

Town of Brunswick, Maine

Incorporated 1739

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TO: Fran Smith, Town Clerk

FR: Jeff Hutchinson, Codes Enforcement Officer

RE: POLITICAL SIGNS

DT: October 1, 2016

As requested, the following is my office's policy in regards to the placement of political signs town wide.

In accordance with the Town's Ordinance, political signs are not to be placed on public property. Public property is understood to be, those areas that are owned by the Town of Brunswick which may include, but not limited to the following, properties owned and occupied by Town buildings, parks and boat launches, athletic fields, tennis courts, and road right of ways (ROW).

In the past, there has been some confusion over where the Town's ROW lines are on the face of the earth. Typically, without any property markers, it's difficult to locate the ROW lines accurately. However, my policy is to classify the town in two different areas. The first being "**in town**" and the second located in the more "**rural**" parts of Town. In the in-town areas, if the sign placement is located on the home side of the sidewalk, utility poles and/or fire hydrants, then it is safe to say that it is not within the ROW, and on private property. In the rural areas, utility poles and fire hydrants are again determining factors as well as gravel shoulders and town maintained ditches. Therefore, in the rural areas, if the placements of signs are located beyond poles and hydrants, gravel shoulders and ditches, it is safe to assume that there're on private property. In addition to the above, it's more than apparent that medians, traffic islands, esplanades, etc. are all located within a road ROW.

Resulting from a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling, and new State Law, Political Signs are no longer allowed on State owned "Control of Access" roads such as the Interstate system and it's on and off ramps. With that in mind, MDOT will periodically check these areas and remove all posted signs. We have and will continue to request MDOT to remove them if needed.

It should be noted, owner's permission should first be granted prior to the installation of all political signs on private property.

I hope the above will create a better understanding of the placement of political signs.