

The City of Morristown

Office of Administration



Morristown City Council Agenda Item Summary

Date: July 7, 2026

Agenda Item: Adopt a resolution establishing guidance for the placement of campaign signs at the Public Works facility when it is used as an early voting location.

Prepared By: Andrew Ellard

Subject: Public Works Early Voting Location and Signage

Background: In 2026, the City allowed the Hamblen County Election Commission to begin using the Training Room at Public Works for an early voting location.

Findings/Current Activity:

In hindsight, it is apparent that the same rules/guidelines for the placement of campaign signage were not applied at Public Works as they were at locations such as the courthouse. The Administrator of Elections recommended that because this was a City-owned facility, that the City should consider rules similar to those established by the County.

This resolution establishes a reasonable distance from the Public Works facility within which signage may be placed. It also mirrors rules established by the County as it relates to size and quantity limitations. To protect the irrigation at the facility, this resolution also prohibits the use of posts.

Financial Impact:

None.

Action options/Recommendations:

Staff recommends approval.

Attachment: Resolution and map

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MORRISTOWN, TENNESSEE AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY PLACEMENT OF POLITICAL SIGNS IN THE CLOSE PROXIMITY OF THE POLLING STATION LOCATED WITHIN THE MORRISTOWN PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

WHEREAS, signs provide an important medium through which individuals and organizations may convey a variety of messages; and

WHEREAS, signs can also create traffic hazards, aesthetic concerns and threaten the public health, safety and welfare of a community; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to regulate the temporary freestanding signage placed on City property to prevent visual clutter and to allow all candidates the opportunity to place signs which are unobstructed while providing for effective means of communication, consistent with constitutional guarantees; and

WHEREAS, it is not the City's purpose or intent of this resolution to regulate the message displayed on any sign placed on City property rather it is the intent of the City to limit temporary signs on City property by limiting their size, number, appearance, and frequency and time of display on City property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that any temporary signage placed on the grounds of the Public Works Facility or the Morristown Landing must meet the following criteria:

- a) Only signage related to the facility's use as a voting location is allowed, and as such, the allowance for such signage on the premises only applies when the facility is actively being used as such.
- b) Political signs must be placed a minimum of 100 feet from the entrance to a polling station, but no further than 300 feet. (see attached Map A)
- c) Only one sign per property is permitted to be displayed by an individual and/or organization authorized to display signage on the above City properties;
- d) The sign cannot exceed 8 square feet in size. When a sign contains two back to back sign faces, the sign area shall be computed using only one of the sign faces;
- e) Signs may be placed in the ground by wire-style frames but shall not allow t-posts or other posts into the ground.
- f) Signs shall not be placed in traffic islands with the Public Works Facility or Morristown Landing's parking lots.
- g) Signs shall not be placed in the landscape median of Durham Landing.
- h) In order to protect site distances of vehicles, signs shall not be placed with twenty-five (25) feet of parking lot entrance or exit.

- i) The sign shall be displayed for a time period not to exceed 30 consecutive days and a total of 90 days in any one calendar year. There must be 30 days in between sign placements;
- j) Each sign must be professionally printed. Hand-drawn or hand-painted signs are not permitted;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect from and after its passage on this the 7th day of July, 2026.

ADOPTED THIS THE 7th DAY OF JULY 2026.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Map A

