



Political Signs

Thank you for running for office and participating in democracy. As a reminder, the State of Idaho and the City of Bellevue have the following laws regarding temporary signs, including political signage:

- Idaho Statute 18-7029:

It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, install, attach or paint, or cause to be erected, installed, attached or painted, election posters or signs upon public or private property, real or personal, in the state of Idaho, without permission from the owner or occupant of such property, and it shall be unlawful for any person to place or leave any literature or other political, promotional or sales materials upon public or private property, real or personal, in the state of Idaho when the owner or occupant of such property, by a sign conspicuously posted on the property, or by other written or audio communication to such person, has forbidden the placing or leaving of literature or other political, promotional or sales material upon that property. Provided, however, that the granting of such permission by any public utility company on behalf of any candidate for public office shall constitute the granting of like permission by such public utility company to all other candidates for the same public office. Any violation of this section shall be a misdemeanor.

- Idaho Statute 18-2318

(1) In order to protect the freedom of voters to exercise their franchise without interference or intimidation and to ensure the administration of an election at any polling place is undisturbed, the provisions of this section shall apply on any day that ballots are being cast in person for any election.

1. (2)(a) No person may, within a polling place, within any building in which an election is being held, or within **two hundred fifty (250) feet** of the primary entrance and exit used by voters at a polling place or other voting location:

- (i) Do any electioneering;
- (ii) Circulate cards or handbills of any kind;
- (iii) Solicit signatures to any kind of petition;
- (iv) Advocate for or against any candidate or measure;
- (v) Solicit votes in any manner or by any means;
- (vi) Give or offer to give any money or gifts; or

- (vii) Engage in any practice that interferes with the freedom of voters to exercise their franchise or disrupts the administration of the polling place.
2. (b) The restrictions set forth in this subsection shall not apply to conduct occurring on private property located adjacent to a building designated as a polling place.
- (2) No person may obstruct the doors or entries to a building in which a polling place is located or prevent free access to and from any polling place.
 - (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit poll workers and elections officials from being physically present at a voting location, distributing material that is necessary to instruct electors, or distributing materials prepared by the secretary of state or by the county clerk.
 - (4) Any election official may take the necessary steps to address electioneering, including but not limited to the removal of physical materials, addressing individuals deemed to be electioneering, or contacting law enforcement.
 - (5) The first two (2) violations of this section by a person shall be deemed an infraction punishable by a fine in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300) for each such violation. Any person who violates this section three (3) or more times is guilty of a misdemeanor.

- Bellevue City Code Section 10-22A-4(B):

No sign shall be placed in or over any public right-of-way without receiving an approved encroachment permit from the applicable jurisdiction, ITD or the City, except for public signs such as traffic control and directional signs.

- Bellevue City Code Section 10-22A-8(B):

The following signs are exempt from the provisions of this chapter:

- B. Political signs pertaining to a specific election displayed within any district, provided they shall be removed within five (5) days after the election.

Helpful Tips

- As established above, political signs are not permitted within the City of Bellevue without an encroachment permit (permitting on Main Street is done through ITD). To be sure that you are placing the sign outside of the right of way, find your location on the map below, and measure half the width of the right of way from the center of the street, which should get you fairly close. Getting a piece of string and marking/tying knots at 25, 30, 40, and 50 feet will aid in quickly identifying the likely edge of right-of-way. A few extra feet to be safe is encouraged. A more detailed set of maps is available at <https://bellevueidaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/ROW-Atlas-Combined.pdf>.



- Unpermitted signs placed within City-owned right-of-way will be removed by the City.** If your sign is removed, you may collect it at Bellevue City Hall.
- Record the locations of signs placed and be sure to pick them up by November 9th.**