

IMPROPERLY PLACED SIGNS ON HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY



General Guidelines for Political and Other Temporary Signs

SIGN PLACEMENT GUIDANCE:

- **Campaign signs and other temporary signs must be placed on private property.** Since highway right-of-way limits may vary greatly in width, look for fences parallel to the road or for utility pedestals and poles. These items are usually placed near the right-of-way limits.
- Utilities are often installed just inside the right-of-way. Signs are not allowed in the area between the utility poles or fence and the road surface.
- Campaign signs are allowed on private property with the permission of the landowner. Do not place campaign signs on public lands such as parks and forestry land.
- Before placing a sign inside incorporated city limits, check with the city for applicable ordinances.
- Road signs and traffic signals are located within the right- of-way. Campaign signs may not be installed on signposts or traffic signal poles.

CONTACT US

South Dakota Department of Transportation

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SDDOT Area Office Phone Numbers

Aberdeen	605-626-7885
Belle Fourche	605-892-2872
Custer	605-673-4948
Huron	605-353-7140
Mitchell	605-995-8120
Mobridge	605-845-3844
Pierre	605-773-5294
Rapid City	605-394-2248
Sioux Falls	605-367-5680
Watertown	605-882-5166
Winner	605-842-0810
Yankton	605-668-2929



THE ISSUE

Political signs and other temporary signs are occasionally placed **improperly and illegally** within highway right-of-way.

In addition to being **illegal**, improperly placed signs may distract motorists or impair their vision at intersections, driveways and even on the shoulder of the road. Signs may also be a **safety hazard** if accidentally struck by a vehicle or by highway maintenance equipment, such as a mower. For the safety of everyone, it is the duty of state workers to remove improperly placed signs.

SIGN REMOVAL

State workers do not make special trips to look for **improperly placed signs** unless there is a complaint. Such signs are often discovered as these workers perform routine highway maintenance activities.

Signs that cause a safety hazard, such as signs in the vision triangles at intersections, are removed immediately.

Other signs may be removed or SDDOT may call individuals, organizations, or political parties to notify them that a sweep of signs in an area will be completed in the near future.

APPLICABLE STATE LAW

No person may erect or maintain upon any highway any traffic or highway sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial or political campaign advertising. (SDCL 31-28-14)

IF A SIGN IS REMOVED BY A STATE EMPLOYEE, YOU MAY CALL THE LOCAL SDDOT OFFICE TO CLAIM YOUR SIGN. TO RETRIEVE YOUR SIGN, YOU WILL NEED TO PICK IT UP. SIGNS MAY NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE 30 DAYS AFTER REMOVAL.