

Excerpt from City of Richardson Municipal Code of Ordinances
Chapter 13 – Electioneering & Chapter 18 – Sign Regulations

ARTICLE XIII. - ELECTIONEERING AT POLLING LOCATIONS

Sec. 13-190. - Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to provide reasonable regulations for electioneering on city-owned or controlled public property when such property is used as an election polling place. The regulations contained herein are to mitigate against any safety concerns, prevent damage to public property, and ensure that the property is sufficiently available for its patrons who use the facilities other than for election purposes.

(Ord. No. 4036, § 4, 12-9-13)

Sec. 13-191. - Definitions.

The following words and phrases as used in this article shall have the meanings as set forth in this section:

Electioneering shall mean the posting, use, or distribution of political signs or literature.

Voting period shall mean the period each day beginning the hour the polls are open for voting and ending when the polls close or the last voter has voted, whichever is later on election day and early voting days.

(Ord. No. 4036, § 4, 12-9-13)

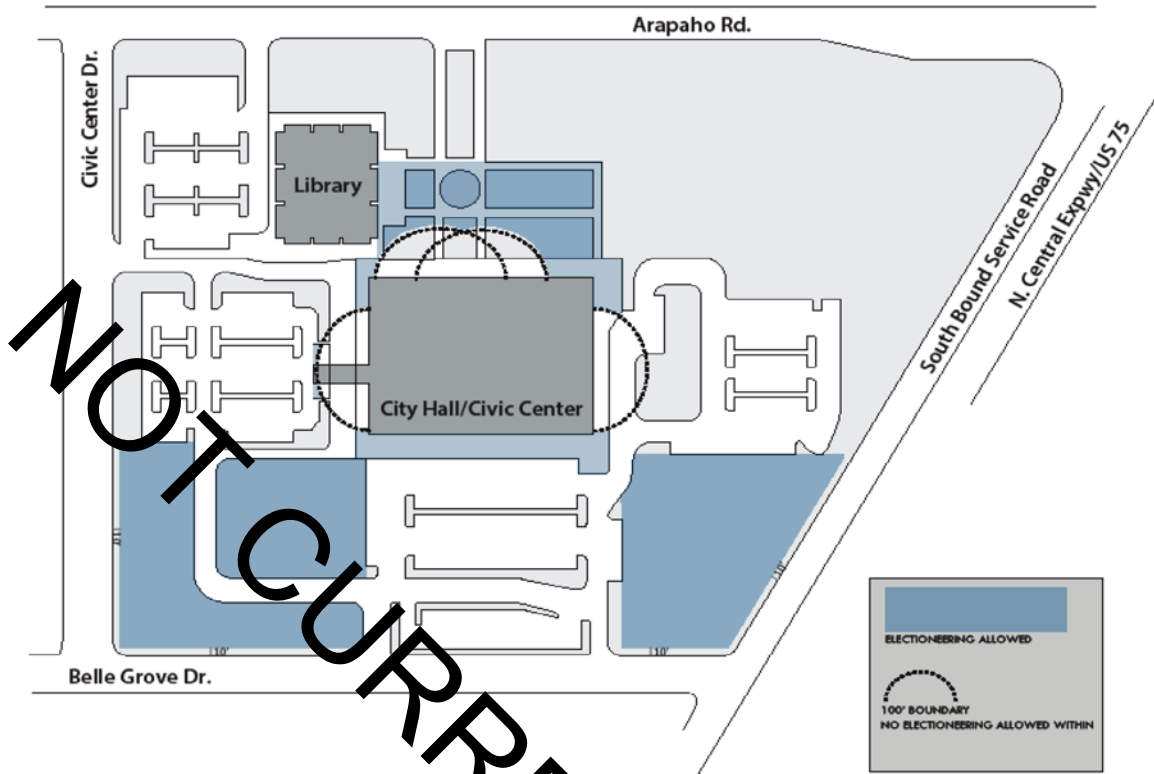
Sec. 13-192. - Regulations and exceptions.

- (a) The following regulations apply to electioneering on the premises of public property during the voting period:
- (1) It is an offense for any person to leave any electioneering sign or literature on public property that is used as a polling place other than during the voting period and for 30 minutes before and after the voting period.
 - (2) It is an offense for any person to engage in electioneering on driveways, parking areas, on medians within parking areas, or driveways on the premises of a polling location. This restriction shall not apply to electioneering signs that are attached to vehicles that are lawfully parked at the premises of a polling location.
 - (3) It is an offense for any person to attach, place or otherwise affix or erect any electioneering sign, literature or material in any area designated as a planting or landscaped area or to any tree, shrub, building, pole, or other improvement on public property used as a polling location.
 - (4) It is an offense for any person to place any electioneering sign or literature within ten feet of the public roadway adjacent to the public property where a polling location is located.
 - (5) It is an offense for any person to place an electioneering sign on the premises that exceeds 36 square feet and is more than eight feet in height, including any supporting poles, or to utilize any stake more than ten inches long or one foot in diameter.
 - (6) It is an offense for any person to post, use or distribute political signs or literature in any area of the premises of the City Hall/Civic Center except those areas in which electioneering is allowed in the diagram below.

A complete list of Sign Regulations is available at the following link:

https://www.municode.com/library/tx/richardson/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH18SIRE

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- (7) In addition to imposing any criminal penalty, electioneering sign(s) located in violation of this section may be removed and disposed of by the entity in control of the public property.
- (8) The authority to conduct electioneering on public property under this article is limited to the property on the premises where the voting is conducted and only for the voting period.
- (b) The regulations set forth in subsection (a) above, shall not apply to any City of Richardson authorized signs, materials or other messages on its property.

