



Municipal Technical Advisory Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

Published on *MTAS* (<https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu>)

October 26, 2020

Political Ads and Signs

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

The University of Tennessee
Municipal Technical Advisory Service
1610 University Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37921-6741
865-974-0411 phone
865-974-0423 fax
www.mtas.tennessee.edu

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Political Ads and Signs

Reference Number: MTAS-187

A political advertisement must state the name of the person or group funding it and whether the candidate authorized the ad. T.C.A. § 2-19-120.

Within certain counties, it is illegal for anyone to attach posters, show cards, advertisements, or devices (including election campaign literature) on poles, towers, or public utility company fixtures – whether publicly or privately owned – unless legally authorized. T.C.A. § 2-19-144. Candidates are required to remove all election signs on highway rights of way and on other publicly owned property within three weeks after an election, but there is no penalty for failing to do so. T.C.A. § 2-1-116. In addition to these provisions, many cities have local ordinances regulating posters, advertisements, and devices on public property.

DISCLAIMER: The letters and publications written by the MTAS consultants were written based upon the law at the time and/or a specific sets of facts. The laws referenced in the letters and publications may have changed and/or the technical advice provided may not be applicable to your city or circumstances. Always consult with your city attorney or an MTAS consultant before taking any action based on information contained in this website.

Source URL (retrieved on 10/26/2020 - 6:51pm): <https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/reference/political-ads-and-signs>



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