



# CITY OF DORAL

## CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL SIGNS INFORMATION

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As a candidate for the City of Doral City Council, it is imperative that you and your campaign staff abide with all applicable Florida Statutes and City of Doral Ordinances relating to campaign and political advertising.

Political advertising is governed primarily by Chapter 106 of the Florida Statutes and by **Chapter 14, Article IV, titled “Political Signs”** of the City of Doral Code of Ordinances. It is incumbent upon candidates and their campaign staffs to make themselves familiar with these provisions before beginning any campaign activities.

There are several rules in particular that candidates and campaign organizations should be aware of from the outset of a campaign. The following is a simplified description of these laws to put you on notice of the requirements:

### **Election / Political / Campaign Signage definitions:**

**Sec. 14-72** of the City Code defines “Election Signs” as *“signs announcing political candidates seeking public office or advocating positions relating to ballot issues”* which are prohibited on all public property. “Public Property” is defined as *“all publicly owned property, including streets, rights-of-way, and easements.”*

### **City of Doral Election Signage Prohibitions, Restrictions & Requirements**

For a complete listing of election signage prohibitions, restrictions and requirements please refer to Chapter 14, Article IV of the City Code which can be found in the City’s website at [www.cityofdoral.com](http://www.cityofdoral.com) in the “City Clerk” page under “Code of Ordinances.” The following list is a summary of the City of Doral election signage prohibitions, restrictions and requirements.

- Candidates are prohibited from posting an election sign on any public property. All unlawfully posted signs on public rights-of-way will be subject to removal by the City immediately.
- Candidates are limited to no more than one (1) election sign on any one (1) private property unless it is on a corner lot in which case two (2) signs per candidate are allowed.
- All campaign and political signs are limited to four (4) square feet in area and four (4) feet in height in residential districts. Signs in non-residential districts are limited to four (4) square feet in area and no more than six (6) feet in height.
- All campaign related roof signs, banners and/or balloons are prohibited.



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- All election signs must be removed seven (7) calendar days subsequent to the election.
- The operation of an election advertising vehicle upon any street under the city's jurisdiction is prohibited. Election advertising vehicles shall not include or attach any trailers or haul any other vehicle trailer. This prohibition does not apply to Private vehicles with no more than two (2) signs safely displayed, mass transit vehicles and taxicabs.
- All candidates must post a **cash bond of \$500.00** with the City Clerk during each election campaign. This bond is conditioned upon the candidate removing all election and political signs by the seven (7) day time limit. Failure to remove all signs will result in forfeiture of the bond. The bond will be returned upon verification by City of Doral Code Compliance that all signage relating to the candidate's campaign has been removed.

## ARTICLE IV. - POLITICAL SIGNS

### Sec. 14-72. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Election signs* are signs announcing political candidates seeking public office or advocating positions relating to ballot issues.

*Public property* means all publicly owned property, including streets, rights-of-way, and easements.

(Ord. No. 2006-19, § 2(I-1), 6-28-2006)

### Sec. 14-73. - Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to promote the public health, safety and welfare through the regulation of placement, size, type, and removal of election signs.

(Ord. No. 2006-19, § 2(I-2(intro.)), 6-28-2006)

### Sec. 14-74. - Regulations for placement, size, type, removal, etc.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to post an election sign upon any public property in the city including, but not limited to, signs posted for any local, county, state, national, or special district elections. Unlawfully posted signs on public rights-of-way shall be subject to removal by the city immediately.
- (b) Election signs shall be permitted in all zoning districts. Election signs shall be placed at least five feet from the right-of-way.
- (c) No more than one election sign per candidate, measure or issue shall be permitted on any one private property site unless it is on a corner lot, in which case two signs per candidate, measure, or issue may be placed.
- (d) The maximum size of any election sign shall not exceed four square feet in area and four feet in height in residential districts. Elections signs in nonresidential districts shall not exceed four square feet in area and shall not exceed six feet in height.
- (e) Election roof signs, banners or balloons are prohibited in all districts.
- (f) No election sign may be placed upon private property sooner than 60 days prior to the election in which the candidate's name or ballot issue shall appear on the ballot. In the event of a runoff election following a primary election, political signs may remain on private property until seven days after the runoff election notwithstanding the fact that the runoff is later than 30 days following the primary election.
- (g) All election signs shall be removed seven calendar days subsequent to the election for which they relate.

(Ord. No. 2006-19, § 2(I-2), 6-28-2006; Ord. No. 2012-27, § 1, 10-30-2012, eff. 11-3-2012)

### Sec. 14-75. - Pre-election requirements.

- (a) Prior to the posting of election signs, each candidate, campaign chairperson, firm or corporation shall file with the city clerk's office and provide the local address and telephone number at which the candidate, campaign chairperson, firm or corporation wishing to post the signs may be reached during normal business hours concerning any violations of this article or requirements of the city.

- (b) A cash bond of \$500.00 shall be required from each election campaign. This bond shall be conditioned upon the removal of all political signs of that candidate or issue within seven calendar days of the election to which they relate. Failure to remove all the signs shall be cause for the city manager or his designee to direct that the signs be removed by the city and the bond forfeited. The cash bond may be waived by the city clerk's office, in its discretion, when and if the candidate is able to show good cause that posting the cash bond would result in considerable financial hardship. Burden is on the candidate to demonstrate that requiring the posting of the bond would result in a considerable financial hardship.
- (c) The cash bond shall be returned upon timely request from the election campaign and verification from the code compliance division that all election signs have been removed within the time limits of this article. Successful candidates in nominating or elections may continue to display their signs during interval between the nominating or primary and general elections without posting an additional bond.

(Ord. No. 2006-19, § 2(I-3), 6-28-2006)

Sec. 14-76. - Election advertising vehicles prohibited; penalties.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate an election advertising vehicle upon any street under the city's jurisdictions. An election advertising vehicle is any wheeled conveyance designed or used for the primary purpose of displaying election and/or campaign signs. Election advertising vehicles shall not include or attach any trailers or haul any other vehicle or trailer. This section shall not apply to:
  - (1) Private vehicles which have no more than two signs safely displayed, the size of which shall comply with section 14-74
  - (2) Mass transit and public transportation, including, but not limited to, buses.
  - (3) Taxicabs.
- (b) Penalties. A violation of this section shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$500.00 or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding 60 days, or both such fine and imprisonment.

(Ord. No. 2006-19, § 2(I-4), 6-28-2006)

Sec. 14-77. - Enforcement procedures.

- (a) Any violation or repeat violation of this article may be pursued by the code enforcement division by any means available by law or equity, at the option of the city manager or his designee. Any person or campaign violating this section shall be issued a civil violation (citation) in the amount of \$100.00 per violation.
- (b) After 24 hours' notification is given to the campaign chairperson or a designee, the city manager or his designee may draw on the bond placed pursuant to this section towards the payment of any delinquent penalties which are assessed by the city for any violations of the provisions herein. Notification shall be deemed legally sufficient upon the city, during regular business hours, attempting to contact by telephone the number by which the chairperson or a designee filed with the city clerk's office. Notification shall not be required within 48 hours of the election. Penalties may be assessed immediately upon violation within 48 hours of an election.

(Ord. No. 2006-19, § 2(I-5), 6-28-2006)