

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY POLICY  
PLACEMENT OF POLITICAL SIGNS ON COUNTY PROPERTY**

Rutherford County supports the rights of free speech of its employees, its citizens and of the general public. However, in the interests of having County offices and workplaces free from distraction, harassment, and disruption, and to prevent the appearance of support or opposition to any political candidate or issue in an environment where such support or opposition may be inappropriate, no Political Signs are permitted within or without any building or facility used for County purposes nor upon any real property owned or leased by Rutherford County (herein "County Property") except as specifically set forth herein:

(1) "Political Sign" means any sign, flyer, handbill, advertisement (including electronic) that is intended for public display in any manner and that advocates for political action, including but not limited to any endorsement of either support or opposition for any issue or for a candidate for political office.

(2) Any Political Sign otherwise in compliance with this Policy may be placed only in the following locations on County Property:

(a) At the Rutherford County Administrative Office building (also known as the "County Annex") located at 289 North Main Street, Rutherfordton, ONLY in the following locations: (i) in the planter and the grass near the sign for the County Annex located between the parking lot and sidewalk on the west side of North Main Street; and (ii) attached to the chain-link fence situated on the north side of the parking lot of the County Annex. If the County Annex is being used as an early voting or election day polling place then all political signs must be placed outside any relevant Buffer Zone pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-166.4.

(b) At any Convenience Center location outside the fence between such fence and any adjacent right of way of public or private road, as relevant. No Political Sign shall be placed upon or attached to any fence at any Convenience Center nor within such fence.

(c) At the building housing the Board of Elections at 298 Fairground Road, Spindale, and any other County Property at which voting occurs, either as a voting place for a precinct pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-128 or for one-stop voting. Political Signs must be placed outside any relevant Buffer Zone pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-166.4 and shall be limited to any grassy or unpaved location of the relevant County Property that is located within four (4) feet of the right of way of public road. No Political Sign at these locations shall be placed upon any tree or upon any structure upon the County Property, specifically but not including any fence, sign, or building.

(3) Political Signs on County Property must observe the following specifications:

(a) No more than one Political Sign for any issue or candidate shall be placed on the same tract of County Property.

(b) No Political Sign shall be larger than three (3) square feet in size.

(c) No Political Sign shall obscure motorist visibility within any public vehicular area, nor at any intersection with driveway, private road or public road.

(d) Political Signs may be placed on County Property no sooner than thirty (30) days before the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting under G.S. 163-227.2 for the Election Day for which they were made and must be removed from County Property no later than ten (10) days after that Election Day for which they were made. (e) Any Political Signs must follow the laws of the State of North Carolina regarding any public right of way.

(f) Any Political Sign in violation of any part of this Policy will be removed and held by the County for seven (7) days for the owner of said Political Sign to pickup, after which time any such Political Signs will be appropriately recycled or otherwise disposed of by the County.

(4) In the event that the County Property is located in any municipality, any such Political Sign shall comply with any relevant municipal ordinance.

This policy shall be subject to any and all applicable state and federal laws.