



## Conduct at the Polls

This guidance is to ensure all voters enjoy a safe environment that is free from intimidation when they go to the polls. State and federal laws prohibit intimidation and coercion at the polls, and penalties for violations include prison time, a fine, or both. State law provides special protections inside the marked buffer zone outside voting sites. The area outside the buffer zone is a public forum, and courts apply a stricter standard when evaluating restrictions on political activity outside the protected area. The First Amendment provides a high level of protection for campaign speech and other election - and voting-related speech. We must balance the right of every voter to enter the voting place free from intimidation within these First Amendment protections.

- The buffer zone shall be 50 feet from the entrance to the voting place when the door is closed, but in no event shall it be more than 50 feet or fewer than 25 feet, in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 163.
  - For the purposes of the buffer zone for electioneering activity at curbside, the vehicle is considered the voting enclosure. The buffer zone shall be at least 6 feet from the vehicle and a greater distance if possible. Electioneers shall not enter the buffer zone.
- No person or group of persons shall hinder access, harass others, distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election related activity in the voting place or in a buffer zone which shall be prescribed by the County Board of Elections around the voting place, in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 163.

**Conduct that may unlawfully intimidate voters or impede voters from accessing the voting place:**

- Approaching only voters who appear to be of a certain ethnic group to ask whether they speak English or to demand that they verify their citizenship. The intent of these individual(s) is to discourage voters from voting.
- Following a non-English speaker who is receiving assistance from a person of their choice to accuse them of committing voter fraud.
- Individual(s) outside the buffer zone yelling insults or profanity at people who received assistance in the voting enclosure.
- Threatening voters with physical harm or other threats if the voter does not vote for or against a particular candidate or party.
- Placing tables, chairs, tents, items, or persons on the sidewalk or parking area in a way that impedes voters' access into the buffer zone and/or voting enclosure.
- Using sound amplification to make racial slurs or otherwise insult those presenting to vote for their preferred candidate.

**Best Practices:**

- Respectful campaigning is crucial for maintaining a healthy and civil democratic process.
- We are guest at these facilities. Please avoid littering and respect the property while putting up campaign materials.
- Refrain from invading personal spaces, or engaging in aggressive or intrusive campaigning, yelling, or raising your voice above a normal speaking level.
- Respect voter's choice not to accept campaign literature.
- Use respectful language in all communication and interactions with others whose opinions differ from yours.

# Wake County Board of Elections Permitted Early Voting Campaigning/Signage Zones

## Legend

- No Signs or Campaigning Permitted
- Campaigning Permitted
- Signs Permitted
- Voter Entrance

### § 163-166.4. Limitation on activity in the voting place and in a buffer zone around it.

(a) Buffer Zone. – No person or group of persons shall hinder access, harass others, distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activity in the voting place or in a buffer zone which shall be prescribed by the county board of elections around the voting place. In determining the dimensions of that buffer zone for each voting place, the county board of elections shall, where practical, set the limit at 50 feet from the door of entrance to the voting place, measured when that door is closed, but in no event shall it set the limit at more than 50 feet or at less than 25 feet.

(b) Area for Election-Related Activity. – Except as provided in subsection

(c) of this section, the county board of elections shall also provide an area adjacent to the buffer zone for each voting place in which persons or groups of persons may distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activity.



## Memo

Date: January 23, 2026

To: Olivia McCall, Director of Wake County Board of Elections

From: Julie Clifton, Deputy Town Clerk

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### Executive Summary:

This memo is designed to clearly designate the “Area for Election-Related Activity” (“ERA Area”) at voting places located on Town property during the February 12 – February 28, 2026 Primary Election early voting. The following voting site is located on Town property:

- Herb Young Community Center

### Background:

Cary is honored to host early voting sites on Town-owned properties, and to work with the Board of Elections (“Board”) to facilitate the election process. We are aware that state law (Chapter 163, Article 14A, Part 3) specifies a number of requirements and procedures for the Board in the creation and operation of voting places. The Board must create a ‘buffer zone’ at each voting place and, where practical

*set the limit at 50 feet from the door of entrance to the voting place, measured when that door is closed, but in no event shall it set the limit at more than 50 feet or at less than 25 feet.*

Within this buffer zone (and the voting place)

*No person or group of persons shall hinder, access, harass others, distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activity...*

Adjacent to the required buffer zone, when the voting place is a public building, the Board must

*provide an area ... in which persons or groups of persons may distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activity.*

The extent of the election-related activity area adjacent to the buffer zone (“ERA Area”) has historically been established by the Town.

