



We often receive inquiries from citizens and political parties asking about the Village's regulations for the placement of political signs. The Village of Northbrook fully supports every citizen's right to free speech and political freedom. The Village's sign regulations are established in Article IX of the Northbrook Zoning Code. As you may be aware, the Village revised its signage regulations in 2021. In preparation for the Election that will occur on April 1, 2025, please note that the following regulations are in full force and effect in the Village:

- a) Political signs are classified as "**Non-Commercial Message Signs**," under Section 9-106 F (6) of the Northbrook Zoning Code.
- b) **Non-commercial message signs are permitted in all zoning districts without a permit or fee, and may be placed on any portion of a privately owned residentially zoned lot, including any portion of the front yard.**
- c) Non-commercial message signs **may not be located closer than six (6) feet from any lot line on a non-residentially zoned property**
- d) The placement of ANY non-commercial message sign, including political signs, is strictly **prohibited on public property, including, specifically, in the public right-of-way or public parkway** (the publicly-owned area between the sidewalk and the road). This also means that political signs cannot be placed on other publicly-owned properties such as schools, parks or the Village's commuter parking lot, with the sole exception of publicly-owned polling places during early voting and on election day. The Illinois Election Code has established standards for where political signs can and cannot be placed at polling places when voting is taking place.
- d) Individual non-commercial message signs may not exceed **six (6) square feet in area and four (4) feet in height**. This size limit is applicable to both residential and non-residential properties.
- e) The Village does not enforce a numerical limit on the number of size-compliant non-commercial message signs on private property.
- f) The Village does not regulate the content of any sign.
- g) There is no time limit for how long a non-commercial message sign may be posted, either before or after an election.

Please note that non-commercial message signs that are unlawfully placed in the public right-of-way or upon public property will be removed by Village personnel.

Please make sure your signs are posted following these simple rules. If the Village receives a complaint about a non-commercial message sign on private property that does not comply with the standards listed above, the Village will follow its normal enforcement procedures. This includes an enforcement notice being sent to both the candidate whose name appears on the sign as well as to the owner of the property on which the sign is located. If you see a non-compliant sign, a complaint can be filed in the Village's online complaint system "GONorthbrook Service Requests" <https://www.northbrook.il.us/256/Service-Requests> Village Staff will follow up with the complaint as they do all items entered into the system.

Removing unlawfully placed signs along public roadways is a time-consuming and hazardous task for Village personnel and we ask for your patience and cooperation as we pursue enforcement.

We hope these guidelines help answer your questions about political signs. If you have specific questions about signs, please feel free to contact Richard Peters, Zoning Administrator at richard.peters@northbrook.il.us or at 847-664-4055.