or placards advocating their candidacy that have been placed on highway right-of-ways or other publicly-owned property. The removal of such materials shall be accomplished within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed three (3) weeks. (TCA 2-1-116) A candidate in a primary Election who will be a candidate in the following general Election will not be required to remove any signs until the conclusion of the general or special Election.

Cookeville Zoning Code, Which Applies to Political Signs:

207.3C No sign shall be located on, or attached to, any public property except public signs authorized by the City of Cookeville or the State of Tennessee.

207.4D Political signs can be displayed on private property with the consent of the owner. Such signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in sign face area. Any such sign that relates to an Election or other specific event **shall be removed within fourteen (14) days after the completion of said election or event.** The owner of the property on which the sign is located shall be responsible for its removal.

Briefly, signs are not permitted on city property and this includes utility poles as well as the City's right-of-ways (this also applies to any planters in the downtown area around the square and the west side). A good rule of thumb is to only place signs on private property, with the permission of the property owner, at least 15 feet from the edge of the street. Banners across city streets are not permitted. Please make sure your signs do not interfere with automobile or pedestrian visibility. City personnel are required to remove any signs that are in violation of the regulations; and we do get complaints about signs that are improperly placed.