



Office of the Selectmen  
**TOWN OF ATKINSON**

19 Academy Avenue, Atkinson, NH 03811  
603-362-5266 • Fax 603-362-5305  
[www.town-atkinsonnh.com](http://www.town-atkinsonnh.com)

Date: September 20, 2022

To: Atkinson Residents

From: Town of Atkinson

**RE: Political Signs**

As we enter another political season, the question continually comes up regarding the placement of political signs.

Under the Town of Atkinson Ordinance 470:14 Political Advertising. Political signs and political advertising signs are permitted consistent with the requirements of RSA 664:17 Placement and Removal of Political Advertising.

**“664:17 Placement and Removal of Political Advertising.** – No political advertising shall be placed on or affixed to any public property including highway rights-of-way or private property without the owner's consent. All political advertising shall be removed by the candidate no later than the second Friday following the election unless the election is a primary and the advertising concerns a candidate who is a winner in the primary. Signs shall not be placed on or affixed to utility poles or highway signs. Political advertising may be placed within state-owned rights-of-way as long as the advertising does not obstruct the safe flow of traffic and the advertising is placed with the consent of the owner of the land over which the right-of-way passes. No person shall remove, deface, or knowingly destroy any political advertising which is placed on or affixed to public property or any private property except for removal by the owner of the property, persons authorized by the owner of the property, or a law enforcement officer removing improper advertising. Political advertising placed on or affixed to any public property may be removed by state, city, or town maintenance or law enforcement personnel. Political advertising removed prior to election day by state, city, or town maintenance or law enforcement personnel shall be kept until one week after the election at a place designated by the state, city, or town so that the candidate may retrieve the items.”

**Source.** 1979, 436:1. 1994, 4:28. 2006, 273:1. 2013, 24:1, eff. July 15, 2013.

### **Where to Place Signs**

“Political advertising may be placed within state-owned rights-of-way as long as the advertising does not obstruct the safe flow of traffic and the advertising is placed with the consent of the owner of the land over which the right-of-way passes.”

The State Roads in Atkinson, NH are: East Road, North Broadway, Main Street, Academy Avenue, and Route 111.

### **Violation Spots**

Town Conservation Land, Town Common, Town Hall, Library, Utility Poles, and large signs that partially block the site of traffic.

**Signs placed in violation will be removed by Code Enforcement and held in the Town Hall front lobby for 10 days. Signs not picked up in 10 days will be disposed of.**

### **Removing Signs After an Election**

All political advertising shall be removed by the candidate (or property owner) no later than the second Friday following the election unless the election is a primary and the advertising concerns a candidate who is a winner in the primary.

**Signs in Town right of way that are not removed in the above timeframe will be removed by Code Enforcement and held in the Town Hall front lobby for 10 days. Signs not picked up in 10 days will be disposed of.**

If you have questions or concerns regarding the placement or removal of political advertisements, please call our Code Enforcement Officer, Brian Boyle, at 603-234-0721.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Apple", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Apple  
Town Administrator