

City of ROLLA



News Release

901 North Elm Street
Rolla, MO 65401

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Contact: John D. Butz
City Administrator
jbutz@rollacity.org

For Immediate Release:

Political Signs Are Protected

With the November election nearing, it is good to remember the rules and regulations pertaining to the placement and care of political signs. Everyone has the right to free speech and political signage is no different; however, there are ordinances that govern all signage placed within the City of Rolla.

Signs, temporary or permanent, should not be placed in the public right-of-way, including local streets and state highways. Signs must be located on private property and always with the consent of the property owner (Rolla City Code Sec. 42-342). Signs placed in the public right-of-way or on other public properties will be removed. As signs are permitted on private property it is recommended that temporary (political) signs be placed five feet (5') behind sidewalks or ten feet (10') from the curb if no sidewalk exists.

Residential lots are permitted to have up to 32 square feet of signage in total. A property owner may have several signs in their yard or attached to the house, but the total may not exceed 32 square feet. The total applies to any type of sign on one single property, to include political signage. Signs are also limited to six feet (6') in height. (Rolla City Code Sec. 42-344)

On commercial properties each tenant (or business) is allowed two signs, totaling a maximum of 32 square feet of temporary signage. Vacant commercial lots are allowed up to 96 square feet of total signage. (Rolla City Code Sec. 42-346)

Stealing and/or damaging signage is considered theft and/or vandalism and can be prosecuted. Missouri law makes the willful defacing, mutilating, destroying or stealing of election signs a Class 4 (election) offense -- a misdemeanor crime with a punishment of up to a year in jail and/or a \$2,500 fine. Missouri law does recognize the property owner's right to remove signs from their own property (RSMo Section 115.673).

For additional information on signage in the City of Rolla please contact the Community Development Department at (573)364-5333.

