

Town of Shoreham

Political Campaign Signs & Polling Place Conduct Policy

- I. This policy is informed by the **Polling Place & Sign Rules** guidance provided by the Office of the Vermont Secretary of State and Vermont state statute that governs temporary political signs [attached].

- II. **Town Highway Temporary Campaign Signs**
The Town of Shoreham Unified Development Regulations §4.113(C)(6) exempt temporary election signs from local ordinance. State law must be followed.

- III. **Public Property (17 V.S.A. § 2508)**
 - A. **Inside the polling place**
The presiding Election Officer [the Town Clerk] is responsible for ensuring that the following campaign materials are not placed, handed out, displayed, or allowed to remain within a building containing a polling place:
 1. Campaign literature
 2. Stickers
 3. Buttons
 4. Names stamps
 5. Visible clothing
 6. Candidate information (including signs)
 7. Other political materials, at the discretion of the presiding Election Officer

 - B. **Outside the polling place**
The presiding Election Officer controls the placement of signs on the property where the polling place is located in a fair and even-handed manner. The Town of Shoreham further requires that:
 1. No signs are to be affixed to the Town Office.
 2. No signs are to be placed in or on the parking lot and driveway between the Platt Memorial Library and the Town Office.
 3. One sign in the ground per candidate is permitted on Town property.
 4. Candidates, political workers, and pollsters are not to block access to the polling place nor limit the visibility on Main Street between School Street and Firehouse Road.
 5. No campaigning, electioneering, discussion of the election, or poll-taking is to take place within the Town Office.
 6. Questions are to be directed to the presiding Election Officer.

This is the official policy as by the presiding Election Officer (Shoreham Town Clerk).

Laura Siebecker, *Shoreham Town Clerk*
October 23, 2024

Reviewed and approved by the Shoreham Board of Civil Authority and the Shoreham Selectboard on **October 23, 2024**.

Office of the Vermont Secretary of State - Elections Division

Polling Place & Sign Rules

Political Campaigning Outside of Polling Places on Election Day (17 V.S.A. §2508)

1. Political campaign signs at the polling place on Election Day may be regulated by the presiding officer.
2. Candidates or political activists can stand outside of polling places on the day of election and hand out brochures or “palm cards” to voters as long as they do not hinder or impede the progress of voters going into and out of the polling place.
3. Exit polls or surveys can be done outside of the polling place as long as a voter voluntarily offers to participate and the persons conducting the polls or surveys does not hinder or impede the progress of the voter as he or she enters or leaves the polling place.
4. Any person can park a car, van, or truck in a legal parking space on a public street or in a public parking lot with a political campaign sign displayed even in the vicinity of the polling place.
5. In establishing reasonable rules for campaigning outside of the polling place, the presiding officer must establish a sufficient number of parking spaces to allow voters with disabilities to have access to the polling place, or to have two election officials bring ballots out to the disabled person’s car.

Placement of Political Campaign Signs

The Office of the Secretary of State, Elections Division has no authority to regulate placement of political campaign signs. However, to assist both candidates and municipal officials, we provide the following brief guide to laws in Vermont that may govern temporary political signs.

1. You must obtain permission of the property owner before you place any sign.
2. It is a violation of criminal law to put a sign on any utility pole in Vermont. 13 V.S.A. §301
3. The Agency of Transportation (Travel Information Council) enforces Vermont’s sign law. 10 V.S.A. §§481-506. The Travel Information Council or the Agency of Transportation are authorized to remove signs that are in violation. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Signs may not be located within state highway rights-of-way or attached to a state or town sign, post or guardrail.
 - b. Signs should be removed immediately after the election.
 - c. Signs may not be attached to trees.
 - d. Signs may not interfere with, imitate, or resemble any official traffic control sign, signal, or device; or appear to attempt to direct the movement of traffic.
 - e. Signs may not be located in a way that prevents drivers from having a clear and unobstructed view of official traffic control signs and approaching or merging traffic.
 - f. Signs may not be positioned so that they are readable primarily from a limited access facility.
 - g. Signs must be in good repair and securely affixed to a substantial structure.
4. On town highways temporary campaign signs may be displayed for a period of not more than two weeks within the highway right-of-way because they are exempt from the state sign law under 10 V.S.A. §494(9).
5. Temporary political campaign signs on public or private property may also be regulated by either a local sign ordinance (24 V.S.A. §1971 and §2291) or a municipal zoning bylaw (24 V.S.A. §4404).

Town of Shoreham
Polling Place Map for Campaigning

