

Roadside Sign Removal and the Law

Bureau of Highways Tailgate Training Session

Anne Arundel County Code

Article 18, Zoning, of the Anne Arundel County Code includes Title 3., Parking, Nonresidential Outdoor Lighting, and Signage.

Article 18 is administered by the Department of Inspections and Permits and the Office of Planning and Zoning.

But DPW Lands A Hand

Every other weekend, the Bureau of Highways transports and oversees inmate work crews from the Ordnance Road Correctional Center (ORCC) in Glen Burnie. The inmate crews remove litter and illegal signs from along roadways within Anne Arundel County. Special permission is obtained from the State Highway Administration (SHA) that allows County forces to work along State-maintained roads.

Election Signs on State roads

The State Highway Administration (SHA) has a more restrictive policy on roadside signs.

SHA's website specifically addresses campaign and other advertising signs.

FAQs

- * "The State Board of Elections does not have regulatory authority over the placement or location of campaign signs. However, there are State and local laws that regulate where and when you can put up campaign signs." — MD State Board of Elections Summary Guide (Chapter II)
- * No advertising signs or political signs are allowed on State road right-of-way
- * Only "temporary directional signs" are allowed on County road right-of-way on certain days and times
- * "Temporary directional signs", such as signs leading to a real estate Open House are allowed to be placed in the County right-of-way between 8:00 a.m. on Friday and 9:00 a.m. on the following Monday, or between 9:00 a.m. on County, State, or federal holidays and 9:00 a.m. on the following day

Election Signs on County Roads

Election signs are considered to be "temporary signs" under the County Code, and are allowed to be placed on **PRIVATE PROPERTY** in all zoning districts 60 days before the election, and must be removed within 7 days after the election. Since election signs are not "temporary directional signs" they are **NOT ALLOWED IN THE COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY.**

Remember, "temporary directional signs", such as signs leading to a real estate "OPEN HOUSE" are allowed to be placed in the County right-of-way between 8:00 a.m. on Friday and 9:00 a.m. on the following Monday or between 9:00 a.m. on County, State, or federal holidays and 9:00 a.m. on the following day, if the signs are located at least three feet from any curbed or paved area.

Want to look it up?

County Code is available electronically from links on <http://countyweb/>

§ 18-1-101. Definitions.

§ 18-3-303. Prohibited signs; location; removal from County rights-of-way.

§ 18-3-306. Temporary signs.

Q. I am a candidate for public office. Do I need a State permit to advertise?

A. NO. Political signs do not require a permit, but they may not be placed in the median, along the shoulder, or anywhere else within SHA right-of-way, just as other advertising signs are prohibited.

SHA FAQs are available electronically at www.sha.maryland.gov. Simply go to the homepage and search on "Outdoor Advertising."