

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-O-02**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 53 – “SIGNS” OF THE CITY OF MANVEL CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE II. “ELECTIONEERING AND CAMPAIGN SIGNS AT CITY-OWNED POLLING PLACES”, GOVERNING ELECTIONEERING AND CAMPAIGN SIGNS ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY USED AS POLLING PLACES FOR EARLY VOTING AND ELECTION DAY; ESTABLISHING REASONABLE TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER REGULATIONS; LIMITING THE NUMBER AND SIZE OF CAMPAIGN SIGNS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT AND ABATEMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. PROVIDING A PENALTY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000.00 PER DAY FOR EACH DAY OF VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION HEREOF; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.**

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**WHEREAS**, the City of Manvel (“City”) has adopted Chapter 53 – “Signs” of the City of Manvel, Code of Ordinances regulating the construction, placement, and maintenance of signs within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City periodically uses City-owned or City-controlled property as polling places for early voting and election day voting; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Texas Election Code** prohibits electioneering within one hundred (100) feet of an entrance to a polling place and authorizes reasonable regulation of electioneering activity outside that boundary (**Texas Election Code** §§ 61.003, 85.036); and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that additional, polling-place-specific regulations are necessary to protect public safety, accessibility, and the orderly administration of elections at City-owned facilities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANVEL, TEXAS:**

**Section 1.** Chapter 53 – “Signs” of the City of Manvel, Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding a new article II to read as follows:

**Chapter 53 – SIGNS**

**ARTICLE 1. GENERAL REGULATIONS.**

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**ARTICLE 2. ELECTIONEERING AND CAMPAIGN SIGNS AT CITY-OWNED POLLING PLACES.**

**Sec. 53-23. – Purpose and Intent.**

(a) The purpose of this Article is to establish reasonable, content-neutral time, place, and manner regulations governing electioneering and campaign signage on City-owned or City-controlled property when such property is used as a polling place. Designated areas shall be established based on site-specific safety, access, and operational considerations.

(b) This Article II is intended to supplement, and not replace, the general sign regulations contained in Chapter 53, Article I.

(c) **Applicability.** This Article applies to all City-owned or City-controlled property used as a polling place for early voting or election day voting, including buildings and surrounding grounds.

**Sec. 53-24. –Relationship to Existing Sign Regulations.**

(a) All campaign signs placed pursuant to this Article shall also comply with the applicable provisions of Chapter 53 – “Signs,” including regulations governing construction, placement, maintenance, and safety.

(b) This Article provides additional regulations specific to polling places and does not create an exemption from other sign requirements in the City Code.

(c) In the event of a conflict between this Article and another provision of Chapter 53, the more restrictive provision shall control.

(d) Cross-reference. Campaign signs placed on City-owned property used as a polling place are subject to this Article in addition to the general political sign regulations of Chapter 53.

**Sec. 53-25. – Compliance with Texas Election Code.**

Electioneering is prohibited within one hundred (100) feet of an outside door through which a voter may enter the polling place, as required by **Texas Election Code** §§ 61.003 and 85.036. Nothing in this Article authorizes electioneering within that distance.

**Sec. 53-26. – Definitions.**

For purposes of this Article:

(a) *City-Owned Polling Place* means a building owned, leased, or controlled by the City, including the tract of land on which the building is located, that is designated as a polling place pursuant to the **Texas Election Code**.

(b) *Electioneering* has the meaning assigned by **Texas Election Code** §§ 61.003 and 85.036 and includes the posting, use, or distribution of campaign signs or electioneering literature.

(c) *Electioneering Literature* means any written or printed material, other than a sign, promoting or opposing a candidate, political party, or ballot measure.

(d) *Campaign Sign* means any sign, placard, poster, or display intended to influence the outcome of an election.

(e) *Distance Marker* means the one hundred (100) foot boundary measured from an outside door through which a voter may enter the polling place building.

(f) *Voting Period* means the period beginning when polls open on the first day of early voting and ending when polls close on election day or when the last voter has voted, whichever occurs later.

**Sec. 53-27. – Campaign Sign Regulations.**

(a) Eligibility. Only campaign signs relating to a candidate or ballot measure appearing on the ballot at that polling location may be placed on City-owned polling place property.

**(b) Number of Signs.** No more than **three (3) campaign signs per candidate or ballot proposition** may be placed in designated areas only at each City-owned polling place.

