



Maureen O'Meara &lt;maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org&gt;

## Fwd: (political) signs in the right-of-way

1 message

**Michael McGovern** <mmcgove1@maine.rr.com>

Wed, Sep 28, 2016 at 4:27 PM

To: Debra Lane &lt;debra.lane@capeelizabeth.org&gt;

Cc: "Maureen O'Meara (Maureen O'Meara)" &lt;maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org&gt;

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Coughlan, Peter** <Peter.Coughlan@maine.gov>

Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Subject: (political) signs in the right-of-way

To:

Cc: "mcapwa-members@mmaaffl.org" <mcapwa-members@mmaaffl.org>, "maine-local-roads-center-listserv@lists.maine.gov" <maine-local-roads-center-listserv@lists.maine.gov>, Legal Services Department <legal@memun.org>, "Landry, Stephen" <Stephen.Landry@maine.gov>, "Russo, Meghan" <Meghan.Russo@maine.gov>, "Merriman, Susan" <Susan.Merriman@maine.gov>, "Kelley, Chip" <Chip.Kelley@maine.gov>

It helps to send the attachment..... sorry

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**From:** Coughlan, Peter

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 28, 2016 4:00 PM**Cc:** mcapwa-members@mmaaffl.org; maine-local-roads-center-listserv@lists.maine.gov; 'Legal Services Department'; Landry, Stephen; Russo, Meghan; Merriman, Susan; Kelley, Chip**Subject:** (political) signs in the right-of-way

Hi folks,

This email is going to one email address per town/city in Maine in most cases. Please forward this to any others who may be interested in this info..... clerks, CEO's, Rd Com's'rs, PWD's, selectmen, etc..... thx.

This is an "FYI" being sent to all cities/towns/counties in Maine. I am not the person that deals directly with this issue.....I am the messenger.

This really concerns ALL noncommercial signs put in a public road right-of-way (r/w) but it's particularly focused on campaign signs in this message. This was created from a Federal court case and recent action by our Maine Legislature.

The old law on signs about "6 weeks before the election and remove after 1 week" is GONE. Candidates can now have each sign in the r/w for up to 6 weeks in a calendar year..... with other limitations too.

Please see the attached letter that was sent to all Maine political candidates running on the November ballot. We thought it was a good idea to send this letter to each municipal office too.

Most importantly, candidates need to check with each town in which they intend to put up signs, for any local ordinances that are stricter than the state law.

Per 23 MRSA § 1917, MaineDOT will continue to enforce sign issues in the public right-of-way of both state roads and local roads upon receipt of a complaint or a safety issue. However, there is one DOT person that has that job for the whole state plus she would have no idea about local road right-of-way widths, Therefore, if any town/city wants to enforce this in their community in lieu of DOT, that is welcomed. We would consider that to be an "arrangement" as noted in 23 MRSA 1906(2)(B) and would probably like it to be confirmed by email.

And please be aware that the actual statutes have NOT been updated online so it can be confusing to folks looking at the "old law" vs the new language which can be found here:

<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0641&item=3&snum=127>

For particular questions, please contact MMA Legal or DOT's Meghan Russo at 624-3558 or [Meghan.russo@maine.gov](mailto:Meghan.russo@maine.gov)

Peter M. Coughlan, P.E.

Director, Maine Local Roads Center (LTAP)

MaineDOT, Community Services Division

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9/29/2016

CapeElizabeth.org Mail - Fwd: (political) signs in the right-of-way

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<http://www.maine.gov/mdot/csd/mlrc/>

MaineDOT is now on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/MaineDOT>

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