



Legal Department

City of Johnson City
601 E. Main St
Johnson City, TN 37601
423 434 6009 | legal@JohnsonCityTN.org

September 14, 2026

To: Candidates Running for City Commission
From: Thomas J. Seeley, III, City Attorney
Re: Political Campaign Sign Placement and Restrictions

Political campaign signs are subject to the following restrictions pursuant to Sections 4 and 7 of the Johnson City Zoning Code:

1. Signs are not allowed on public property (schools, parks, etc.), except in the areas designated by the applicable county election commission (Washington, Carter, or Sullivan County, depending on where the voting place is located) for candidate/campaign sign placement at voting places. (See T.C.A. § 2-7-111 and T.C.A. § 2-19-206).
2. Signs are not allowed in median areas between traffic lanes (for example, University Parkway or islands at Gray Commons Circle entrances to Fire Station 8) (JC Zoning Code §7.2.2(J)).
3. Signs are not allowed between the sidewalk and the curb.
4. Signs may not be posted on controlled access roads, such as the interstate and sections of State of Franklin Road. (JC Zoning Code §7.2.2(J)). State of Franklin's right-of-way narrows along the section between University Parkway and Legion Street. A sign placed at least 7.5 feet from the roadway and outside the area between the curb and sidewalk in that section of State of Franklin would likely be placed on private property, where this prohibition does not apply.
5. Signs may not be posted on telephone poles, power poles, or street light poles (JC Zoning Code §7.2.2(F)).
6. Vehicles or trailers parked on rights-of-way for the primary purpose of displaying political signage are prohibited (JC Zoning Code §§ 7.1.2 and 7.2.2(K)).
7. Signs shall be placed a minimum of 7.5 feet from any property line or public street right-of-way. (JC Zoning Code §7.2.2(D)). If the adjoining street right-of-way is less than 50 feet in width, each such sign shall be located no closer than 35 feet from the centerline of the right-of-way. (JC Zoning Code §7.1.3.4).

Placement of signs along the right-of-way shall comply with Section 4.11 of the Johnson City Zoning Code, which deals with vision clearance at street intersections. (A copy of Section 4.11 is attached to this memo for easy reference).

8. The maximum size of political signs placed within 60 days before the first day of voting is 16 sq ft for residential properties and 32 sq ft for commercial properties. These signs may only be placed by the property owner or a lawful resident of the property. (T.C.A. §2-7-143)
9. All signs must be removed within forty-eight (48) hours after the election. (JC Zoning Code §7.3) (This removal deadline falls after the close of the state-law protected display period under T.C.A. § 2-7-143(b), which ends the day after voting concludes, so it does not conflict with the Act.)

Additionally, the Johnson City Logo and phrase "Go. All. Out" are wordmarks trademarked with the U.S. Trademark and Patent Office. Any use of these trademarks without prior permission is prohibited.

Any sign found to be in violation of the above listed regulations will be removed by city work crews. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that any signs distributed during their campaign comply with these regulations.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me at tom@jctnlaw.com or (423) 434-6009. City Manager, Cathy Ball, and I will be happy to meet with you if you have any questions.



Thomas J. Seeley, III
Attorney for City of Johnson City