

ORDINANCE NO. 27-2025

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 9.19 OF THE GERMANTOWN MUNICIPAL CODE
RELATED TO POSTING OF POLITICAL SIGNS IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

WHEREAS, the Village Board previously adopted section 9.19 of the Germantown Municipal Code which adopted regulations for posting election campaign signs; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board desires to amend that section to provide clarity with respect to permissible locations of postings, in particular election campaign sign placement in the right-of-way;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Village Board of the Village of Germantown, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

SECTION I

Section 9.19 of the Germantown Municipal Code is amended to read as follows (NOTE: added text is double underlined; Deleted text is ~~struck-through~~):

9.19 ELECTION CAMPAIGN SIGNS REGULATED. (Rep. & Recr. Ord. #26-86; Am. Ord. #05-09)

(1) **DEFINITIONS.**

- (a) Election Campaign Sign means a sign or placard intended to convey a political message of possible interest to the electorate, regarding a candidate(s) or issue(s), and intended to relate to an election and/or referendum campaign during the election campaign period for that election and/or referendum, as defined in §12.04(1)(a), Wis. Stats. For purposes of this section, election campaign sign shall not mean or refer to a sign or placard conveying a political message which is unrelated to an election and/or referendum campaign.
- (b) Election Campaign Period means:
 - 1. In the case of an election for office, the period beginning on the first day for circulation of nomination papers by candidates, or the first day on which candidates would circulate nomination papers were papers to be required, and ending on the day of the election.
 - 2. In the case of a referendum, the period beginning on the day on which the question to be voted upon is submitted to the electorate and ending on the day on which the referendum is held.
- (c) Village-Owned Property means all Village-owned rights-of-way including highways, streets, roads, cul de sacs, alleys, ways, service drives, parking lots and sidewalks, and parkland, open spaces, municipal buildings and grounds, utility buildings and grounds, drainageways, utility and other easement areas, and any other real property in which an interest is owned by the Village, or property owned by the Village, but leased to another entity or individual.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR POSTING OF SIGNS.** No person shall post or place an election campaign sign within the Village except upon compliance with the following requirements and restrictions:

- (a) No election campaign sign shall be erected prior to the first day of the election campaign period, and shall be removed within 10 days after the election campaign period. The property owner or tenant shall be responsible for the removal of such signs.

- (b) No election campaign sign shall be posted or placed on private property without the consent of the owner-occupant of property, the owner of vacant property or the lessee of property, and shall not be posted or placed so as to create a hazard to pedestrians or vehicular traffic. (Am. Ord. #12-12)
- (c) No election campaign sign, nor any sign placed by other than a governmental authority, shall be placed on any Village right-of-way, which shall include the median strip, or any other Village-owned property, ~~except that an election campaign sign may be placed within Village right-of-way provided that it is done with the permission of the owner-occupant or lessee of the abutting property and if it otherwise complies with subsection (d).~~ (Am. Ord. #12-12)
- ~~(d) Any election campaign sign permitted to be posted or placed under this section, shall be posted or placed only on the buildable side of any public sidewalk. In the case there is no sidewalk, any election campaign sign permitted to be posted or placed under this section shall be posted or placed at the private property side of the ditch line, or 4 feet in from the curbing.~~
- (ed) Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing or permitting the placement or posting of any signage whatsoever in County or State rights-of-way.
- (fg) Any election campaign sign or other sign determined to have been posted or placed in contravention of this section may be forthwith removed by the owner-occupant, tenant or authorized Village personnel. (Am. Ord. #12-12)

SECTION II

The terms and provisions of this ordinance are severable. Should any term or provision of this ordinance be found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining terms and provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

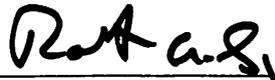
SECTION III

All ordinances or parts of ordinances contravening the terms of this ordinance are hereby to that extent repealed.

SECTION IV

This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force upon its passage and the day after its publication.

Adopted: November 3, 2025



Robert A Soderberg, Village President

ATTEST:



Donna Ott, Village Clerk

Approved as to form



Brian C. Sajdak, Village Attorney

Published: 11/12/2025