



Campaign Sign

**Information
and
Regulations**

City of Savage Political Campaign Signs:

Temporary political campaign signs are permitted according to the following:

- Signs may be posted starting 46 days before the state primary until 10 days following the general election.
- There is no limit to the number of signs that may be posted.
- All signs must be removed within 10 days following the election.
- Signs can only be placed on private property with the owner's permission.
- Signs cannot be placed on any public property, including but not limited to: city buildings and facilities, school properties or parks.
- Signs cannot be located in any City, County or State road, sidewalk, trail or right-of-way.
- For City roads, the public right-of-way line ends typically 10 to 15 feet behind the curb. County roads and State highways have much wider right-of-ways. Please verify that the sign is located entirely on private property
- Signs cannot be attached to objects, including but not limited to: fences, utility poles/boxes, street or traffic signs, trees/landscaping or like items.
- On Election Day campaign signs cannot be placed within 100 feet of a polling place
- Please contact the Planning Department at 952.882.2660 for questions and additional information or if you need assistance in determining what is considered public property including road right-of-way widths



March 27, 2014

TO CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

This letter is to remind you that state law prohibits the placement, painting, printing or affixing of advertisements on any object within the limits of any highway in Minnesota. This prohibition in Minnesota Statutes, section 160.27, applies to political campaign signs as well as to all other forms of advertising. The law applies to all state, county, city and township roads and highways.

In addition, the Minnesota Outdoor Advertising Control Act (Minnesota Statutes, section 173.15) prohibits erecting advertising devices:

- On private land without the consent of the owner or occupant;
- On public utility poles;
- On trees or shrubs; and
- By painting or drawing on rocks or natural features.

The Federal Highway Administration office in Minnesota monitors Minnesota's compliance with federal highway beautification laws. State transportation employees are responsible for administering these laws on state highways and must remove signs that violate the laws. County, city and township employees administer these laws on their roads.

Since political campaign workers may not be familiar with the laws, please distribute this information to those who place signs on your behalf. Local Mn/DOT offices should be contacted for assistance when signs are being placed where the specific highway right-of-way cannot be clearly identified. When improperly placed signs are removed by Mn/DOT employees, every effort will be made to temporarily store the sign and notify the candidate so that the signs can be retrieved by the candidate or the candidate's workers.

I sincerely request your cooperation in ensuring your campaign workers are aware of these laws. Mn/DOT employees will make every effort to be fair and impartial in administering the law so that all advertisers can expect equal treatment under this law.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles A. Zelle'.

Charles A. Zelle
Commissioner



SCOTT COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT • 600 COUNTRY TRAIL EAST • JORDAN, MN 55352-9339

MITCHELL J. RASMUSSEN, P.E. COUNTY
ENGINEER

TO CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE:

This letter is to remind you that State law prohibits the placement, painting, printing or affixing of any advertisements on any object within the right of way limits of any highway in Minnesota, which includes all County Highways. The prohibition, which is contained in Minnesota Statutes 160.27 (attached), applies to political campaign signs as well as other forms of advertising. This statute is to insure highways can be maintained appropriately and that clear zones and sight distances for safety are maintained.

The minimum right-of-way width on County Highways is 33 feet from the centerline of the roadway. However, many of the reconstructed four-lane highways increased the right-of-way width up to a maximum of 100 feet from the centerline. Therefore, to limit problems, we would appreciate prospective candidates contact the Scott County Public Works Department at 952-496-8346, if they are unclear as to where to legally place campaign signs.

As campaign workers may not be familiar with the laws, your assistance in distributing this information is requested. Improperly placed signs will be removed by Highway Department employees and will be temporarily stored at the highway shop so they can be picked up by the candidate or the candidate's workers.

Highway Department employees will also make every effort to be fair and impartial in administering the law so that all advertisers can expect equal treatment.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We appreciate your support in keeping the public safe.

Respectfully,

*Mitchell J. Rasmussen, P.E.
County Highway Engineer*

MJR/mmk

160.2715 RIGHT-OF-WAY USE; MISDEMEANORS.

(a) Except for the actions of the road authorities, their agents, employees, contractors, and utilities in carrying out their duties imposed by law or contract, and except as herein provided, it shall be unlawful to:

- (1) obstruct any highway or deposit snow or ice thereon;
- (2) plow or perform any other detrimental operation within the road right-of-way except in the preparation of the land for planting permanent vegetative cover or as authorized under section 160.232;
- (3) erect a fence on the right-of-way of a trunk highway, county state-aid highway, county highway, or town road, except to erect a lane fence to the ends of a livestock pass;
- (4) erect or reconstruct driveway headwalls in or on the right-of-way of a highway or road, except as may be allowed by permit from the road authority imposing reasonable regulations as are necessary to prevent interference with the construction, maintenance, and safe use of the highway or road and its appurtenances;
- (5) dig any holes in any highway, except to locate markers placed to identify sectional corner positions and private boundary corners;
- (6) remove any earth, gravel, or rock from any highway;
- (7) obstruct any ditch draining any highway or drain any noisome materials into any ditch;
- (8) place or maintain any building or structure within the limits of any highway;
- (9) place or maintain any advertisement within the limits of any highway, except as provided in section 160.27, subdivision 7;
- (10) paint, print, place, or affix any advertisement or any object within the limits of any highway, except as provided in section 160.27, subdivision 7;
- (11) deface, mar, damage, or tamper with any structure, work, material, equipment, tools, signs, markers, signals, paving, guardrails, drains, or any other highway appurtenance on or along any highway;
- (12) remove, injure, displace, or destroy right-of-way markers, or reference or witness monuments, or markers placed to preserve section or quarter-section corners;
- (13) improperly place or fail to place warning signs and detour signs as provided by law;
- (14) drive over, through, or around any barricade, fence, or obstruction erected for the purpose of preventing traffic from passing over a portion of a highway closed to public travel or to remove, deface, or damage any such barricade, fence, or obstruction.

(b) Any violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

History: 1959 c 500 art 1 s 27; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1977 c 334 s 1; 1979 c 275 s 1; 1980 c 435 s 1; 1980 c 533 s 2; 1986 c 387 s 1; 1986 c 398 art 27 s 2; 1986 c 435 s 1; 1989 c 179 s 2; 1995 c 23 s 1; 1998 c 283 s 1,2; 1998 c 403 s 5,6; 2004 c 295 art 2 s 15