

**STATE OF TEXAS**

**COUNTY OF PALO PINTO**

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**COMMISSIONERS' COURT**

### **Order Regulating Temporary Signs on County Property**

#### **Purpose and Scope**

The County of Palo Pinto County ("County"), has authority to regulate the use of county-owned property, including the 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.

The County finds that the adoption of this order 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.

These Regulations apply to all County-owned property.

It is the purpose of these Regulations: to provide reasonable regulations regarding temporary signs on County-owned property; to protect the free speech rights of its citizens; to protect the voters and the integrity of the election process; to protect County property; and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the County of Palo Pinto.

These Regulations shall be construed consistently with Texas statutes, the Texas Constitution, and the United States Constitution. 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.

#### **Regulations**

1. No person may cause or authorize a temporary sign to be installed, affixed or maintained on or over county property including the installation of any temporary sign used for commercial or noncommercial purposes, except for temporary signs installed by the county for official county business.
2. For purposes of this order:
  - a. "Temporary sign" includes a banner, poster, or advertising display constructed of paper, cloth, plastic sheet, cardboard, plywood, or other like material that appears to be intended to be displayed for a limited period of time.
  - b. "Electioneering" has the meaning assigned in Texas Election Code § 61.003 and § 85.036
  - c. "Political Sign" has the meaning assigned in Texas Election Code § 61.003 and § 85.036

3. This Order is applicable to all county property including county property used as a polling place during a voting period or an early voting polling place during an early voting period except as follows:


Electioneering pursuant to Texas Election Code § 61.003 and § 85.036 is allowed on the premises of a county building that is used as a polling place or an early voting polling place (a "Building Premises") beyond the prohibited distance to the polling place, subject to the following reasonable regulations concerning the time, place and manner of electioneering:

- a. No person may post a Political Sign on a Building Premises by stakes or poles driven into the ground that might damage underground water lines, electrical lines, communication lines, natural gas lines, irrigation lines, sprinkler heads, or tree roots.


For purposes of these regulations, "stakes or poles" includes, but is not limited to, wooden stakes, rebar, PVC posts, metal posts and/or metal "T-posts" typically used with farm and ranch type fencing. Political Signs that have only two metal rods approximately 1/8" in diameter for sticking into a residential yard are not included in the term "stakes or poles."


- b. No person may affix or attach a Political sign to any building, fence, gate, pole, tree, landscaping, or other improvement at the Building Premises.
- c. No person may place a Political Sign at the Building Premises more than twenty-four (24) hours before the time that early voting begins.
- d. Having posted or placed a Political Signs at the Building Premises, no person may fail to remove that Political Sign from the Building Premises within twenty-four (24) hours after the time election day voting ends.
- e. No person may place a Political Sign at a Building Premises that exceeds three (3) feet by five (5) feet in size or is taller than six (6) feet from the ground, including supporting poles.
- f. No person may place a Political Sign at a Building Premises in a location that blocks or obstructs an entrance to or exit from a polling place or an early voting polling place.
- g. No person may place a Political Sign at a Building Premises in a location that blocks or obstructs a sidewalk.


- h. No person may place a Political Sign at a Building Premises in a location that blocks or obstructs a traffic lane in a parking lot.
  - i. No person may place a Political Sign at a Building Premises in a location that blocks a parking space.
  - j. No person may place a Political Sign at a Building Premises in a location that blocks or obstructs an entrance to or exit from a parking lot.
  - l. No person may place a Political Sign on a Building Premises within 10 feet of a driveway for the Building Premises.
  - m. No person may place a Political Sign on a Building Premises in a location that obstructs vision for traffic entering, exiting, or driving in, on or around the Building Premises.
  - n. No person may place an illuminated Political Sign on a Building Premises.
4. Any sign improperly installed, affixed, maintained, or left on or over county property under this order will be considered abandoned, and may be removed and disposed of by county officials.
5. A violation of this Order is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor with a fine not to exceed \$500.00.
6. This Order Regulating Temporary Signs on County Property shall be effective as of June 9, 2025


  
Shane Long, County Judge

  
Richard Ralls, Commissioner Pct. #1

  
Jim Pollock, Commissioner Pct. #3

  
Mike Reed, Commissioner Pct. #2

  
Jeff Fryer, Commissioner Pct. #4

  
Janette Green, County Clerk