



Standard Operating Procedures

Electioneering Guidelines

# Electioneering Guidelines

## Policy Cross-Reference

This handbook is an administrative procedure of the District and subject to policies adopted by the Board of Trustees. In case of conflict between administrative procedures and Board policy, policy shall prevail.

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The contents of this handbook relate to the following Board policies:

Policy	Title	Page
BBBA(LEGAL)	Elections: Conducting Elections	3
BBBD(LEGAL)	Elections: Campaign Ethics	3
GKB(LOCAL)	Community Relations: Advertising and Fundraising	4



## Electioneering Guidelines

Pursuant to Texas Election Code § [61.003](#), and Board Policies BBBB (LEGAL), and GKDA (LOCAL), Fort Bend Independent School District (the “District”) implements the following administrative regulations to provide reasonable guidelines for Electioneering on District owned or controlled property when used as an election polling location.

These regulations are limited to District owned or controlled public property when used as a polling location. Because such polling locations include facilities that are simultaneously used for other purposes involving community members, staff, parents, and students of all ages, the purpose for these guidelines is to mitigate safety concerns, prevent disruption of the District’s educational programs and operations, maintain adequate parking and safe access, and prevent damage to public property, while providing voters access to the polling location, free from undue harassment and undue influence.

### Generally

“Electioneering” is the posting, use, or distribution of political signs or literature. “Political” means advocating for or against a candidate or a measure on the ballot. See Tex. Elections Code 61.003(b) and Tex. Educ. Code 11.169.

“Voting period” means the period beginning when the polls open for voting and ending when the polls close or the last voter has voted, whichever is later. Tex. Elections Code 61.003(b).

Electioneering on District property may only occur outside of a 100 foot perimeter measured from any outside door through which a voter enters the polling place. With the exception of posting political signs (see below), electioneering may only occur only during the times the polling place is open. District or campus officials may reasonably restrict electioneering to designated areas in order to achieve the purpose of these guidelines.

Electioneering on District property that creates a disruption of the District’s educational programs and operations, and/or that causes a safety threat to pedestrians, students, staff, District personnel, and other community members is strictly prohibited. Examples of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to: honking, blocking the right of way or impeding the flow of traffic for pedestrians and other vehicles, creating excessive noise or other nuisance.

### Guidelines

Sidewalks, walkways, ramps, driveways, and parking areas may not be blocked or impeded. Reserving parking spaces is not permitted.

Tents, canopies, and tables are not permitted as parking lots are regularly shared with students, staff, parents, and community members.

No vehicles or trailers shall be allowed on the grassed areas on the District controlled or owned property. Overnight parking of all vehicles for electioneering is strictly prohibited. Any vehicle in violation shall be towed at the owner’s expense.

**Political Signs (see Board Policy [GKB Local](#))**

Each candidate or PAC may erect two signs. All sign placements shall be in compliance with the Texas Election Code and the Texas Transportation Code.

Signs may be erected no earlier than the first day of voting at the polling site, and must be removed no later than the last day of voting in the election.

Signs shall be constructed of lightweight material and shall not exceed six square feet, or two feet by three feet, in area and shall be no higher than three feet above ground level.

Signs shall not be located in the right-of-way.

Flags are considered signs and are permitted only in accordance with these guidelines.