



Rules for Political Signs

Chapel Hill's Land Use Management Ordinance regulates how political signs may be displayed within Chapel Hill. Temporary political signs advertising candidates or issues are permitted. All political signs in the public right-of-way must be removed within 10 days after the election. The following rules apply:

- Signs should not be larger than 18 inches by 24 inches.
- Signs placed on private property should be removed within 10 days after the primary or election.
- Signs in the public right-of-way should not be erected prior to 30 days before the beginning date of "one stop" early voting and should be removed within 10 days after the primary or election day.
- Signs should not compromise traffic safety by obstructing the view of traffic signals or signs. Do not use words or symbols that could be confused with traffic directional or regulatory signs.

If a campaign sign is lawfully posted anywhere, public or private, then its destruction/removal (other than by the person or organization who posted the sign or by authority of a public agency for a necessary public reason) is a misdemeanor.

The applicable rules against improper removal depend on where the signs have been posted. See N.C. General Statutes Sections 136-32; 14-384 and 14-160.

Please note that this information applies ONLY to political signs. Commercial signage remains subject to rules in the Land Use Management Ordinance, and does not receive special exemption during election season.

Questions? Please contact Town of Chapel Hill Inspection and Development Services at 919-969-5066.

Additional State Regulations for Signage on State Right of Way

State law establishes the following rules for signs along State Right of Way:

- (1) No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.**
- (2) No sign shall be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.**
- (3) No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection.**
- (4) No sign shall be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road.**
- (5) No sign shall be larger than 864 square inches.**
- (6) No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.**
- (7) Persons putting up signs along state right of way must obtain the permission of any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right of way where the sign would be erected.**
- (8) Signs along state right of way may be posted on the 30th day before early voting begins and must be removed by the tenth day after the election.**
- (9) These rules apply to signs in the State right-of-way. The new state law authorizes the Department of Transportation to remove any signs that are not in compliance with these rules.**

In Chapel Hill, State Right of Way includes the following:

Northern Chapel Hill

Erwin Road, Weaver Dairy Road, Sunrise Road
Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Homestead Road, Seawell School Road, High School Road
N. and S. Estes Drive, Estes Drive Ext.

Eastern Chapel Hill

US 15/501 N. – Fordham Boulevard and Service Roads, Dobbins Drive,
Sage Road, Old Chapel Hill – Durham Road
Ephesus Church Road, Bypass Lane
Pope Road (Durham Jurisdiction but abutting west side properties in CH)
Fordham Boulevard and ramps
Christopher Road, Carmichael Street, Hayes Road
NC 54 E, Barbee Chapel Road, Stancell Drive
Finley Golf Course Road, Old Mason Farm Road

Central Chapel Hill

E. Franklin Street, W. Franklin Street, W. Cameron Avenue (one block only by Carolina Inn)
Pittsboro Street
N. and S. Merritt Mill Road
N. and S. Columbia Street, South Road, Raleigh Road,
Manning Drive

Southern Chapel Hill

US 15-501 Hwy S. and ramps, NC Hwy 54 and ramps
Smith Level Road (a tiny stretch by the Bypass), Culbreth Road

Recycling Options

Paper signs: Paper only signs can be recycled at any of the recycling drop-off sites or convenience centers. (see list at bottom for locations.)

Plastic signs and signs with metal or wooden stakes-These signs must be dismantled and taken to one of the convenience centers. All metal and wooden stakes must be removed from the signs. Metal stakes can be recycled in the metal dumpsters at the convenience centers, and the wooden stakes can be recycled in the wood bins at the centers. Unfortunately, the coroplast signs cannot be recycled and should be placed into the trash. As a reuse option, the coroplast signs can be taken to the Scrap Exchange. (see list at bottom for locations.)

Steps for recycling plastic signs and sign stakes:

- Dismantle sign
- Staples in the signs or stakes do not need to be removed before recycling.
- Place wooden stakes in wood dumpster at convenience center
- Place metal stakes in metal dumpster at convenience center
- Place coroplast signs in trash dumpster OR take to the Scrap Exchange

Disposal Option

Signs can be taken to any of the convenience center for disposal.

Recycling, Reuse and Disposal Locations

Scrap Exchange: <http://www.scrapexchange.org/>

**2020 Chapel Hill Road, Suite 31
Durham, NC 27707**

Donations accepted 11 a.m.-6 p.m. seven days a week.

Phone: 919-401-0552

Locations of Solid Waste Convenience Centers (<https://www.orangecountync.gov/1149/Waste-Recycling-Centers>):

- [1514 Eubanks Road](#): One mile west of Hwy. 86, Chapel Hill
- [1616 Ferguson Road](#): At the intersection of Old Greensboro Road, Chapel Hill
- [6705 Bradshaw Quarry Road](#): At the intersection of Oak Grove Church Road, Mebane
- [7001 High Rock Road](#): ¼ mile west of Mill Creek Road, Efland
- [3605 Walnut Grove Church Road](#): at intersection of Hwy.86 North, Hillsborough

24-Hour Recycling Drop-Off Sites (<https://www.orangecountync.gov/1011/24-Hour-Recycling-Drop-off-Sites>):

- [Cedar Falls Park](#): One mile east of Martin Luther King Boulevard on Weaver Dairy Road.
- [University Mall](#): Mall parking lot, behind the gas station on Estes Drive
- [Meadowmont](#): Behind Harris Teeter
- [Hampton Pointe](#): Behind Home Depot, Hwy 86 in Hillsborough