



CANDIDATES GUIDE

Welcome to the wonderful world of politics. Whether you are a first time candidate or not this guide should help update you on the regulations surrounding campaigns.

CAMPAIGN SIGNS See attached policy

AT THE POLLING LOCATION: Polls will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. (polls will open at 7:00 a.m. for Presidential) All Voters will vote at the Mt. Ararat High School, 68 Eagles Way, Topsham, Maine.

RESTRICTED ACTIVITY AT THE POLLS

YOU MAY:

- State your name
- Shake the voter's hand
- Listen and watch counting procedure
- Bring voters to and from the polls

YOU MAY NOT:

- State that you are running for office
- Ask anyone to vote for you
- Wear any campaign button or name tag
- Leave a vehicle parked in voting parking lot with campaign posters on it
- Interfere with the free flow of voters
- Interfere with the count process
- Hand out literature pertaining to anything on the ballot.

Political Advertising:

Campaign buttons may be worn only by persons who are present in the polling place solely for the purpose of voting (dimension of button cannot be larger than 3 inches). A candidate, family member, or other associate of a candidate who is at the polls to greet voters may not wear a campaign button.

Signs bearing political messages relating to an election may not be placed within 250 ft. of the polling place. This also applies to the Absentee Voting location (Town Office 45 days prior to Election)
NO CAMPAIGN LITERATURE, POSTERS, OR SIGNS.

Examples of how to respond if someone asks you:

Are you one of the candidates?

“Yes, but because I am within 250 ft. of the polling place I may not discuss my campaign with you”

Are you (your name?)

“Yes, I am (name), what is your name? Good to meet you and thank you for coming out to vote”

Which office are you running for?

“I am on the ballot, but I am not legally allowed to discuss this in the polling place. There is a sample on the display board. Thank you for voting.

Who are you running against?

“I’m sorry to sound like I am evading your questions but I am required by law to follow the rules when within 250 ft. of the polling place. His /her name is on the sample ballot in the same section as mine.”

What do you think about (referendum question, political topic on ballot)?

“I wish I had the opportunity to discuss this, but because it’s on the ballot I may not talk about the issue while standing within 250 ft. of the polling place. If you would like to walk over to the parking lot beyond the 250 ft. mark; I would be able to speak to you.”

What other elected positions have you held?

It is okay to discuss your past elected positions, but not the position you now hold if you are running for the same office now.

Would you tell me about your background?

You can discuss anything EXCEPT any reference to your present position if you are running for the same Office you now hold. You are not allowed to mention that you consider your present job to be this campaign. Anything that would promote your campaign is off-limits to discuss.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk’s office at 725-1719 or on Election Day locate the Warden, Deputy Warden or the Town Clerk.

Topsham Board of Selectmen

Non-Commercial Sign Guidelines

Chapter 225-33 of the Topsham Zoning Ordinance, provides for the Board of Selectmen to adopt guidelines for the placement of non-commercial signs in the public Right of Way. On September 21, 2017, the Topsham Board of Selectmen adopted the following guidelines:

The Right of Way is meant to include those areas along public roads that extend beyond the edge of pavement to the back side of any sidewalk, utility pole, fire hydrant, guard rails, MDOT or Town fencing, gravel shoulders, or MDOT or Town maintained lawns/ditches/culverts.

Non-commercial signs shall be allowed to be placed within the Right of Way of public roads for a period of six weeks, starting five weeks before an election or primary, and concluding one week after an election or primary. Signs remaining in the Right of Way at the end of the six week period shall be deemed in violation of the Topsham Zoning Ordinance, and the owner of said sign may be subject to established daily penalties.

No sign placed within the Right of Way may exceed four (4) feet x eight (8) feet.

No sign may obstruct any sidewalk or roadway, overhang any curb line or sidewalk, nor can any sign be placed on public property designated as a Veteran's Memorial.

No sign shall be placed such that it causes a hazard to the traveling public, including, but not limited to, blocking sight lines at intersections, within road center traffic islands or median strips.

The Codes Enforcement Officer, or his/her designee, is authorized to remove any signs that fail to conform to these guidelines.

Adopted by the Topsham Board of Selectmen;

June 7, 2018

To be reviewed in 1 year.