

Town of Davidson Mayor and Board of Commissioners 2023 Election

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Question: Can I have my picture taken with first responders?

Answer: Town employees including all first responders may not engage in any political or partisan activity while “on duty” nor “endorse or oppose a candidate for public office in a political advertisement, broadcast, or campaign literature.” Town employees are not permitted to pose for pictures in uniform/on duty with candidates or use any candidates campaign websites/social media.

The political activities of town employees while on duty are regulated under the town’s personnel policy (Section III. , J) and any applicable departmental standard operating guidelines. Click [here](#) to review the applicable section(s).

Question: When can I put my signs up?

Answer: See the linked 2023 Early Voting Calendar from the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections. Link: <https://vote.mecknc.gov/>

*The 2023 Early Voting Location has been designated as Davidson Town Hall and Community Center, 251 South Street, Lower Level.

Per state statute, 2023 General Election Voting signs can go up 30 days before the start of early voting and stay up 10 days after the election: Tuesday, September 19 – Friday, November 17.

Question: If a candidate has a temporary meet and greet event in a publicly accessible neighborhood space and puts up campaign signs for a few hours and then removes the signs when the temporary event is over, would that be allowable? Is that allowable before September 19th (the first date campaign signs are permitted)?

Answer: The intent of the ordinance speaks to the traditional placement of campaign signs (beginning on the date allowable in advance of the election) where the signs remain in place in someone's yard until the election date and then removed. In this case, the temporary use of the signs for a singular event as described above would be permitted with parameters that the event signs only be placed immediately preceding the event and removed immediately after the event.

Question: Can I use the Town’s logo on my campaign materials?

Answer: No. The use of Town of Davidson logos by those not employed by the town in any manner is strictly prohibited. Please refrain from using the Town of Davidson logo and branding on your campaign materials/signs.

Question: Can I place multiple campaign signs in one individual's yard beginning September 19?

Answer: No. Only one campaign sign per candidate is allowed per individual property; the candidate must have the property owner's permission. See DPO section 11.6.7.

Question: Can I place signs around the new Town Hall & Community Center?

Answer: Yes. The new Town Hall & Community Center is an early voting location. Signs at the Town Hall voting location may be placed beginning September 19. Please note, the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections requires a 50-foot no signage buffer at all entrances to voting locations, including the Town Hall & Community Center. Historically, more than one sign per candidate has been allowed, however we respectfully ask that the number of signs per candidate be limited.

Question: When do signs have to come down?

Answer: Campaign signs may NOT remain up at any voting location after the polls have closed. Campaign signs posted within town limits must be removed no later than (10) days post-election per North Carolina state statute.

Question: What size signs are permitted?

Answer: Davidson Planning Ordinance (DPO) Section 11, which regulates size and location of political signs **on private property** limits political signs to four square feet.

[NCGS § 136-32 \(b\) Regulation of signs - Compliant Political Signs Permitted](#) regulates timing, size, and location on state-maintained rights of way, limiting signs to six (6) square feet.

Question: Are banners allowed as a type of campaign sign? Can I hang a banner along my fence? Can I print a flyer?

Answer: No. DPO Section 11.5.7 prohibits the use of temporary promotional banners. Section 11.6.7 references allowable campaign signs.

Questions: How many of my signs can I place in one location?

Answer: Campaign signs are limited to one per candidate per property. A property owner may display signs for multiple candidates, but only one sign per candidate. No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.

Question: Can I place signs at Circles @30 or at Beaty Park?

Answer: No. Signs are not permitted on Town-owned property like greenways/parks and the roundabouts on Griffith Street.

Question: Can yard signs be placed on the inside of a window? A local business offered to do that for me.

Answer: Yes. Business owners must follow the Town sign ordinance which permits one temporary non-commercial political sign per individual property, The placement of a yard sign behind a window would be permitted. The candidate must have the property/business owner's permission prior to displaying signage on the property.

Question: Can I place signs along the right of way on NC-115?

Answer: Click [here](#) for a list of state roads within the Town of Davidson corporate limits. Below is a copy of the state statute.

NC General Statute 136-32 Regulation of signs addresses political signs on State (DOT) owned roads. During the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting under G.S. 163-227.2 and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day, persons may place political signs in the right-of-way of the State highway system as provided in Section (d) Signs must be placed in accordance with the following:

- (1) No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.
- (2) No sign shall be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.
- (3) No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection.
- (4) No sign shall be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road.
- (5) No sign shall be larger than 864 square inches.
- (6) No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.

Question: OOPS – I made a mistake, and my sign was removed – now where is it?

Answer: Non-compliant signage shall be removed and should be brought to the Town Hall & Community Center located at 251 South St. Removed signs will be made available for pickup by the candidate throughout the election and will be disposed of ten (10) days post-election.

Question: If a homeowner lives on Davidson-Concord Road, are there any restrictions on placement if a sidewalk doesn't exist in front of their property?

Answer: The roundabout located at Davidson-Concord Road/East Rocky River Road is maintained by NCDOT and is subject to rules per NCGS § 136-32 (b) Regulation of signs - Compliant Political Signs Permitted. Signs would need to be at least 3 feet away from the edge of pavement.

Question: Do the rules governing signage for the Town of Davidson apply in the town's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ)?

Answer: The Town's sign ordinance also applies in the ETJ. However, since most roads in the ETJ are maintained by NCDOT, please see NCGS § 136-32 (b) Regulation of signs - Compliant Political Signs Permitted. Historically, candidates in Davidson have not plastered the ETJ's landscape with signage given that ETJ residents are not permitted to vote in Davidson municipal elections.