

SB 45 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-1060

08/05

SENATE BILL **45**

AN ACT clarifying the placement of political signs on municipal property.

SPONSORS: Sen. Gray, Dist 6

COMMITTEE: Election Law and Municipal Affairs

ANALYSIS

This bill clarifies the conditions under which political advertising may be placed on municipal property.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT clarifying the placement of political signs on municipal property.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Placement of Political Advertising; Municipal Property. Amend RSA 664:17 to read as follows:
2 664:17 Placement and Removal of Political Advertising.

3 ***I.*** No political advertising shall be placed on or affixed to any public property [~~including~~
4 ~~highway rights-of-way~~] or private property without the owner's consent ***or as provided below.***

5 ***II.*** All political advertising shall be removed by the candidate no later than the second
6 Friday following the election unless the election is a primary and the advertising concerns a
7 candidate who is a winner in the primary.

8 ***III.*** Signs shall not be placed on or affixed to utility poles or highway signs.

9 ***IV.*** Political advertising may be placed within state-owned rights-of-way as long as ***the***
10 ***following conditions are met:***

11 ***(a)*** [~~the~~] ***The*** advertising does not obstruct the safe flow of traffic.

12 ***(b)*** [~~and the~~] ***The*** advertising is placed with the consent of the owner of the land over
13 which the right-of-way passes.

14 ***(c)*** ***The advertising is not more than 10 feet from the property line and no larger***
15 ***than 32 square feet.***

16 ***V.*** ***Unless the town or city prohibits political advertising on its rights-of-way,***
17 ***political advertising may be placed on town or city owned rights-of-way following the***
18 ***conditions of paragraph IV.***

19 ***VI.*** No person shall remove, deface, or knowingly destroy any political advertising which is
20 placed on or affixed to public property or any private property except for removal by the owner of the
21 property, persons authorized by the owner of the property, or a law enforcement officer removing
22 improper advertising. Political advertising placed on or affixed to any public property may be
23 removed by state, city, or town maintenance or law enforcement personnel. Political advertising
24 removed ***on or*** prior to election day by state, city, or town maintenance or law enforcement
25 personnel shall be kept until one week after the election at a place designated by the state, city, or
26 town so that the candidate, or a member of the candidate's campaign or local political committee of
27 the same party may retrieve the items.

28 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.