
Fw: Request for input on Political Sign Regulation and Election Integrity

From Linda Scherzinger <schertz17@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 4/27/2026 5:24 PM

To Joseph Parrilli <JParrilli@cityofmarcoisland.com>; Jose Muchati <JMuchati@cityofmarcoisland.com>

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Hi Joe and Jose,

I took the liberty of reaching out to our Supervisor of Elections, Melissa Blazier, to get her input on changing our political sign ordinance. I'd like to share her email reply with BAC as part of our agenda packet. Thanks!

Linda

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Blazier, Melissa <melissa.blazier@colliervotes.gov>

To: Linda Scherzinger <schertz17@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 at 01:21:06 PM EDT

Subject: RE: EXTERNAL: Request for input on Political Sign Regulation and Election Integrity

Hi Linda,

Thank you for soliciting our input. Below are a few bullet points in regards to political signs. Please let me know if you need additional information or have questions regarding my comments. Again, thanks for soliciting our feedback, Melissa

- Unattended political signage at polling locations often blocks or limits voter's ability to see official SOE signage (precinct identification and directional access). This impacts a voter's ability to locate and access the polling place.
- Having disparate political sign ordinances and practices throughout the county creates impediments for the uniformity of education, compliance, and enforcement. To accommodate this specific ordinance, we need to create unique procedures, materials and training for one early voting location and three election day polling places compared to the remaining 70 polling places.
- Election Day polling places are less likely to continue to be polling places when they encounter negative impacts from hosting a polling place. Facilities have cited political campaigning on their property as a strong negative. Losing access to facilities that are willing to serve as a polling place with limited replacement options is a growing concern that would significantly affect voters and the administration of elections.
- In past election cycles we have encountered the situation where the initial placement of political signage begets more signage e.g. a candidate place one sign, the next places two and the first candidate comes back and places three more and so on. The escalating volume of political signs at polling places on Marco Island has generated voter complaints and candidate confusion.



Melissa Blazier, CERA, MFCEP

Supervisor of Elections

Collier County Supervisor of Elections



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From: Linda Scherzinger <schertz17@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 11:22 AM

To: Supervisor Elections <Supervisor.elections@colliervotes.gov>

Subject: EXTERNAL: Request for input on Political Sign Regulation and Election Integrity

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Supervisor Blazier,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing in my capacity as a member of a Marco Island Beautification Advisory Committee currently reviewing the city's ordinance governing political signage. Particularly, I am concerned with the provision allowing signs within the public right-of-way during limited daytime hours surrounding elections.

I spoken with several City Councilors, and all were very supportive of eliminating this provision. I believe you have seen the huge number of signs present along the ROW at Marco Public Library during early voting. I've counted over 100 signs each day. Similarly, on election day at our 3 polling locations, hundreds of signs are placed in their ROWs and abandoned.

As part of this review, we are evaluating whether the current policy best serves the interests of voters, public safety, and the integrity of the electoral environment. One concern that has been raised by residents is that allowing signage in the public right-of-way, even for restricted hours, can lead to visual clutter, potential distractions for drivers, and an overall perception of disorder during election periods.

We understand that nearby jurisdictions, including Collier County and the City of Naples, maintain more restrictive approaches to political signage in public rights-of-way. Given your office's role in overseeing fair and orderly elections, your perspective on this issue would be extremely valuable.

Specifically, I would appreciate any insight you could provide on the following:

- Whether the presence of political signs in public rights-of-way has any impact—positive or negative—on voter participation, access, or election administration
- Any concerns related to safety, polling place access, or voter confusion associated with such signage

- Best practices or recommendations your office has observed regarding political signage regulations in other jurisdictions
- Whether more restrictive policies (such as prohibiting signs in rights-of-way) are consistent with maintaining a fair and effective electoral process

If possible, I would also welcome a brief written statement summarizing your perspective that could be shared with my advisory committee and, ultimately, with the Marco Island City Council as part of our review process.

Thank you for your time and for the important work your office does to support transparent and well-administered elections in our community. I appreciate any guidance you are able to provide.

Sincerely,

Linda Scherzinger
Vice Chair, Beautification Advisory Committee
City of Marco Island
