



Safety should be observed as campaigns heat up

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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As the weather cools down this fall, the various political campaigns are heating up. While most campaigns will have their share of differences, one thing all candidates need to agree on is campaigning safely by observing proper placement of campaign signs.

With elections drawing near, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation reminds candidates to comply with the state law by not posting signs illegally, which could put many people in harm's way.

Campaign signs in the public rights of way can be distracting to drivers and are a safety hazard. In addition, campaign volunteers may be putting 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 illegally placed signs and trash removal. 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.

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(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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Campaign signs and highways – what you need to know

In this election season, please take the time to educate your volunteers and staff on the law and do not place any signs along highway rights-of-way in Oklahoma.

- Oklahoma State Statute 69, Section 1208, declares material on state highway rights-of-way (between fences and bordering highways) as “prohibited – a public nuisance.”

Illegally placed signs along highways or on bridges in Oklahoma:

- ***Jeopardize public safety***
- ***Create maintenance hazards***
- ***Are removed at taxpayer expense***

Oklahoma Department of Transportation crews must clean up all illegally placed materials. It is a waste of tax dollars and your campaign money.

Please keep your signs off highway rights-of-way this election year. Carefully consider your sign placement; seek permission from landowners before placing signs on private property.

Save tax dollars and any possible embarrassment to your campaign by following the law.