

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Candidates

FROM: Tiffannie A. Alligood, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Campaign Signs

DATE: February 11, 2021

Pursuant to Pasco County Ordinance 20-02, approved by the Board of County Commissioners on January 21, 2020, the Pasco County Supervisor of Elections is notifying all candidates of the county's revised policy regarding Campaign Practices (Pasco County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 115).

The ordinance effects Resolution 11-300 which will be enforced each election cycle. Please read the attached resolution and familiarize yourself with all of the conditions listed (1-10) regarding the placement and removal of all political signs.

Additionally, the resolution references 102.031(4)(a), Florida Statutes which has been revised to be 150 feet of the entrance to polling places, polling rooms, and early voting sites. Since the 100-foot reference is not an operative part of the resolution, the county resolution will not be updated to reflect the change to 150 feet (Florida Statutes prevail).

Candidates should also review all information from the Pasco County Land Develop Code regarding temporary signs (Section 406.1.6). The candidate is responsible for following all standards set forth by the county.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact me at 800-851-8754 or talligood@pascovotes.gov.

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA TO ACCEPT AND GOVERN THE PROPOSED POLICY REGARDING SIGNAGE ERECTED AT EARLY VOTING SITES OR POLLING PLACES ON PASCO COUNTY PROPERTIES DURING EARLY VOTING PERIODS AND ON ELECTION DAY.

WHEREAS, the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners may, when acting in its proprietary capacity, prohibit citizens from erecting signage of any type on Pasco County properties, but wishes to provide a limited forum for the erection of signs at County-owned properties that are used as early voting sites or polling places, during periods of early voting and on Election Day, in order that the public may be better educated on candidates and issues; and

WHEREAS, large signs that are temporarily erected or placed upon public property are a potential hazard to public safety if they fall or become unsecured or unfastened; and

WHEREAS, signs erected within the clear-sight triangle can block motorist and pedestrian vision at intersections or driveway entrances; and

WHEREAS, the installation of signs with long shafts/structural supports, or shafts that require the use of a post-hole digger, shovel, or other digging implements to install, can damage buried cables or utility lines; and

WHEREAS, holes caused by signs erected on public property create hazards for pedestrians if not properly filled in; and

WHEREAS, the public space available for the public to erect temporary signs is limited and must be shared by multiple speakers; and

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners may impose reasonable time, place and manner restrictions on the use of the limited forum for the erection of signs during periods of early voting at County-owned properties that are used as early voting sites or polling places ; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 102.031(4)(a), Florida Statutes, nothing in this resolution is intended or shall be construed to permit the erection of signs within 100 feet of the entrance to any polling place, polling room, or early voting site.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pasco County, Florida in regular session duly assembled that said Board hereby declares that, during periods of early voting, and within 24 hours before, and 48 hours after the end of early voting, signs shall be permitted on the property or right-of-way at County facilities being used as early voting sites, provided all of the following conditions are met. On Election Day, and within 24 hours before, and 48 hours after the close of the polls on Election Day, signs shall be permitted on the property or right-of-way at County facilities being used as polling places, provided all of the following conditions are met. The conditions for the erection of signs at early voting sites and polling places located on County-owned property are as follows:

1. Signs may not exceed eight feet total in surface area, and may not exceed 36 inches in total height. The surface area limitation does not include the structure anchoring the sign into the

ground, but the combined height of the sign and the anchoring structure may not exceed 36 inches in height, measured from grade to the top of the sign.

2. Candidates, or speakers if the speaker is not a candidate, may not erect more than two signs per polling or voting site.
3. Signs must be securely fastened to their supports and must not present a hazard to public safety because of their placement or method of erection (i.e., tripping hazards, signs erected in a manner that risks falling on a pedestrian or motorist, etc.)
4. Signs must be freely-supported and may not be fastened to landscaping, buildings, fixtures, equipment, etc.
5. Post-hole diggers, shovels, or other digging implements may not be used to install signs. If a sign cannot be securely erected without using such equipment, it may not be erected.
6. Signs may not be installed in such a manner as to create holes or divots in turf, interfere with irrigation, or damage landscaping.
7. Signs may not be installed within the clear-sight triangle (within 20 feet in both directions of the intersection of road rights-of-way lines, or the intersection of roads with driveways, and pedestrian crossings).
8. Signs may not be attached to, or placed on, a vehicle, including automobiles, trucks, boats, campers, or trailers, that is parked on Pasco County property, except when the person using the vehicle is also present on County property during the normal course of business.
9. No sign shall be erected at early-voting sites prior to 24 hours before the beginning of early voting. No sign shall be erected at polling sites prior to 24 hours before the opening of polls on Election Day.
10. All signs shall be removed from early voting sites within 48 hours of the end of early voting. All signs shall be removed from polling sites within 48 hours of the closing of polls on Election Day.

Violations of this policy will be addressed in the following manner: The County Administrator or his designee is authorized to remove, without notice, any sign in violation of these provisions. Removed signs will be stored by the County and may be retrieved by the owner at any time after removal until 48 hours after the close of polls on Election Day, upon payment to Pasco County of ten dollars (\$10.00) per sign, to cover the costs of removal/storage/return of the signs. Vehicle signs in violation of this policy may be addressed through any legal process available to the County, including towing, issuance of a citation to the owner of the vehicle, etc. Nothing in this policy is intended to limit the legal and enforcement remedies otherwise available to Pasco County for violation of this policy or its codes.

DONE AND RESOLVED this 26th day of July, 2011.

(SEAL)

ATTEST

PAULA S. O'NEIL, PH.D., CLERK & COMPTROLLER

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANN HILDEBRAND, CHAIRMAN

APPROVED

JUL 26 2011