

# Iowa's Electioneering and Campaign Sign Guidelines

## What is electioneering?

Electioneering is the campaigning for or against any candidate or issue that is on the ballot. Examples of electioneering include, but are not limited to: collecting signatures for a petition, circulating handbills or cards, or posting campaign signs. Electioneering may also include engaging in any campaigning practice that interferes with the freedom of voters to vote or disrupts the administration of the polling site.

## Is electioneering allowed at the polling place, satellite voting station or county auditor's office?

No. During the hours that voting is taking place, campaign signs may not be posted and electioneering is not allowed within 300 feet of any entrance to the polling place. Persons who willfully commit electioneering activities, are committing election misconduct in the third degree, a serious misdemeanor.

## What about campaign signs or electioneering on private property?

The 300 foot rule does not apply to campaign signs placed on private property with the permission of the property owner. The 300 foot rule does apply to signs larger than 90 square inches on vehicles parked on public property. For example, it is permissible for a campaign sign to be placed in a residential yard that is within 300 feet of a polling place. It is not, however, permissible to place a sign larger than 90 square inches on a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, or its attachment to a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer parked on public property within 300 feet of a polling place.

Electioneering, apart from sign placement, occurring within 300 feet of a polling place for purposes of applying Iowa Code chapter 39A is prohibited under Iowa Code chapter 39A.

## What should I do if I believe electioneering is happening ?

If you believe that electioneering is happening at the polling place or within 300 feet of an outside door to the polling place, immediately contact your County Auditor. The County Auditor has the authority to order the individual to stop all electioneering activities. If the individual refuses to stop, or acts in a noisy, riotous, tumultuous or disorderly manner, then the County Auditor has the authority under Iowa Code section 49.105 to notify law enforcement and order their arrest.

## How to Report Electioneering:

If you believe electioneering is occurring during the hours that voting is taking place, you should immediately contact your County Auditor or the Iowa Secretary of State.

Iowa Secretary of State — Elections Divisions  
Phone: 515-281-0145 // 1-888-SOS-VOTE  
Website: [sos.iowa.gov](http://sos.iowa.gov)