



Village of Northbrook

DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING SERVICES

We often receive inquiries from citizens and political parties asking about the Village's regulations for the placement of political signs. The Village of Northbrook fully supports every citizen's right to free speech and political freedom. The Village's sign regulations are established in Article IX of the Northbrook Zoning Code. As you may be aware, the Village is in the process of reviewing these regulations through the Plan Commission Public Hearing process. For purposes of the Consolidated General Election that will occur on April 6, 2021, the following regulations will be in full force and effect in the Village:

- a) **Political signs may be placed on all portions of private property, including the front yard without a permit or fee.**
- b) The placement of ANY private sign, including political signs, is strictly **prohibited on public property, including, specifically, in the public right-of-way or public parkway** (the publicly-owned area between the sidewalk and the road). This also means that political signs cannot be placed on other publicly owned properties such as schools, parks or the Village's commuter parking lot, , with the sole exception of publicly-owned polling places during early voting and on election day. The Illinois Election Code has established standards for where political signs can and cannot be placed at polling places when voting is taking place.
- c) Individual political signs may not exceed **six (6) square feet** in area, which is the same maximum size as any other sign that may be placed on residential private property without a permit or fee. This size limit is applicable to both residential and non-residential properties.
- d) The Village does not enforce a numerical cap on the number of size-compliant political signs on private property.
- e) The Village will not regulate the content of any sign.
- f) There is no time limit for how long a political sign may be posted, either before or after an election.

Please note that political signs placed in the public right-of-way or upon public property, will be removed by Village personnel. Please make sure your signs are posted following these simple rules. If the Village receives a complaint for a sign on private property that does not comply with the standards listed above the Village will follow its normal enforcement procedures. This includes an enforcement notice being sent to both the candidate whose name appears on the sign as well as to the owner of the property on which the sign is located.. If you see a non-compliant sign, a complaint can be filed in the Village's online complaint system "GONorthbrook Service Requests" <https://www.northbrook.il.us/256/Service-Requests> Staff will follow up with the complaint as they do all items entered into the system.

Removing unlawfully placed signs along public roadways is a time-consuming and hazardous task for Village personnel and we ask for your patience and cooperation as we pursue enforcement.

We hope these guidelines help answer your questions about political signs. If you have specific questions about political signs, please feel free to contact me at chan.yu@northbrook.il.us or 847-664-4057.

Sincerely,

Chan Yu

Chan Yu
Deputy Director of Development & Planning Services

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