

PennDOT Guidance for Political Signs

As candidates begin their campaigns and potentially use signs in their communities, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is sharing guidance on where they may be placed.

Per federal and state laws, unauthorized signs cannot be placed within the PennDOT right-of-way along state roads, interstates, expressways, and other limited access highways. Any political sign or banner placed within the right-of-way is considered an illegal encroachment. Political signs also cannot be attached on light or signal posts, guide rail or other PennDOT traffic control devices. Illegal signs can be removed at any time by PennDOT without notice to the owner.

Additionally, the public may not erect or place any sign or other encroachment (such as fences, walls and lights) of any nature, including a temporary sign, on PennDOT right-of-way. Political signs placed along roadways may pose the following risks to those using and maintaining the highway:

- Reduced sight distance at intersections or of official traffic control devices;
- Distraction to motorists when posted along the highway; and
- Parts of signs left behind become a hazard to pedestrians and vehicles and could cause damage to PennDOT equipment as well as become a safety hazard for PennDOT personnel.

Political signs can be placed on private property, outside the highway right-of-way, with the property owner's permission. Political signs are considered temporary and campaigns are responsible for removing them immediately after the election is over.

For more information about the political signs and outdoor advertising visit www.penndot.pa.gov/outdooradvertising. You may also find contact information for the local [PennDOT Engineering District Office](#) near you at www.penndot.pa.gov under "Regional Offices."

Background on PennDOT's role in outdoor advertising regulation:

Federal regulation (23 CFR § 1.23) and the State Highway Law (36 P.S. § 670-425) requires the area within the highway right-of-way be devoted exclusively to public highway purposes which generally means only official traffic signs are permitted within the right-of-way. PennDOT is responsible for ensuring the right-of-way is free from all encroachments including illegal signs.

Additionally, the federal Highway Beautification Act (23 U.S.C. § 131) requires states to control outdoor advertising outside of the highway right-of-way along defined routes. Pennsylvania regulates these devices in accordance with the Outdoor Advertising Control Act of 1971 (36 P.S. § 2718.101 *et seq.*) and its corresponding regulations (67 Pa. Code, Chapter 445).