

CAMPAIGN FREE ZONE

A campaign free zone is the area in which no advertising pertaining to any candidate or proposition to be voted upon shall be displayed. No one is permitted to engage in electioneering action(s) within the restricted area. The campaign free zone is comprised of the polling room and the distance within 100 horizontal feet of the entrance to any such room.

Election officers shall place 2 or more cones, small United States national flags, or some other marker a distance of 100 horizontal feet from each entrance to the room used by voters to engage in voting, which shall be known as the polling room.

If the polling room is located within a private business, school or church building and the distance of 100 horizontal feet ends within the interior of the building, then the markers shall be placed outside of the building at each entrance used by voters to enter that building. A church or a private school may choose to apply the campaign free zone to its entire property, and, if so, the markers shall be placed near the boundaries on the grounds adjacent to the thoroughfares or walkways leading to the entrances used by the voters. When churches and private schools designate their entire property as campaign free zones, the election authority is required to post the name and address of every polling place where the entire property is a campaign free zone to their website (if they maintain a website) at least 5 days before the election. This list shall also be immediately provided to anyone who requests it. [10 ILCS 5/17-29] If the polling room is located within a building with 2 or more floors and the polling room is located on the ground floor, then the markers shall be placed 100 horizontal feet from each entrance to the polling room.

If the polling room is located in a building with 2 or more floors and the polling room is located on a floor above or below the ground floor, then the markers shall be placed a distance of 100 horizontal feet from the nearest elevator or staircase used by voters on the ground floor to access the floor where the polling room is located.

The area within the markers shall be known as a campaign free zone, and within these boundaries, electioneering is prohibited. The area on polling place property beyond the campaign free zone, whether publicly or privately owned, is a public forum for the time that the polls are open on Election Day. Persons shall have the right to congregate and engage in electioneering on any polling place property, beyond the campaign free zone, while the polls are open. Electioneering includes, but is not limited to, the placement of temporary signs. [10 ILCS 5/7-41, 17-29, 19A-70]