

**POLICIES OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
COUNTY OF DICKINSON**

CATEGORY Roadway

POLICY NO 15

AMENDMENT NO 1

SUBJECT Political Signs

ADOPTED ON August 14, 2012

A motion was made by Chairman Harris and supported by Commissioner Carey that it shall be the policy of the Dickinson County Road Commission that:

1. The placement of political signs adjacent to County Roads must be placed a minimum of 14 feet from the outside edge of the shoulder of the roadway.
2. Political signs shall not be placed within the "clear vision" areas on intersections that will interfere with safety.
3. All political signs must be removed from the county right-of-way within 10 days after the election.
4. The Road Commission reserves the right to remove any sign which has not been placed in accordance with this policy.

All ayes and the motion carried.



James Harris, Chairman



Sandra Lindholm, Clerk to the Board



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

BRADLEY C. WIEFERICH, P.E.
DIRECTOR

May 28, 2024

Dear Election Parties and Candidates:

Subject: Political Campaign Sign Placement

During this election year, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) would like to remind all candidates that campaign signs can interfere with motorist and pedestrian vision along streets and highways. In previous years, most political candidates cooperated willingly with respect to the proper posting of signs.

We are asking for your help in advising candidates of our sign placement criteria for the upcoming elections, which is as follows:

- Signs must be more than 30 feet from the edge of the roadway (white line) for highways that do not have barrier-type curbs. For highways with barrier curbs, signs must be more than three feet from the back of the curb.
- Signs will not be placed within clear vision areas at intersections or commercial driveways so they will not interfere with the sight distance of a driver.
- Signs will not be placed within freeway right-of-way, along any other limited access highway, within rest areas, roadside parks and car pool lots.
- It is the candidate's responsibility to obtain any necessary approval from the adjacent property owner prior to posting signs.
- All signs are to be removed within 10 days after the election.

Political campaign signs that do not meet these criteria will be removed in the interest of safety. They will be kept for seven days at a local MDOT facility, after which they will be discarded. A contact list of appropriate MDOT Transportation Service Centers (TSC) is enclosed.

There are additional limitations on signs that apply to everyone. For example, the Highway Advertising Act applies to signs placed adjacent to the right-of-way and specific laws restrict the placement of banners over highways.

Your cooperation in distributing this information to your party's candidates and staff is appreciated. Further information on the placement of campaign signs may be obtained from your local MDOT TSC as well.

PRIMARY REASONS THE POLICY WAS ADOPTED:

Clear vision areas are designed as such and include most intersections and must be clear of all types of signage. The primary reason is to be sure of adequate sight vision and limit distractions.

Signage at intersections and other places in the right-of-way is problematic for maintenance operations.

Benefits to proper placement of signs per policy:

Signs will remain in place and undisturbed by Road Commission mowing operations and/or removal.

An early snowstorm and resulting plowing is less likely to destroy or cover the signs

The Road Commission does not have to place employees in an unnecessary situation of removing the signs that could result in an incident or accident and also creates unproductive labor in the removal process.

Road Commission operations are not impacted thereby maintaining efficiency and productivity

The mower heads are not damaged and there is reduced down time/mechanical repairs due to the metal frame wire in the signs being wrapped around the cutting head components.

When properly placed, with adjacent landowner permission, the Road Commission does not receive calls from unhappy citizens to remove the signs in front of their property

Cities have their own individual placement policies

Jim Harris

From: Doyle, Larry (MDOT) <DoyleL@michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 8:25 AM
To: Jim Harris
Cc: Greene, Scott (MDOT)
Subject: RE: Political Signs

Jim,

I received your voicemail about political signs in the median of US-2. I assume this is in the median area west of Norway. While this area isn't limited access, MDOT did purchase this ROW in fee so the political signs can be removed.

Larry

From: Jim Harris <jim@dickinsoncrc.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 10:06 AM
To: Doyle, Larry (MDOT) <DoyleL@michigan.gov>
Cc: Jim Harris <jim@dickinsoncrc.com>
Subject: RE: Political Signs

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Looks great Larry, thank you for the revised version,



James Harris – Managing Director
Dickinson County Road Commission
(906) 774-1588 - Office
(906) 774-7227 - Fax

From: Doyle, Larry (MDOT) <DoyleL@michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 2:13 PM
To: Jim Harris <jim@dickinsoncrc.com>
Cc: Todd Donaldson <donaldson@dickinsoncrc.com>
Subject: RE: Political Signs

Jim,

The letters were already sent out for this year, but I revised the attached for your use.

Larry