

STATE OF TEXAS

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COMMISSIONERS COURT

COUNTY OF PALO PINTO

**ORDER
ELECTIONEERING REGULATIONS**

1. Purpose and Scope.

- (a) The County of Palo Pinto County (“County”), has authority, pursuant to Section 61.003 and Section 85.036 of the Texas Election Code, to enact reasonable regulations concerning the time, place, and manner of electioneering within County limits; and the County now desires to adopt and establish certain rules and regulations that will govern the time, place, and manner of electioneering within County-owned property. The County finds that the adoption of this policy is in the best interest of its citizens and serves a public purpose, and protects the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the County of Palo Pinto.
- (b) These Electioneering Regulations apply to County-owned property and County-owned property used as polling locations during a voting period (“Property”).
- (c) It is the purpose of these Regulations:
 - (1) To provide reasonable regulations for electioneering on the Property during a voting period.
 - (2) To establish an electioneering-free zone within one hundred feet (100’) of any outside door through which a voter may enter a building containing a polling place during any voting period, against persons electioneering for or against any candidate, measure, or political party.
 - (3) To prevent damage to public property and to ensure that a polling place location is sufficiently available during a voting period for those who use the facilities other than for election purposes.
 - (4) To protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the County.
 - (5) To protect the voters and the integrity of the election process.
- (d) These Regulations shall not be construed in violation of County policy, state or federal statute, or other applicable law. Any word, phrase, paragraph, or section of these Regulations is severable and should any part be declared unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect any remaining word, phrase, paragraph, or section.

2. Regulations:

- (a) No one shall post political signs or literature on the Property at any time other than during the voting period of a particular election, as defined in Section 61.003 (b)(2) of the Texas Elections Code, and for 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after the voting period ends. All political signs shall comply with all state and federal requirements,

including Texas Election Code, Chapters 255 and 259 and Section 61.003, and Texas Trans. Code Chapters 392 and 393.

- (b) No one may post political signs using posts that may damage subterranean water and electrical lines. For purposes of these regulations, the term “posts” shall include, but not limited to, wooden stakes, rebar, PVC posts, metal posts and/or metal “T-posts” typically used with farm and ranch type fencing.
- (c) No one may post political signs larger than 36 square feet or taller than eight (8) feet from the ground, including supporting poles, to the extent regulation of political signs is preempted and controlled by Tex. Loc. Gov't Code 216.903/259.003.
- (d) No one may post a political sign in any location that obstructs vision for traffic entering, exiting, or driving in, on or around the Property.
- (e) No one may post a political sign on any permanent structures, including buildings, fences, gates, trees, or other landscape on the Property.
- (f) No more than six (6) signs per candidate may be placed or erected upon the Property within the designated area for electioneering. Political signs that are personally held by individuals at polling locations during a voting period will not count towards the maximum number of allowed political signs that may be placed or erected under this provision; provided, however, such political signs may not exceed the height and size maximums set out herein and they must not obstruct the view of traffic and must be within the designated area for electioneering.
- (g) Any political sign in violation of these regulations may be removed by the County staff and placed in temporary storage. The owners of removed political signs may contact the County Public Works during normal business hours to arrange a time to pick them up. If the owner of the political sign fails to pick up any removed signs within seven (7) days following the voting period, the County will dispose of them.

3. Designated Area for Electioneering.

- (a) Designated Area for Electioneering means those areas shown on Exhibit A identified as Designated Electioneering Area for electioneering which would otherwise be prohibited for Electioneering under the County’s building and property use policy or other sections in these Regulations.
- (b) No one shall loiter or electioneer on sidewalks or driveways and interfere with citizen access to polling locations unless the sidewalk or driveway is a part of the specifically designated area for electioneering. This prohibition does not apply to passive expressions of speech such as bumper stickers or wearing clothing, hats or pins which may be considered electioneering.
- (c) No one shall post or place political signs in public easements or rights-of-way.

