

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF PALO PINTO

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COMMISSIONERS' COURT

**ORDER REGULATING USE OF PALO PINTO
COUNTY OWNED REAL 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 the use of 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. Except as provided in section 3 of this Order, no person may use any real property owned by Palo Pinto County for any purpose other than official Palo Pinto County business without first:
 - a. completing the event application for use of Palo Pinto County owned property; and

- b. obtaining written approval of that event application from the Palo Pinto County Judge.
- 2. For purposes of this order: "Electioneering" has the meaning assigned to that term in Texas Election Code § 61.003 and § 85.036.
- 3. For purposes of this order: "Political Sign" has the meaning assigned in Texas Election Code § 61.003 and § 85.036
- 4. 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 position themselves or any object in a location that blocks or obstructs an entrance to or exit from a polling place or an early voting polling place.
- b. No person may position themselves or any object in a location that blocks or obstructs a sidewalk on a Building Premises.
- c. No person may position themselves or any object in a location that blocks or obstructs a traffic lane in a parking lot on a Building Premises.
- d. No person may position themselves or any object in a location that blocks or obstructs an entrance to or exit from a parking lot on a Building Premises.
- e. No person may position themselves or any object in the path of another person travelling (whether by walking, wheelchair, or other means) toward a polling place or an early voting polling place in a manner that would block or obstruct that other person's travel to the polling place or early voting polling place.

- f. No person may engage in conduct that person knows or should reasonably believe would impede or interfere with another person's access to the polling place or early voting polling place.
5. A violation of this Order is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor with a fine not to exceed \$500.00.
6. A violation of this Order may also violate other statutes, including but not limited to: Assault (Tex. Penal Code § 22.01); Criminal Trespass (Tex. Penal Code § 30.05); Disorderly Conduct (Tex. Penal Code § 42.01); Obstructing Highway or Other Passageway (Tex. Penal Code § 42.03), or Election Fraud (Tex. Election Code § 276.013).
7. This Order Regulating Use of Palo Pinto County Owned 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