



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

To: 2022 Candidates
From: Martha Currier, Assistant Director
Date: September 12, 2022
Re: Disclosure and Placement of Political Signs

This memo seeks to clarify guidance provided by this office regarding the jurisdiction and statutes pertaining to political sign disclosure and placement, which are overseen by both the Ethics Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT).

Ethics Commission Oversight of Political Sign Disclosures

The guidance materials provided by this office outline the disclosure [requirements](#) for political signs depending upon who paid for it, for example:

- **Paid for by the Candidate or their Committee (address not required)**
“Paid for and authorized by Taylor Hawkins.”
“Paid for and authorized by the candidate.”
“Paid for and authorized by the Committee to Elect Taylor Hawkins.”
- **Paid for by a Candidate’s Agent (address not required)**
“Authorized by the Candidate and paid for by David Grohl, Treasurer.”
- **Paid for by Others not Associated with the Campaign (address is required)**
“Authorized by Candidate Taylor Hawkins and paid for by Rick Nielsen, 1 Pine Road, Augusta, Maine.”

If you have any questions regarding the disclosures required by Maine’s campaign finance laws, please contact your assigned candidate registrar in this office.

MaineDOT Oversight of Temporary Signs in the Public Right-of-Way and Other Disclosures

MaineDOT oversees the state laws pertaining to the placement of temporary signs (which include political signs) in the public right-of-way. The public right-of-way is defined as “any road capable of carrying motor vehicles, including, but not limited to, any state highway, municipal road, county road, unincorporated territory or other road dedicated to the public.” Temporary signs may be placed in the public right-of-way for a maximum of six weeks from January 1 to June 30, and another six weeks from July 1 to December 31.

Since 2019 MaineDOT has required that each sign placed in the right of way include *a date on which the sign was erected*. This distinction is important for political candidates because the laws overseen by the Ethics Commission do not require a date to be placed on them. To avoid having your signs removed by the MaineDOT, please make these requirements known to those helping your campaign.

MDOT’s full guidance on the placement of political signs and exceptions to the placement law can be found on our [website](#).

If you have any questions regarding the placement of temporary signs in the right-of-way and the disclosures required by MaineDOT, please contact their Legislative Liaison, Meghan Russo at meghan.russo@maine.gov.