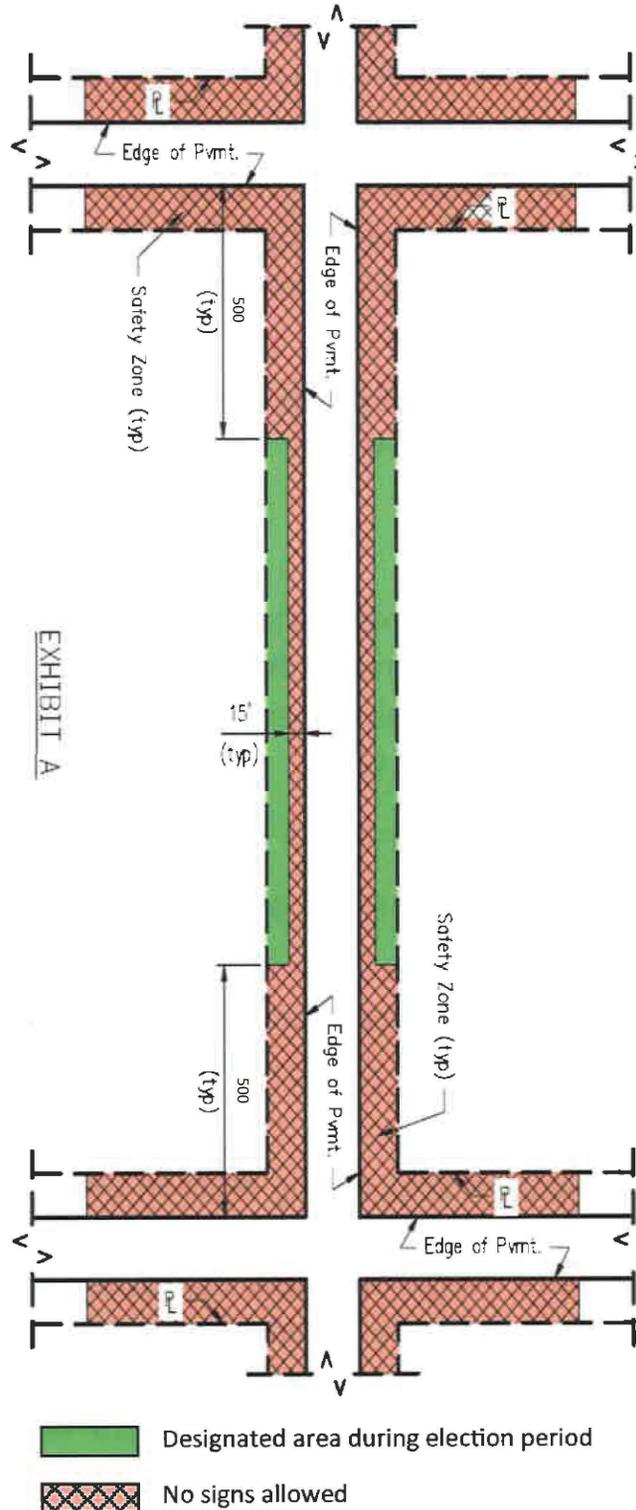


Proper placement of signs will require some knowledge about which roads fall under county jurisdiction.

Maps of Cowley County may be obtained in the Public Works & Engineering Office free of charge. The office is located on the 1st Floor at the northeast corner of the main courthouse at 311 E 9th Avenue in Winfield.

State highways within the county are not covered under these regulations. Any questions regarding state highways should be directed to Kansas Department of Transportation at 620-221-3370.

Cities within Cowley County may have their own regulations. Please contact each city directly for their regulations.



# Cowley County

## Public Works & Engineering Department

### *Guidelines for Placement of Private Signs in the Public Right of Way*



Guidelines for implementation of Resolution 77-2016 Under K.S.A. 25-2711

Cowley County Public Works & Engineering Office  
311 E 9th Ave ~ PO Box 464  
Winfield, KS 67156  
engineer@cowleycounty.org  
620-221-5425

## *Why has the county established a sign policy?*

- State law prohibits private signs and other obstructions in road right of way.
- In 2015, the Kansas Legislature passed K.S.A. 25-2711 to specifically allow placement of political signs in city and county rights of way during a period of 45 days prior to and 2 days after an election.
- K.S.A. 25-2711 allows local government to regulate signage for safety reason.
- The Cowley County Board of Commissioners established a policy to balance the safety of the travelling public with constitutional rights to free speech.

**25-2711. Placement of political signs during election period.** No city or county shall regulate or prohibit the placement of or the number of political signs on private property or the unpaved right-of-way for city streets or county roads on private property during the 45-day period prior to any election and the two-day period following any such election. Cities and counties may regulate the size and a set-back distance for the placement of signs so as not to impede sight lines or sight distance for safety reasons.

## *What are the regulations?*

Definition of election period: 45 days before and 2 days after any election scheduled by the Cowley County Clerk.

No private signage allowed in Cowley County right of way outside of any election period.

During an election period, signs may be placed within designated areas:

- Unpaved right-of-way for county or township roads beyond the drainage ditch on the back side of the slope
- Greater than 500 feet from an intersection

**Per Cowley County Resolution No. 2016-01 dated 5/3/2016, violators of this policy may be charged with a Class C misdemeanor which may impose a fine of up to \$500 or up to 30 days in the County Jail if convicted.**

## *What will Cowley County do with sign policy violations?*

- Outside of an election period, all signs may be removed and disposed of without notice to the owner.
- During an election period, signage placed outside of the designated area may be removed and disposed of without notice to the owner.
- During an election period, private signs meeting the requirements of the policy will be left in place to the extent practicable.
- During an election period, Public Works employees may temporarily remove and replace or relocate private signs further back in the right-of-way in order to perform work in the right-of-way.

## **Questions?**

### **Contact:**

David Lawson, Public Works Superintendent  
engineer@cowleycounty.org  
620-221-5425

~or~

Karen Madison, County Clerk  
kmadison@cowleycounty.org  
620-221-5400