



Illinois Department of Transportation

Memorandum

To: Directors, Regional Engineers, and Staff
From: William M. Barnes *WMB*
Subject: Political Signs
Date: March 4, 2016

As the political season is drawing near, the Office of Chief Counsel has been asked to tender a directive for the removal of political signs on IDOT property and Right-of-Way. Under 605 ILCS 5/9-112.1, Illinois law states the following:

"No person shall place or cause to be placed any sign or billboard or any advertising of any kind or description upon any State highway or on any other highway outside the corporate limits of any municipality . . . This provision also shall apply to signs, billboards, or any other advertising upon any bridge, other structure, wire, cable, or other device, over or above such highway, whether constructed by the Department or others except signs designating the name of the railroad and the clearance provided . . ."

Highway right-of-way is defined as the driving lanes, inside and outside shoulders, inslope-ditch bottom backslope, clear zone, and sight corners at intersections. In addition, signs and other items may not be placed on private property outside the right-of-way limits (but near the roadway) without landowner consent.

IDOT crews may remove signs within the right-of-way without notice. Signs are typically stored for 30 working days before being discarded. Owners may retrieve their signs during this time.

IDOT should administer these rules in an impartial manner treating political campaign signs in the same manner as other signs wrongly placed on state highway right-of-way by businesses, churches, private citizens, and service or charitable groups.