



MEMORANDUM

To: 2025 General Election Candidates
From: Rhonda Hansard, City Clerk
Date: July 28, 2025
Subject: Information on Placement of Political Signs

Dear Candidates:

The City of Dahlonega does not regulate the content of printed speech or media. Political and campaign signs are classified as Standard Informational Signs or Banners based on their size, location, and duration. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is cautioning state and local political candidates to ensure roadside signs are not placed in the GDOT right-of-way (ROW). On all other roads, the City of Dahlonega Code of Ordinances applies. Please reference Chapter 123 of Subpart B - Land Use and Land Development for more information on signage.

STANDARD INFORMATIONAL SIGNS

In addition to any other sign permitted by Chapter 123 of Subpart B - Land Use and Land Development, two informational signs are allowed on a single lot, subject to the following:

- (1.) *Size Limitation* - a.) for residential lots, a maximum size of six square feet of sign area, with a cumulative square footage of 12 square feet. Maximum height of any sign is three feet to the top of the sign; b.) for all nonresidential lots, signs shall be a maximum height of any sign is five feet to the top of the sign.
- (2.) *Location* - all signs shall have a minimum setback of ten feet rear and side from side property lines. For front setback, the sign must be at least two feet outside of the right-of-way. However, in no case will a sign be allowed to obscure vision at a street or driveway intersection, or railway crossing. For traffic and pedestrian safety, signs shall not be located within the triangular area on a corner lot formed by measuring 20 feet along both street side property lines from their intersection.
- (3.) *Function* - a.) these signs are limited to a display of noncommercial speech or commercial speech that pertains to a commercial enterprise located on the property, such as a for sale sign, a sign reflecting the property's home occupation, a campaign sign, a political sign, or a yard sale sign, by way of examples; b.) in the event that a court should adjudge any part of this subsection of the Chapter a violation of the Georgia or United States Constitutions or any other provision of law, it is the specific intent of the City Council that this provision referencing a limitation to noncommercial speech or commercial speech that pertains to a commercial enterprise located on the property be omitted from the chapter and the remainder of the Chapter stay in effect to regulate signs on property within the City. This severance section is in addition to the legislative intent expressed elsewhere in this Chapter.

- (4.) *Mounting devices* - Informational Signs shall be mounted on metal frames that do not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter or when mounted on frames of other material cannot exceed three-fourths inch by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in size. No message may be written on the mounting hardware, so that the entire message area of the sign is contained on the sign face itself.
- (5.) *Lighting prohibited* - Informational Signs may not be illuminated in any manner.