

# POLITICAL SIGNS

All candidates are asked to please observe the sign ordinance in Valencia County and surrounding communities. Every election year for months following an election unwanted campaign signs litter the countryside. To help this problem, the Valencia County Commission, Village of Los Lunas, Village of Bosque Farms, Town of Peralta, City of Belen and City of Rio Communities have such adopted ordinances controlling placement of Political Signs.

The following ordinances are to be used as guidelines when placing campaign material. Please check with the governing entity for a complete up to date description of their ordinance before placing a sign. The County of Valencia does not assume responsibility for lost or stolen signs or changes in city ordinances.

## VALENCIA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE

Temporary political signs adverting candidates of issues may be erected on private property, with consent of the property owners, during an election campaign. Such signs shall conform to the requirements of the State, and shall not be erected prior to ninety (90) days before the election and shall be removed within (10) days after the election. *Chapter 154.166 (c) (1), Valencia County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, 2009-Supplement 2.*

## VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS

Political Signs are permitted on private property in any district. A political sign may be placed not more than thirty (30) days prior to the election to which it applies and shall be removed within seventy-two (72) hours following the final election that is held. The owner of the property, on which the sign is placed, shall be responsible for its removal. *Chapter 15.08.0401, Village of Los Lunas Sign Code.*

## VILLAGE OF BOSQUE FARMS

1. Signs related to a political campaign prior to an election shall be permitted on any lot provided the following conditions are met:
  - a. Such signs shall not be placed more than thirty (30) days prior to the election and shall be removed within three (3) days following the election;
  - b. The height of such signs shall not exceed eight (8) feet above grade; and
  - c. Written permission of landowner shall be provided to the Planning and Zoning Administrator before placing a sign on vacant or unoccupied property.

*Section 10-1-20F, Village of Bosque Farms Sign Ordinance, 2005.*

## TOWN OF PERALTA

Signs relating to a political campaign prior to an election may be permitted on any lot provided such signs shall not be placed more than thirty (30) days prior to the election and shall be removed within five (5) days following the election. *Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Section 5f*

## CITY OF BELEN

Permit Required.

1. All campaign signs displayed within the city limits shall conform to the definition of either a small campaign sign or a large campaign sign.
2. Except as exempted herein, the responsible party shall obtain a permit, on a form provided by the city clerk or designee, prior to placement of any campaign signs on any property. The clerk or designee, shall provide the responsible party with a copy of the rules regulating campaign signs at the time of issuing the permit, or at the time of registration for any municipal election, whichever is earlier.
3. The responsible party shall post a deposit with the city clerk or designee in the following amounts in order to guarantee removal of all campaign signs covered by the permit following the election.
  - a. Non-partisan elections – individual candidates \$100
  - b. Partisan elections – individual candidates \$100
  - c. Partisan elections – political party permit \$500
  - d. Issues – organizations \$500
  - e. Issues – property owner \$100
  - f. All elections – registered or unregistered PAC \$500

Display of Campaign Signs.

1. Period of display. The permit shall authorize the display of campaign signs not sooner than thirty (30) days prior to Election Day, and shall expire at the end of the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day following the election. *Section 17.58.090, (Ord. 2015-03) City of Belen Code of Ordinances Relating to Sign Regulations, Repealing Existing Provisions Relating to Campaign Signs As Temporary Signs, and Adding a New Section Relating to the Permitting and Regulation of Campaign Signs and Providing Penalties For Violations Thereof.*

## RIO COMMUNITIES

Political signs: A sign that identifies or advertises a political candidate, campaign or election shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet in area and shall not be erected more than forty-five (45) days prior to any election. Such a sign shall be removed no later than (10) days after the election.

- a. Electioneering too close to the polling place consists of any form of campaigning on election day within one hundred feet of the building in which the polling place is located and includes but is not limited to the display of signs, bumper stickers or distribution of campaign literature.
- b. A person who commits electioneering too close to the polling place is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.
- c. It is unlawful to solicit voters or display or otherwise make accessible any posters, signs or other forms of campaign literature whatsoever in the clerk's office.

