



**Red, white, blue and safe: properly locating signs is patriotic**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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One way candidates running for office and their volunteers can help promote safety this election season is by observing proper placement of campaign signs.

In recent years, candidates have been cooperative with obeying state law by not placing campaign signs on public rights of way. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation reminds candidates to continue complying with the state law as elections draw near by not posting signs illegally, which could put many people in harm's way.

Extra signs can be distracting to drivers and are a safety hazard. In addition, campaign volunteers may unwittingly put their safety at risk while placing signs in the rights of way or on bridges and overpasses.

Political signs do not belong on public property. In fact, state law prohibits these signs on highway rights of way or on overpasses. For the full text of the law, please read 69 O.S. § 1208 (b).

The solution is to place signs on private property with the landowner's permission.

Oklahoma taxpayers foot the bill for removal of signs and trash. More than \$4 million is spent each year, plus untold volunteer hours, for trash pick-up along Oklahoma highways. That's in addition to what county and municipal governments spend to keep Oklahoma clean.

Within city limits, candidates should check local ordinances for questions regarding municipally maintained rights of way. However, even within city limits, signs are prohibited on state-maintained highways, overpasses and bridges.

--[www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us)--

**(Editors and News Directors: The specific statute prohibiting signs and other structures on the public right of way is located at 69 O.S. § 1208 (b). For more information call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)**

**INFORMATION RELEASE**

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