

PLACEMENT OF POLITICAL/TEMPORARY SIGNAGE

Per: Title 21-A, M.R.S.A., Sub Section 682-3;

Signage bearing political messages **may not** be placed within **250 feet of the polling place** in public ways (**Stearns High School Gymnasium**); **250'** also applies to Absentee Voting location (**Municipal Building**) **90 days prior to**.

All Municipal/Govt property are also prohibited locations.

While not prohibited by statute/ordinance; it is Millinocket's longstanding tradition that candidates refrain from placing political signage on designated Veteran Memorials (Veteran's Memorial Park).

The Maine Department of Transportation has provided the following information concerning statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to placement of **temporary/political** posters and signs.

It is suggested that this information be passed on to all campaign workers & supporters.

The provision of Title 23, M.R.S.A., Sub Section 1913-A and Department Regulation, provide for **political/temporary/event (commercial prohibited)** signage & posters as follows:

- May be erected within the right-of-way limits of public ways **6' or more wide**, may not exceed 4x8'. They must be affixed to their own stake or post, may be attached to a building or dwelling (with permission), or displayed on vehicles.
- **Shall NOT be erected/affixed or maintained on/in: any traffic control signs/posts/devices or public utility poles/fixtures, along/within any rotary/traffic island, any tree/rock in ROW, any control-of-access area, municipal or federal property.**
- Posting is **limited to 12 weeks during any one calendar year.**
- Sign **MUST** contain: owners **Name, Contact info**, and the **Date of placement.**
- Signage; similar/same message: may be placed **no closer than 30' of one another.**
- May be erected on **private** property **outside the right-of-way limits of public ways** at any time prior to an election, limited in size to a maximum of 50 square feet.
- Shall not be erected on private property without permission.
- May be displayed in view to all public ways **except** the Interstate Highway System; Signs **may not** be placed within the limits of any controlled access highway nor erected **within 660'** of the nearest edge of the Interstate Highway System nor in such a manner **that the message may be read from the Interstate Highway System.**
- Traffic safety should be of the utmost consideration in placement of political/temp signs. Candidates and campaign workers should take great care **not to place signs or posters that might impede visibility or could create any type of traffic hazard.**
- The **unauthorized** removal or destruction of political signs is a civil violation under Maine law, and may carry a fine of up to \$250. Specifically, the law states that "a person who takes, defaces or disturbs a **lawfully** placed sign bearing political messages relating to a general election, primary election or referendum commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of up to \$250 may be adjudged". The municipality is authorized to remove all non-conforming signage following 14-day notice, or without notice if for public safety.
- **Commercial signage is expressly PROHIBITED; unless via regulated purchase w/MDOT.**