Brunswick County Sign Ordinance



### 10.7.4. Architectural Features of Buildings

Integral decorative or architectural features of buildings and works of art, so long as such features or works do not contain letters, trademarks, or moving parts.

### 10.7.5. On-Premises Instructional Signs

**A. Description**

On-premises instructional signs giving information or direction for the convenience and necessity of the public. See the Definition in Section 10.4 for further description.

**B. Standards**

Such signs shall not exceed six square feet in area or four feet in height. Any commercial message or logo contained in the sign shall not be legible from the public roadway or neighboring properties.

### 10.7.6. Identification Signs for Residential Uses

**A. Description**

On-premises instructional signs giving information or direction for the convenience and necessity of the public. See the Definition in Section 10.4 for further description.

**B. Standards**

When associated with a residential use, identification signs not to exceed four square feet on any lot. (See Section 10.8, Signs Requiring Permits, for signs associated with a commercial use or larger than four square feet in size).

### * 10.7.7. Campaign/Political Signs

**A. Description**

A sign without a commercial message that relates to an election or other event.

**B. Standards**

Within seven days of the election (closing of polls), all signs must be removed.

### 10.7.8. On Premise Fuel Price Signs

**A. Description**

Price signs at automobile service stations or other establishments engaged in the retail sales of gasoline or other fuel for automobiles.

**B. Standards**

One such sign is allowed for each side of a lot fronting on a public street, provided it does not exceed 15 square feet in area. Any such sign shall be affixed to a permitted freestanding identification sign, to a canopy support in the vicinity of the gasoline pumps, or flat-mounted against the wall of a building.

### 10.7.9. Gasoline Service Pump Signs

**A. Description**

Signs announcing the location of gasoline pumps at any establishment engaged in the retail sale of gasoline.

**B. Standards**

Such signs shall be located in the vicinity of the pumps and shall not exceed four square feet in area.

* • For additional information on this ordinance, you may contact the Brunswick County Planning Department at (910) 253-2025.
* • Individual municipalities may have rules regarding campaign signs that differ from those listed here. For clarification of those rules, you may contact the individual municipalities.

# Littering Statutes for Political Candidates in North Carolina

**§ 14-156. Injuring fixtures and other property of electric-power companies.**

It shall be unlawful for any person willfully and wantonly, and without the consent of the owner, to take down, remove, injure, obstruct, displace or destroy any line erected or constructed for the transmission of electrical current, or any poles, towers, wires, conduits, cables, insulators or any support upon which wires or cables may be suspended, or any part of any such line or appurtenances or apparatus connected therewith, or to sever any wire or cable thereof, or in any manner to interrupt the transmission of electrical current over and along any such line, or to take down, remove, injure or destroy any house, shop, building or other structure or machinery connected with or necessary to the use of any line erected or constructed for the transmission of electrical current, or to wantonly or willfully cause injury to any of the property mentioned in this section by means of fire. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. (1907, c. 919; C.S., s. 4328; 1993, c. 539, s. 94; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

**§ 136-32. Regulation of signs.**

(a) Commercial Signs. – No unauthorized person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any warning or direction sign, marker, signal or light or imitation of any official sign, marker, signal or light erected under the provisions of G.S. 136-30, except in cases of emergency. No person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any traffic or highway sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial or political advertising, except as provided in subsections (b) through (e) of this section: Provided, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the erection or maintenance of signs, markers, or signals bearing thereon the name of an organization authorized to erect the same by the Department of Transportation or by any local authority referred to in G.S. 136-31. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The Department of Transportation may remove any signs erected without authority or allowed to remain beyond the deadline established in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Compliant Political Signs Permitted. – During the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting under G.S. 163-227.2 and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day, persons may place political signs in the right-of-way of the State highway system as provided in this section. Signs must be placed in compliance with subsection (d) of this section and must be removed by the end of the period prescribed in this subsection.

(c) Definition. – For purposes of this section, "political sign" means any sign that advocates for political action. The term does not include a commercial sign.

(d) Sign Placement. – The permittee must obtain the permission of any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected. Signs must be placed in accordance with the following:

(1) No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.

(2) No sign shall be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.

(3) No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection.

(4) No sign shall be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road.

(5) No sign shall be larger than 864 square inches.

(6) No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.

(e) Penalties for Unlawful Removal of Signs. – It is a Class 3 misdemeanor for a person to steal, deface, vandalize, or unlawfully remove a political sign that is lawfully placed under this section.

(f) Application Within Municipalities. – Pursuant to Article 8 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, a city may by ordinance prohibit or regulate the placement of political signs on rights-of-way of streets located within the corporate limits of a municipality and maintained by the municipality. In the absence of an ordinance prohibiting or regulating the placement of political signs on the rights-of-way of streets located within a municipality and maintained by the municipality, the provisions of subsections (b) through (e) of this section shall apply. (1921, c. 2, s. 9(b); C.S., s. 3846(r); 1927, c. 148, ss. 56, 58; 1933, c. 172, s. 17; 1957, c. 65, s. 11; 1973, c. 507, s. 5; 1977, c. 464, s. 7.1; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1030, s. 39; 1993, c. 539, s. 981; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 2011-408, s. 1.)

**19A NCAC 02E .0415 Advertising signs within right of way**

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to erect or place any advertising or other sign, except regulation traffic and warning signs approved by the Department of Transportation, on any highway or the right of way thereof, or so as to overhang the right of way, or to permit the erection or placing of any advertising or other sign, as herein prohibited, on a n y highway right of way which is situated over any land owned, rented, leased or claimed by such person, firm or corporation . It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or other corporation that has erected, or placed, or permitted to be erected or placed, any advertising or other sign, as herein prohibited, or for any person, firm or corporation owning, renting, leasing or claiming any land over which a highway or highway right of way is situated, and on which highway or highway right of way any advertising or other sign has been erected or placed, to allow such advertising or other signs to remain o n state highway or right of way thereof.
History Note: Authority G.S. 136-18(10); 136-30;
Eff. July 1, 1978.