

**COMMISSIONERS COURT OF BOWIE COUNTY, TEXAS, REGULATIONS
OF POLITICAL SIGNS ON BOWIE COUNTY-OWNED OR CONTROLLED
POLLING PLACES**

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, persons seeking elective office have historically placed political advertising signs on Bowie County, Texas, owned or controlled properties that are being used as polling places; and

WHEREAS, the political signs that have been placed on Bowie County-owned or controlled polling place locations have varied in size and have often been affixed to the property using metal rebar, PVC posts, metal posts or "T-Posts" (customarily used to construct fences); and

WHEREAS, the metal rebar, PVC posts, metal posts and "T-Posts" are very likely to hit and cause substantial damage to water and electrical lines due to the depths the posts are driven into the ground; and

WHEREAS, due to Bowie County's growth and the increase in the number of candidates for public office, the number of signs placed at Bowie County-owned or controlled polling places has dramatically proliferated; and

WHEREAS, some political signs have become considerably larger and have caused public health and safety concerns in that they affect the line of sight of vehicles entering and exiting Bowie County-owned or controlled properties that are being used as polling place locations; and

WHEREAS, Section 61.003 of the Texas Election Code sets forth that the entity that owns or controls a public building being used as a polling place may not, at any time during the voting period, prohibit electioneering on the building's premises and outside of the area described in Subsection (a) of said section, but may enact reasonable regulations concerning the time, place, and manner of electioneering; and

WHEREAS, Section 61.003(b) of the Texas Election Code provides that "electioneering" includes the posting, use, or distribution of political signs or literature; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Bowie County desires to establish the regulations contained herein to mitigate safety concerns, prevent damage to property and ensure that the property is sufficiently available for its patrons who use the facilities other than for election purposes.

DEFINITIONS,

- A.** When used in this Order the following terms shall be defined as follows:
1. "Early voting period" means the period prescribed by Section 85.001, Texas Election Code.
 2. "Electioneering" includes the posting, use, or distribution of political signs or literature.
 3. "Voting period" means the period beginning when the polls open for voting and ending when the polls close or the last voter has voted, whichever is later.
 4. "Polling location" means those buildings designated as locations where voters can cast ballots during a voting period.
- B.** Terms not defined herein shall have the meaning as defined by the Texas Election Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF BOWIE COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS RELATING TO POLITICAL SIGNS ON POLLING PLACES OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY BOWIE COUNTY, TEXAS, BE AND THE SAME ARE HEREBY ADOPTED AS SET FORTH BELOW:

REGULATIONS:

These regulations are intended only to regulate, in accordance with Section 61.003 of the Texas Election Code, political signs placed, held, erected or otherwise situated at Bowie County-owned or controlled properties that are being used as a polling place. These regulations **are not** intended to regulate political signs placed on property outside of the ownership or control of Bowie County.

No electioneering of any kind is allowed inside the 100-foot distance of an outside door of a polling place as prescribed by state law. No one may place, hold, erect or otherwise situate political signs on Bowie County-owned or controlled property that is being used as a polling place at any times other than during the voting period of a particular election, as defined in Section 61.003(b)(2) of the Texas Election Code, and no earlier than 4 PM on the day before the polling place opens for voting and must be removed within seventy-two (72) hours after the voting period. Voting period is defined as the first day of early voting through election day. **NOTE: Political signs must be removed within seventy-two (72) hours after the end of the voting period.**

No political signs may be placed, erected or otherwise affixed to the site utilizing posts that may damage subterranean water and electrical lines. For purposes of these regulations, the term "posts" shall include, but not be limited to rebar, PVC posts, metal posts and/or metal "T-Posts" typically used with farm and ranch type fencing. Heavy gauged wire that is generally used for political yard signs is allowed.

No political signs larger than twenty-four (24) inches by twenty-four (24) inches or taller than forty-eight (48) inches from the ground may be placed, held, erected or otherwise situated on a Bowie County-owned or controlled property that is being used as a polling place.

Political candidates will be limited to place, erect or otherwise affix no more than four (4) signs in support of a candidacy. Similarly, no more than four (4) signs in support and four (4) signs in opposition to any particular ballot measure may be placed, erected or otherwise affixed to the property that is being used as a polling place. These four (4) signs limit is not intended to apply to t-shirts worn by persons participating in electioneering, magnets on cars parked at the polling place, or other similar temporary signs that are not affixed to the site.

Persons participating in electioneering shall not obstruct vehicle or pedestrian traffic or impede the normal day-to-day operations of the county building designated as a polling place. During the voting period, no vehicles may remain on county owned or controlled property that has been designated as a polling place between the hours of 8:00 pm and 6:00 am.

No political sign may be placed, held, erected or otherwise situated on any Bowie County-owned or controlled property such that the sign obstructs vision for traffic entering, exiting or driving in, on or around a Bowie County-owned or controlled polling place location.

Any political sign in violation of these regulations may be removed without notice by Bowie County staff

and placed in temporary storage. The owner of political signs that have been removed may contact the Bowie County Election Office at 903.628.6810 during normal business hours to arrange a time to pick them up. If the owner of the political sign fails to pick up any removed signs within ten (10) days following the voting period, Bowie County will dispose of them.

All political signs shall comply with all state and federal requirements, including but not limited to Tex. Election Code, Chapter 255 and Section 61.003, and Tex. Trans. Code, Chapters 392 and 393.

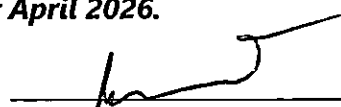
Should any sentence, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase or section of these regulations be adjudged or held to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of these regulations as a whole or any part or provision thereof other than the part so decided to be invalid, illegal or unconstitutional, and shall not affect the validity of the regulations as a whole.

These regulations supplant and replace previous signage regulations approved on the 10th day of August, 2020.

These regulations will be in full force and effect from and after the date of passage by a majority of the Bowie County Commissioners Court

THE ABOVE RESOLUTION being read, it was moved and seconded that the same do pass. Thereupon the question being called for, the following members of the Court voted Aye 4 and the following members of the court voted Nay 0.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this the 13th day of April 2026.



Bobby Howell, County Judge



Sammy Stone, Commissioner Precinct 1



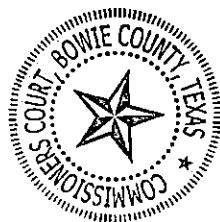
Tom Whitten, Commissioner Precinct 2

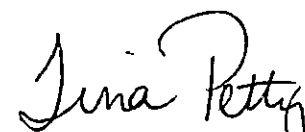


James Strain, Commissioner Precinct 3



Mike Carter, Commissioner Precinct 4



ATTEST 
Tina Petty, County Clerk