(Ord. No. 4036, § 4, 12-9-13)

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Sec. 18-5. - Prohibited signs.

It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, cause to have erected, or allow to remain erected any sign or condition prohibited in this section and shall remove such sign or correct such condition immediately upon notice by the building official:

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to display or advertise upon any sign any obscene, indecent or immoral matter.
- (2) No person shall erect, maintain or permit the erection of any balloon or other floating device anchored to the ground or to any structure, except as allowed by other provisions of this chapter.
- (3) No person shall locate, place or attach any sign, paper or other material or paint, stencil or write any name, number (except house numbers) or otherwise mark on any sidewalk, curb, gutter, street, tree, tower, public utility pole or structure, public building, street light, public fence, public right-of-way, fire hydrant, bridge, park bench, or public structure, or other location on public property, except such signs as allowed by this chapter or chapter 13, article XIII. Any sign placed on public property, or public right-of-way may be removed without prior notice.
- (4) No sign located internal or external to a building or vehicle shall be illuminated to an intensity to cause glare or brightness to a degree that could constitute a hazard or nuisance. Moving, flashing, animated, intermittently lighted, changing color, beacons, revolving or similarly constructed signs shall not be allowed except where permissible in this chapter. Jump clocks or digital display devices showing time or temperature may be allowed only by a special permit of the sign control board.
- (5) No person shall place on or suspend from the exterior of any building, pole, structure, projecting structure, parkway, driveway or parking area any goods, wares, merchandise or other advertising object or structure for the purpose of advertising such items, other than a sign as defined, regulated and prescribed by this chapter except as otherwise allowed by ordinance controlling the outside storage and display of goods, wares or merchandise.
- (6) No cloth, paper, banner, flag, device or other similar advertising matter shall be permitted to be attached, suspended from or allowed to hang loose from any sign, building or structure, except as allowed by other provisions of this chapter.
- (7) No lighted sign shall be erected within 150 feet of a residential property line unless lighting is shielded from view in the direction of the residential district. Signs erected at a public school that are regulated by an automated timer that limits the period of illumination from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. shall be permitted to be erected 50 feet or more from a residential property line.
- (8) No signs attached to a trailer, skid or similar mobile structure, where the primary use of such structure is for sign purposes, will be permitted. This provision does not restrict the identification signage on vehicles used for delivery service, interstate commerce or any bona fide transportation activity.
- (9) Vehicles to which signs are affixed shall be parked behind the rear building wall in which the business is legally operating unless the vehicle is actively being used for loading, unloading, or delivering goods, merchandise or services. Vehicles to which signs are affixed that cannot be physically parked behind the rear building wall in which a business is legally operating shall be parked in a single, marked parking space behind said building's front building wall. Vehicles to which signs are affixed that cannot be parked behind said building's front building wall shall be parked in a single, designated parking space a maximum of 100 feet from said business' primary entrance. Vehicles to which signs are affixed must be parked a minimum of 20 feet from any street right-of-way. Vehicles to which signs are affixed shall be parked completely and wholly in a single designated parking space. Signs attached to a vehicle shall be incidental to the bona fide use for transportation purposes of the vehicle to which the sign is attached. If a vehicle displaying a sign is not a bona fide use for transportation purposes, the vehicle shall be deemed

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to be a sign and subject to all provisions of this chapter pertaining to freestanding signs. It shall be a rebuttable presumption that a vehicular sign is not a bona fide use for transportation if the vehicle is stopped, parked, or allowed to remain at the same location within the site for any period exceeding 24 hours or contains arrows, directional information or promotional advertising relating to the business.

- (10) A-frame signs and sandwich-board signs are prohibited. Similar types of portable signs are prohibited except where specifically permitted in article III of this chapter.
- (11) No person shall erect, maintain or permit the erection of portable lighting displays including, but not limited to, laser lights and displays and searchlights.
- (12) A canopy may not be illuminated in a manner to allow the transmission of light through the canopy material unless allowed by a special permit of the sign control board.
- (13) Signs that are held by or attached to a human being, with the exception of political signs, are prohibited. A human sign includes a person dressed in costume for the purpose of advertising or otherwise drawing attention to an individual, business, commodity, service, activity or product.

(Ord. No. 3885, § 1, 9-24-12; Ord. No. 4036, § 1, 12-9-13)

Sec. 18-96. - Sign types described

This article concerns some of the types of permanent and temporary signs under the provisions of this chapter. This article further includes the purpose of each sign type, maximum size, number, location, landscaping requirements, design, and permit provisions for each type of sign. The criteria set forth in this article shall be in addition to all other criteria applicable and provided in this chapter.

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(24) Political signs (temporary).

- a. Definition/purpose: Signs which are political in nature.
- b. Size: 36 square feet, eight feet in height.
- c. Number: N/A.
- d. Location:
 - 1. Must be located on real private property with the consent of the property owner.
 - 2. Prohibited on public property, including the rights-of-way, except as allowed by chapter 13, article XIII.
 - 3. No signs may be placed in any locations that obstructs vision for traffic.
- e. Landscaping: N/A.
- f. Design: No political sign may be illuminated or have moving parts.
- g. Permit required: No.
 - 1. Any sign, on private property, in violation of the provision of this section may be removed by the community services department ten days after written notice to the property owner.
 - 2. Any sign placed on public property or in public right-of-way in violation of this chapter or chapter 13, article XIII may be removed without prior notice. The owner of the property and/or sign may be held responsible for any expenses incurred for the removal of any sign.

(Ord. No. 4036, § 3, 12-9-13)

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