(c) Size and Construction. Each campaign sign shall:

1. Not exceed three (3) square feet per sign face;
2. Not exceed three (3) feet in height, including any supporting structure;
3. Be self-supporting and stand-alone in nature;
4. Not be illuminated and contain no moving or animated elements.

(d) Placement Restrictions. Campaign signs shall not:

1. Be placed within the Distance Marker required by state law;

2. Be placed within the public right-of-way;
3. Be affixed to buildings, fences, trees, utility poles, traffic control devices, or other City infrastructure;
4. Obstruct entrances, exits, sidewalks, ADA-accessible routes, drive aisles, parking areas, or emergency access;
5. Create a traffic hazard or obstruct vehicular or pedestrian visibility.

Sec. 53-28. – Canopies, Equipment, and Prohibited Activities.

(a) Limited Allowance for Canopies.

One (1) temporary canopy or tent per candidate or measure on the ballot, including any political action committee (PAC) advocating for or against a candidate or measure, may be permitted on City-owned polling place property for electioneering purposes, as space permits, subject to the following requirements:

1. Designated Area Only.

Canopies shall be placed only within an area designated by the City, which may include the rear row of parking spaces near the flagpole or another location identified by on-site signage or City staff.

2. Maximum Size.

No canopy shall exceed ten feet by ten feet (10' × 10') in footprint.

3. Number, Allocation, and Placement.

Canopies shall be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis on Election Day, subject to site capacity, safety, accessibility, and visibility considerations as determined by City staff

or election officials. The City may limit the total number of canopies permitted at a polling place and may require spacing or alignment to preserve safety, access, and orderly use of the site.

4. PAC Attribution.

Any canopy or tent utilized by a political action committee (PAC) shall be counted toward the single canopy or tent allowed for the specific candidate or measure the PAC supports or opposes. PACs shall not be permitted a separate or additional canopy independent of the candidate or measure.

5. Anti-Collusion and Circumvention Prohibited.

Canopies or tents may not be shared, stacked, clustered, coordinated, or arranged in a manner intended to expand electioneering presence, reserve space, or circumvent the one-canopy limitation per candidate or measure.

6. Anchoring and Safety.

All canopies shall be properly weighted or anchored at all times to prevent movement or hazard.

7. Nightly Removal.

Canopies must be removed each night when voting is not actively occurring and may not remain unattended at any time.

(b) Canopy Signage.

Campaign signs or banners affixed to or displayed on a permitted canopy are allowed, provided that such signage:

1. Does not block pedestrian or vehicular visibility;

2. Does not obstruct ADA-accessible routes, entrances, exits, or drive aisles; and
3. Complies with the size, number, and placement limitations of this Article.

(c) Vehicles, Boats, and Trailers Not Considered Campaign Displays.

A wrapped or lettered car, sport utility vehicle (SUV), pickup truck, boat, or trailer shall not be considered a campaign sign or campaign display, provided the vehicle, boat, or trailer is lawfully parked and not positioned or used primarily for the purpose of functioning as a sign or sign structure, and is parked temporarily while the operator is voting or conducting lawful business at the Police Station.

(d) Prohibited Equipment and Activities.

The following are prohibited at City-owned polling places:

1. Use of megaphones, bullhorns, amplified sound devices, or similar equipment;
2. Tables, booths, or structures not expressly permitted under subsection (a);
3. Any activity that interferes with voter access, disability access, emergency response, or polling place operations.

**Sec. 53-29. – Litter and Maintenance.**

Candidates and campaign representatives shall remove all discarded electioneering literature and materials associated with their campaign from City property.

**Sec. 53-30. – Time Limitations.**

(a) Campaign signs may not be placed on city-owned property earlier than the first day of early voting.

(b) Campaign signs must be removed no later than ~~twenty-four (24)~~ seventy-two (72) hours after the close of polls on election day.

(c) Any sign remaining after this period shall be deemed abandoned property and may be removed and disposed of by the City without notice.

**Sec. 53-31. – Enforcement and Abatement.**

(a) Campaign signs or materials placed in violation of this Article are declared to be public nuisances.

(b) The City Code Enforcement Officers or designee is authorized to remove non-compliant signs immediately.

(c) Enforcement shall be applied uniformly and based on objective safety, access, and operational criteria.

(b) Enforcement of this Article constitutes enforcement of reasonable time, place, and manner regulations and shall not be construed as regulation of the content of political speech.

**Section 2.** Codifier authority. The City Secretary is authorized to direct the codifier to insert appropriate cross-references within Chapter 53 to reflect the adoption of this Article.

