



Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Electioneering at Polling Places Ordinance

1. **TITLE:** This ordinance shall be known as the “**Electioneering at Polling Places Ordinance**” of the Town of Goffstown.
2. **AUTHORITY:** RSA 31:39,I(g); RSA 31:41-c; RSA 659:43.
3. **DECLARATION OF PURPOSE:** The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the safety and rights of voters and others at the polling places and allow for the uninterrupted movement of voters and vehicles by placing reasonable restrictions on the locations at which distribution and display of campaign materials and electioneering may occur and on vehicle parking at polling places.
4. **LOCATIONS OF ELECTIONEERING:**
 - A. **Within Polling Place Buildings.** Except as expressly authorized by RSA 659:43 I, display or distributions of electioneering signs or materials and electioneering is not permitted inside of any building where an election is being held.
 - B. **Outside of Polling Place Buildings.** No electioneering or display or distribution of campaign material may occur at any polling place while an election is being held except in areas expressly designated for those activities by the moderator, but in no event in any location that may interfere with the safe passage of vehicles and pedestrians or interrupt or interfere with voters.
 - C. **Signs.** No electioneering signs may be affixed to the ground or left unattended at any polling place.



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5. **PARKING:** Vehicles may not be left unattended for longer than one (1) hour at any polling place while an election is being held, except as permitted by the moderator. The moderator may designate separate parking locations at the polling place for voters, election workers and officials, and others.

6. **DEFINITIONS:** For purposes of this ordinance:
 - A. “Electioneering” shall mean an act in any way specifically designed to influence the vote of a voter on any question or office.

 - B. “Campaign material” shall mean any poster, card, handbill, placard, or other written material that is intended to influence the action of a voter at the polling place.

 - C. “Polling Place” shall mean the building and grounds at which elections are held, including any parking areas.

7. **ENFORCEMENT:** The Goffstown Police Department shall enforce this ordinance.

8. **PENALTIES:** Any person found to be in violation of this ordinance shall be guilty of a violation and shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for each violation.

9. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This ordinance shall take effect upon passage.



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11. ADOPTION PROCEDURE:

1st Public Hearing: Monday, 10/07/24 6:30 PM

Date Posted: 09/24/2024 Locations Posted: Town Hall bulletin boards & website

Publication/s: New Hampshire Union Leader, Thursday 09/26/2024

2nd Public Hearing: Thursday, 10/17/2024 6:00 PM

Date Posted: 09/24/2024 Locations Posted: Town Hall bulletin boards & website

Publication/s: New Hampshire Union Leader, Thursday, 09/26/2024

DATE ADOPTED BY THE SELECT BOARD: October 28, 2024

Peter Georgantas, Chairman

Kelly Boyer, Vice Chairwoman

Collis Adams, Selectman

Jim Craig, Selectman

Mark T. Lemay, Selectman

Town Clerk

Date: Oct. 29, 2024