



12.3. Political signs.

12.3.1 *Defined.* A political sign is any sign which indicates the name, cause or affiliation of anyone seeking public office, or which expresses any issue of public importance.

12.3.2 *Placement signs.* No more than one (1) election sign per candidate, measure or issue shall be permitted on any one (1) private property site. Political signs shall not be located closer than five (5) feet from the edge of the paved street and no closer than five (5) feet from the adjacent property line. No political sign shall be permitted on empty lots or vacant residences unless written permission is received from the owner of said property. No political signs shall be permitted on public property or in areas which are determined by the Village to cause a safety hazard or violate the visibility triangle.

12.3.3 *Size.* Political signs are not to exceed three (3) square feet in area. Political signs, other than window signs, can be no higher than four (4) feet.

12.3.4 *Pre-election requirements.* Prior to the posting of election signs, each candidate, campaign chairperson, firm or corporation shall file with the clerk's office and provide the clerk's office with a local address and telephone number at which the candidate, campaign chairperson, firm or corporation wishing to post the signs may be reached during normal business hours concerning any violation of this chapter or requirements of the village. Except for window signs, written consent of the property owner where the election sign shall be placed is also required for all signs placed on privately owned vacant lands and must be filed with the clerk's office.

12.3.5 *Cash bond.* Except for window signs, a cash bond of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) shall be required from each election campaign political issue. This bond shall be conditioned upon the removal of all political signs of that candidate or issue within five (5) calendar days after the election to which they relate or thirty (30) days on political issues. Failure to remove all signs shall be cause for the village's designee to direct that the signs be removed by the code enforcement division and the bond forfeited. Further remedies are available to the village consistent with subsection 12.3.6. The cash bond shall be returned within thirty (30) days after all signs have been removed and a request is made by the appropriate election campaign contact. Successful candidates in nominating elections may continue to display their signs during the interval between the nominating or primary and general elections without posting any additional bond except where the interval exceeds ninety (90) days.

12.3.6 *Violations of this section; enforcement procedures available to village; schedule of fines and penalties.*

(a) Any violation or repeat violation of this section may be pursued by the village by appropriate remedy either in court, through code enforcement by the imposition of a fine as set forth below, or by any other means available at law or in equity, at the option of the village. If it is the first violation for the individual, campaign or corporation, a warning should first be given unless extenuating circumstances exist. Any person violating this chapter shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per violation. Each day, or portion thereof, that a violation occurs is considered an additional violation.

(b) After twenty-four (24) hours' notification is given to the campaign chairperson, or designee, the village may draw on the bond placed pursuant to this section towards the payment of any delinquent penalties which are assessed by the village for any violations of the provisions herein. Notification shall be deemed legally sufficient upon the village, during regular business hours, attempting to contact by telephone the number which the campaign chairperson, or designee, filed with the code enforcement division. Notification shall not be required within forty-eight (48) hours of election. Penalties may be assessed immediately upon violation within forty-eight (48) hours of an election.

12.3.7 *Headquarters sign.* A candidate for village public office may display one (1) sign not to exceed sixteen (16) square feet on only one (1) property in Biscayne Park and designate it as headquarters. Such sign shall conform to the placement requirements set forth above.