**Section 3.** Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

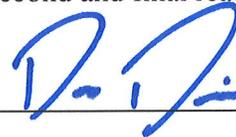
**Section 4.** Penalty. Any person who shall intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence violate any provision of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.

**Section 5.** Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict herewith, are, to the extent of such inconsistency or conflict, hereby repealed.

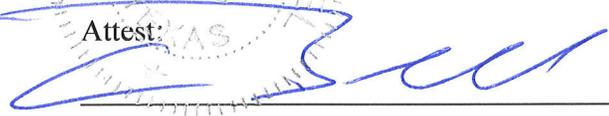
**Section 6.** Severability. In the event any clause, phrase, provision, sentence, or part of this Ordinance or the application of the same to any person or circumstance shall for any reason be adjudged invalid or held unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect, impair, or invalidate this Ordinance as a whole or any part or provision hereof other than the part declared to be invalid or unconstitutional; and the City Council of the City of Manvel, Texas, declares that it would have passed each and every part of the same notwithstanding the omission of any such part thus declared to be invalid or unconstitutional, whether there be one or more parts.

PASSED AND APPROVED on first reading this 5 day of January, 2020.

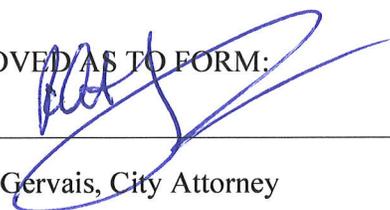
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED on second and final reading this 20 day of January, 2020

  
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Dan Davis, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Bell, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Gervais, City Attorney



## Campaign Signs & Electioneering

These rules apply to **CITY-OWNED PROPERTY** used as a polling place.

Ordinance Reference: City of Manvel Ordinance No. 2026-O-02

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# POLLING PLACE QUICK REFERENCE

### **100-FOOT NO ELECTIONEERING ZONE:**

Electioneering of any kind is prohibited within 100 feet of any polling place entrance.

### **Allowed Areas:**

Electioneering is allowed only outside the 100-foot boundary and only in City-designated areas.

### **Campaign Signs:**

Maximum of three (3) signs per candidate or proposition. Each sign may not exceed 3 sq. ft. per face or 3 ft. in height. Placed only in City-designated areas.

### **Placement Rules:**

No signs in rights-of-way, on City infrastructure, or blocking ADA access, entrances, parking, or emergency routes. Placed only in City-designated areas.

### **Canopies:**

One (1) canopy per candidate/measure, max 10'x10', City-designated area only, weighted, removed nightly. Placed only in City-designated areas.

### **Prohibited:**

Megaphones, amplified sound, tables, booths, or any interference with polling operations.

### **Vehicles:**

Wrapped vehicles are allowed if lawfully parked and not used primarily as a display. Must be parked temporarily while voting or conducting lawful business.

### **Time Limits:**

Signs allowed beginning first day of early voting; must be removed within 72 hours after polls close.

### **Enforcement:**

Non-compliant signs may be removed immediately; fines up to \$2,000 per day.



CANOPIES

BACK ROW ONLY

CANOPIES

POLITICAL SIGNS

# CITY OF MANVEL

## Candidate Electioneering & Campaign Sign FAQ

Ordinance No. 2026-O-02 | City-Owned Polling Places

### Where is electioneering prohibited?

Electioneering of any kind is prohibited within 100 feet of any polling place entrance.

### Where is electioneering allowed?

Only outside the 100-foot boundary and within City-designated electioneering areas.

### How many campaign signs are allowed?

Up to three (3) campaign signs per candidate or ballot proposition.

### What size signs are allowed?

Each sign may not exceed three (3) square feet per face or three (3) feet in height. Signs must be self-supporting and non-illuminated.

### Are canopies allowed?

Yes. One (1) canopy per candidate or measure, maximum size 10' x 10', placed only in City-designated areas, properly anchored, and removed nightly.

### Are tables, booths, or sound equipment allowed?

No. Tables, booths, megaphones, bullhorns, and amplified sound are prohibited.

### Are wrapped vehicles considered campaign signs?

No, provided the vehicle is lawfully parked, not positioned primarily as a sign, and parked temporarily.

### When may signs be placed and removed?

Signs may be placed beginning the first day of early voting and must be removed within 72 hours after polls close.

### What happens if I don't comply?

Non-compliant signs may be removed immediately. Violations are subject to fines up to \$2,000 per day.

**Purpose:** *These regulations protect voter access, safety, and the orderly administration of elections. Rules are enforced uniformly and in a content-neutral manner.*