



Election Signage and Handbill Information

This package has been developed in an effort to provide answers to frequently asked questions about election signs and placement of handbills. Please be advised that this is meant only as an informational package. The City of Deerfield Beach governs in the event that the information in this package is inconsistent with the City Code.

The Planning and Zoning division hours are Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If we can be of further assistance to you please call us at 954-480-4206 or send an e-mail to web.planning@deerfield-beach.com.

DEERFIELD BEACH LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

Sec. 102-8. - Signs allowed.

(f) *Special Signs.*

Election sign. A temporary sign erected or displayed for the purpose of expressing support for or opposition to a candidate or stating a position regarding an issue upon which the voters of the city shall vote.

(10) *Election signs.* In addition to one free expression sign for each parcel of private property and all other signs and sign messages that may be allowed under this Code, one non-illuminated election sign for each candidate and each issue may be placed on private property provided the signs are in compliance with the following standards:

- a. **On residentially zoned parcels**, size (area) of the sign shall not exceed six square feet. **On non-residentially zoned parcels**, the size (area) of the sign shall not exceed 16 square feet.
- b. Election signs shall not exceed four feet in height on **residentially-zoned parcels**, and shall not exceed six feet in height on **non-residentially zoned parcels**.
- c. Election signs shall not be placed upon property without the permission of the owner of the property or other person in legal control of the property.
- d. Election signs shall be removed within seven days after the election. The owner of the property, as well as the person responsible for placing the sign on the property, shall be responsible for removing election signs within the foregoing time period.
- e. It is unlawful to attach election signs to trees, shrubs, fences, walls, or utility or similar poles.
- f. It is unlawful to place, erect or maintain election signs on or in public rights-of-way or any public property.
- g. It is unlawful to place, erect or maintain any election sign in the intersection visibility triangle.
- h. As set forth above, the election signs allowed by the provisions of this subsection are in addition to free expression signs and any other signs and sign messages that may be allowed under this Code. Accordingly, the foregoing provisions do not limit the right to substitute a noncommercial message (including a political message) for any commercial message that may otherwise appear on a lawfully erected sign.

DEERFIELD BEACH CODE OF ORDINANCE

Sec. 26-89. - Signs.

- (a) Political campaign signs shall be placed and removed in accordance with the provisions of the sign ordinance of the city, Ordinance No. 1091, as amended.
- (b) The unauthorized alteration, destruction or removal of a political sign of a candidate or political committee, other than its removal by a city employee enforcing F.S. § 479.22, shall constitute an unfair campaign practice and subject the violator to a fine not to exceed \$500.00. Each separate incident shall be deemed a separate violation subject to the fine prescribed in this section and any other penalty prescribed by law.

(Code 1979, § 2536)

State law reference— *Political signs, F.S. § 104.1435.*

DEERFIELD BEACH CODE OF ORDINANCE

Sec. 46-26. - Placement of handbills.

- (a) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Handbill means any printed or written matter, any sample or device, dodger, circular, leaflet, pamphlet, newspaper, magazine, paper, booklet or any other printed or otherwise reproduced original or copies of any material or literature.

Public place means any and all streets, boulevards, avenues, lanes, alleys or other public ways, and any and all public parks, squares, spaces, plazas, grounds, buildings and parking lots and structures designed for use in connection therewith.

- (b) *Activities exempt from this section.*

- (1) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the distribution of advertising material by the owner or lessee of a premises, or employees, or to persons or motor vehicles located on the premises.
- (2) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the distribution of mail by the United State Postal Service or to the distribution of crime prevention or crime safety information by a law enforcement agency or to the distribution of newspapers, except that newspapers shall be placed on private property in such a manner as to prevent their being carried or deposited by the elements upon any street, sidewalk or other public place or upon private property.

- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to distribute, place, throw, scatter or cast or to cause the distribution, placing, throwing, scattering or casting of any handbill in or upon any public place within the city; provided, however, it shall not be unlawful for any person to hand out or distribute any handbill in any public place to any person willing to accept the handbill.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for any person to distribute, deposit, place, throw, scatter or cast or cause the distribution, placing, throwing, scattering or casting of any handbill in or upon any automobile or other vehicle. The provisions of this section shall not be deemed to prohibit the handing, transmitting or distributing of any handbill to the owner or other occupant of any parked vehicle who is willing to accept the handbill.
- (e) It shall be unlawful for any person to distribute, deposit, place, throw, scatter or cast or cause the distribution, placing, throwing, scattering or casting of any handbill upon any premises if there is placed on the premises in a conspicuous position near the entrance thereof a sign bearing the words: "No Trespassing," "No Pedestrians or Agents," "No Advertisement," "No Soliciting" or any similar notice, indicating in any manner that the occupants of the premises do not desire to be molested or to have their right of privacy disturbed or to have any handbills left upon their premises.
- (f) It shall be unlawful for any person to distribute, deposit, place, throw, scatter or cast or cause the distribution, placing, throwing, scattering or casting of any handbill in or upon private residential premises which are inhabited, except by handing or transmitting any such handbill directly to the owner, occupant or other person then present in or upon such private premises; provided that this prohibition shall not apply to placing non-commercial messages on doorknobs unless the distributor has been asked to leave the premises. A non-commercial message shall be deemed to be any message not related to or in any way promoting the sale or lease of goods or services of any time.

- (g) It shall be unlawful for any person to distribute, deposit, place, throw, scatter or cast or cause the distribution, placing, throwing, scattering or casting of any handbill in or upon private residential premises which are uninhabited or vacant.
- (h) It shall be unlawful to attach posters or handbills to, or to cut, scratch or otherwise disfigure any telegraph, telephone, electric light, signal or other pole standing in the city.

(Ord. No. 1994/022, §§ 1, 2, 8-30-94; Ord. No. 1997/030, § 1, 9-16-97; Ord. No. 2012/036, § 5, 9-4-12)