

## ELECTION/FREE SPEECH SIGNS

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy campaign schedule to learn about the rules and regulations regarding the placement of temporary election/free speech signs within the City of Miami Beach. I urge you to review these rules with your campaign volunteers. Copies of the Miami Beach City Code Section referenced herein are included in TAB 16 of this handbook.

### **Display of election/free speech signs on vehicles**

Vehicles, including trailers, carrying or having attached advertising signs dealing with the candidacy of individuals for elected office or advertising propositions to be submitted and voted upon by the people are authorized to be parked on public or private property. Such signs shall be removed within seven days after the date of the election. (See Sec. 138-61(a)(2) of the Miami Beach City Code.)

### **Regulations of temporary election/free speech signs**

*Setback, height regulations for temporary election/free speech signs:* Unless affixed to a fence or an existing building, detached temporary election/free speech signs shall be setback ten feet from any property line. The maximum height to the top of a detached temporary election/free speech sign affixed to posts or a fence shall be five feet above grade in single-family and multifamily residential districts, and 12 feet above grade in all other districts. Maximum height to the top of a flat temporary election/free speech sign affixed to a building shall not extend above the first floor in single-family and multifamily residential districts and shall not extend above the second story of such building in all other districts. (See Sec. 138-133(b) of the Miami Beach City Code.)

*Timeframe, removal:* Temporary election/free speech signs shall only be allowed for a period beginning with the temporary activity that is the subject of the sign, i.e. candidacy of individuals for elected office or advertising propositions to be submitted and voted upon by the people, and must be removed within seven days from the date of the election. (See Sec. 138-133(c) of the Miami Beach City Code.)

*Number:* No more than one temporary election/free speech sign per residential or commercial unit is permitted. (See Sec. 138-133(d) of the Miami Beach City Code.)

*Type:* Temporary election/free speech signs may be flat wall signs, part of a fence, or rigid detached signs, or affixed to posts. Banners are prohibited. The sign area for window signs shall not exceed ten percent of total window area. (See Sec. 138-133(f) of the Miami Beach City Code.)

*Size, single-family:* The temporary election/free speech sign area in a single-family residential district shall not exceed four square feet. (See Sec. 138-133(g) of the Miami Beach City Code.)

*Size, multifamily:* The temporary election/free speech sign area in a multifamily residential district shall not exceed 16 square feet. (See Sec. 138-133(h) of the Miami Beach City Code.)

*Size, all other districts.* The temporary election/free speech sign area for all other districts shall not exceed one square foot per three linear feet of street frontage, not to exceed 75 square feet. (See Sec. 138-133(h) of the Miami Beach City Code.)

### **Election headquarter signs**

The temporary election/free speech sign area in commercial or industrial districts for campaign headquarters shall not have a sign area limitation. Each candidate may have four campaign headquarters, which shall be registered with the City Clerk. (See Sec. 138-134 of the Miami Beach City Code.)

### **Election/free speech signs prohibited in State or National Highways**

No election/free speech sign shall be erected, used, operated, or maintained which is located upon the right-of-way of any highway on the State Highway System, interstate highway system, or federal-aid primary highway system. (See F.S. 479.11(8).)

If you have any questions regarding election/free speech signs, please do not hesitate to contact the Code Compliance Department at 305.673.7555.