

REFERENCE TITLE: political signs; public roadways; prohibition

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2023

# **SB 1116**

Introduced by  
Senator Kaiser

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 16-1019, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO POLITICAL SIGNS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 16-1019, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 16-1019. Political signs; printed materials; tampering;  
5 violation; classification

6 A. It is a class 2 misdemeanor for any person to knowingly remove,  
7 alter, deface or cover any political sign of any candidate for public  
8 office or in support of or opposition to any ballot measure, question or  
9 issue or knowingly remove, alter or deface any political mailers,  
10 handouts, flyers or other printed materials of a candidate or in support  
11 of or opposition to any ballot measure, question or issue that are  
12 delivered by hand to a residence for the period commencing forty-five days  
13 before a primary election and ending fifteen days after the general  
14 election, except that for a sign for a candidate in a primary election who  
15 does not advance to the general election, the period ends fifteen days  
16 after the primary election.

17 B. This section does not apply to the removal, alteration, defacing  
18 or covering of a political sign or other printed materials by the  
19 candidate or the authorized agent of the candidate in support of whose  
20 election the sign or materials were placed, by a person authorized by the  
21 committee in support of or opposition to a ballot measure, question or  
22 issue that provided the sign or printed materials, by the owner or  
23 authorized agent of the owner of private property on which such signs or  
24 printed materials are placed with or without permission of the owner or  
25 placed in violation of state law or county, city or town ordinance or  
26 regulation.

27 C. Notwithstanding any other statute, ordinance or regulation,  
28 ~~a city, town or county of this state shall not remove, alter, deface or~~  
29 ~~cover any political sign if the following conditions are met:~~

30 ~~1. The sign is placed in a public right-of-way that is owned or~~  
31 ~~controlled by that jurisdiction.~~

32 ~~2. The sign supports or opposes a candidate for public office or it~~  
33 ~~supports or opposes a ballot measure.~~

34 ~~3. The sign is not placed in a location that is hazardous to public~~  
35 ~~safety, obstructs clear vision in the area or interferes with the~~  
36 ~~requirements of the Americans with disabilities act (42 United States Code~~  
37 ~~sections 12101 through 12213 and 47 United States Code sections 225 and~~  
38 ~~611).~~

39 ~~4. The sign has a maximum area of sixteen square feet, if the sign~~  
40 ~~is located in an area zoned for residential use, or a maximum area of~~  
41 ~~thirty-two square feet if the sign is located in any other area.~~

42 ~~5. The sign contains the name and telephone number or website~~  
43 ~~address of the candidate or campaign committee contact person~~ A PERSON  
44 SHALL NOT PLACE A POLITICAL SIGN IN OR ON THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A PUBLIC  
45 ROAD.

1           ~~D. If the city, town or county deems that the placement of a~~  
2 ~~political sign constitutes an emergency, the jurisdiction may immediately~~  
3 ~~relocate the sign. The jurisdiction shall notify the candidate or~~  
4 ~~campaign committee that placed the sign within twenty-four hours after the~~  
5 ~~relocation. If a sign is placed in violation of subsection C of this~~  
6 ~~section and the placement is not deemed to constitute an emergency, the~~  
7 ~~city, town or county may notify the candidate or campaign committee that~~  
8 ~~placed the sign of the violation. If the sign remains in violation at~~  
9 ~~least twenty-four hours after the jurisdiction notified the candidate or~~  
10 ~~campaign committee, the jurisdiction may remove the sign. The~~  
11 ~~jurisdiction shall contact the candidate or campaign committee contact and~~  
12 ~~shall retain the sign for at least ten business days to allow the~~  
13 ~~candidate or campaign committee to retrieve the sign without penalty.~~

14           ~~E. A city, town or county employee acting within the scope of the~~  
15 ~~employee's employment is not liable for an injury caused by the failure to~~  
16 ~~remove a sign pursuant to subsection D of this section unless the employee~~  
17 ~~intended to cause injury or was grossly negligent.~~

18           ~~F. Subsection C of this section does not apply to commercial~~  
19 ~~tourism, commercial resort and hotel sign free zones as those zones are~~  
20 ~~designated by municipalities. The total area of those zones shall not be~~  
21 ~~larger than three square miles, and each zone shall be identified as a~~  
22 ~~specific contiguous area where, by resolution of the municipal governing~~  
23 ~~body, the municipality has determined that based on a predominance of~~  
24 ~~commercial tourism, resort and hotel uses within the zone the placement of~~  
25 ~~political signs within the rights-of-way in the zone will detract from the~~  
26 ~~scenic and aesthetic appeal of the area within the zone and deter its~~  
27 ~~appeal to tourists. Not more than two zones may be identified within a~~  
28 ~~municipality.~~

29           ~~G. D.~~ A city, town or county may prohibit the installation of a  
30 sign on any structure owned by the jurisdiction.

31           ~~H. Subsection C of this section applies only during the period~~  
32 ~~commencing seventy-one days before a primary election and ending fifteen~~  
33 ~~days after the general election, except that for a sign for a candidate in~~  
34 ~~a primary election who does not advance to the general election, the~~  
35 ~~period ends fifteen days after the primary election.~~

36           ~~I. This section does not apply to state highways or routes, or~~  
37 ~~overpasses over those state highways or routes.~~