



ORDINANCE NO. 26-0127-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHOUSE, TEXAS, RELATING TO ELECTIONEERING ON CITY-OWNED OR CITY-CONTROLLED PROPERTY; ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER OF ELECTIONEERING ACTIVITIES AT CITY POLLING LOCATIONS; PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Whitehouse, Texas (the "City"), is a home-rule municipality organized and operating under the laws of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is authorized to adopt ordinances necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish reasonable and content-neutral regulations governing electioneering on City-owned or City-controlled property in accordance with the Texas Election Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that clear standards are necessary to ensure the orderly conduct of elections, protect City property, and maintain safe access to polling locations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHOUSE:

Section 1. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate the time, place, and manner of electioneering on City-owned or City-controlled property used as a polling place during a voting period, in a manner consistent with state and federal law.

Section 2. Definitions

Electioneering means the posting, use, or distribution of political signs, literature, or materials intended to influence the outcome of an election.

City Property means property owned, leased, or controlled by the City of Whitehouse.

Polling Place means a location authorized for early voting or election day voting pursuant to the Texas Election Code.

Voting Period means the period beginning when the polls open for early voting or election day voting and ending when the polls close for the final day of voting.

Prohibited Area means the area within which electioneering is prohibited by the Texas Election Code.

Section 3. Permitted Electioneering on City Property



- a) Electioneering on City Property is permitted only at City Property that is being used as an authorized Polling Place and only in compliance with this Ordinance and applicable state law.
- b) Political signs may be placed on City Property subject to the following requirements:
 - 1. No more than two (2) signs per candidate, measure, or political issue may be placed, and each sign may be no larger than two feet by two feet (2' x 2').
 - 2. Signs shall have no more than two (2) sign faces per sign.
 - 3. No illuminated signs, digital signs, or signs containing flashing lights or moving components.
 - 4. Signs shall be placed only in grassy areas of City Property as outlined in Exhibit A.
 - 5. Signs shall not be placed in planters, landscaped beds, or any location that may damage irrigation systems or City landscaping.
 - 6. Signs shall be posted using metal H-frame or held by a person. The use of t-posts, rebar, wooden stakes, or any other types of frames or sign mounting apparatuses shall be prohibited.
 - 7. Signs may be placed no earlier than twenty-four (24) hours before the polls open for the applicable Voting Period.
 - 8. All signs must be removed no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the Voting Period.
 - 9. Signs must be placed outside of all Prohibited Areas as defined by state law.

Section 4. Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited on City Property:

- a) Electioneering within any Prohibited Area established by the Texas Election Code.
- b) Electioneering on City Property that is not being used as a Polling Place during a Voting Period.
- c) Placement or holding of signs in a manner that obstructs pedestrian or vehicular traffic or interferes with access to a Polling Place or other City facility.
- d) Placement of signs or materials in a manner that damages City Property, including landscaping or irrigation systems.
- e) Use of structures, tables, tents, vehicles, or other equipment for electioneering purposes unless expressly authorized by the City Manager or designee.
- f) Use of inflatables, including balloons, for electioneering purposes unless expressly authorized by the City Manager or designee.
- g) Electioneering in a manner that obstructs or interferes with the general public's use of the City-owned facility or City-controlled property for its intended non-election purposes.
- h) Electioneering in a manner that obstructs or interferes with the official duties of an agent or employee of the City.



Section 5. Removal of Signs

The City may remove, without prior notice, any sign placed in violation of this Ordinance. The City shall not be responsible for damage to or loss of any sign removed pursuant to this section.

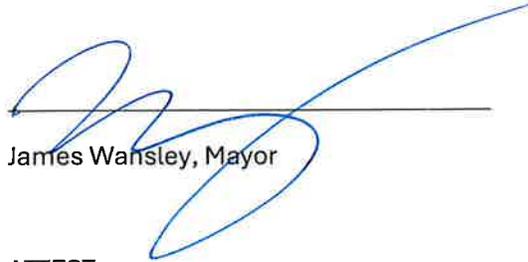
Section 6. Severability

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

Section 7. Effective Date

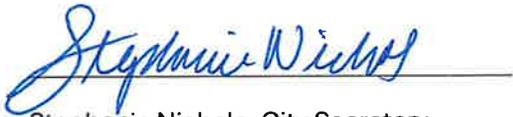
This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and execution.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Whitehouse, Texas, on this 27th day of January 2026.



James Wansley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stephanie Nichols, City Secretary



EXHIBIT A
WHITEHOUSE CITY CENTER – 109 EAST MAIN STREET



Areas outlined in blue represent permissible areas for signage