For this election, the Town proposes to clearly designate in advance of the election the area outside of voting places on Town property that can be used as ERA Area. Unless we hear objection from you or the Board, the Town will designate the highlighted areas on Exhibit A as the ERA Area for early voting at the Herb Young Community Center. We consider the ERA Area to be under the jurisdiction of the BOE, and it will not be subject to the Town’s sign ordinance. All questions or concerns about signs located in the ERA Area will be directed to the BOE. As in past elections, Town staff will remove all signs on Town property that are outside of the ERA Area and will place those removed signs in a nearby place designated by the Town for retrieval by their owners. Signs placed in public right-of-way will continue to be governed by Town ordinance or State law, depending on their location.

**Next Steps:**

If there are no objections to Exhibit A for early voting, Town staff will this year and following continue the practice of identifying on plans like those attached the ERA Area for early voting at Herb Young Community Center as shown.

Exhibit A: Herb Young Community Center, 101 Wilkinson Ave, Cary

Exhibit A:



## Memo

Date: January 23, 2026

To: Olivia McCall, Director of Wake County Board of Elections

From: Julie Clifton, Deputy Town Clerk

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### Executive Summary:

This memo is designed to clearly designate the “Area for Election-Related Activity” (“ERA Area”) at voting places located on Town property during the March 3, 2026 Primary Election. The following voting sites are located on Town property:

- Herb Young Community Center
- Cary Fire Station #1
- Cary Fire Station #5
- Cary Fire Station #9
- Cary Senior Center

### Background:

Cary is honored to host voting sites on Town-owned properties, and to work with the Board of Elections (“Board”) to facilitate the election process. We are aware that state law (Chapter 163, Article 14A, Part 3) specifies a number of requirements and procedures for the Board in the creation and operation of voting places. The Board must create a ‘buffer zone’ at each voting place and, where practical

*set the limit at 50 feet from the door of entrance to the voting place, measured when that door is closed, but in no event shall it set the limit at more than 50 feet or at less than 25 feet.*

Within this buffer zone (and the voting place)

*No person or group of persons shall hinder, access, harass others, distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activity...*

Adjacent to the required buffer zone, when the voting place is a public building, the Board must

*provide an area ... in which persons or groups of persons may distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activity.*

The extent of the election-related activity area adjacent to the buffer zone (“ERA Area”) has historically been established by the Town.

For this election, the Town proposes to clearly designate in advance of the election the area outside of voting places on Town property that can be used as ERA Area. Unless we hear objection from you or the Board, the Town will designate the highlighted areas on Exhibits A-E as the ERA Area for Election Day at the Herb Young Community Center, Cary Fire Station #1, Cary Fire Stations #5, Cary Fire Station #9, and Cary Senior Center. We consider the ERA Area to be under the jurisdiction of the BOE, and it will not be subject to the Town’s sign ordinance. All questions or concerns about signs located in the ERA Area will be directed to the BOE. As in past elections,

Town staff will remove all signs on Town property that are outside of the ERA Area and will place those removed signs in a nearby place designated by the Town for retrieval by their owners. Signs placed in public right-of-way will continue to be governed by Town ordinance or State law, depending on their location.

**Next Steps:**

If there are no objections to Exhibits A-E for Election Day, Town staff will this year and following continue the practice of identifying on plans like those attached the ERA Area for Election Day at Town-owned properties as shown.

Exhibit A: Herb Young Community Center, 101 Wilkinson Ave, Cary

Exhibit B: Cary Fire Station #1, 1501 N Harrison Ave, Cary

Exhibit C: Cary Fire Station #5, 2101 High House Road, Cary

Exhibit D: Cary Fire Station #9, 1427 Walnut Street, Cary

Exhibit E: Cary Senior Center, 120 Maury O'Dell Place, Cary

Exhibit A:



Exhibit B:



Exhibit C:



Exhibit D:

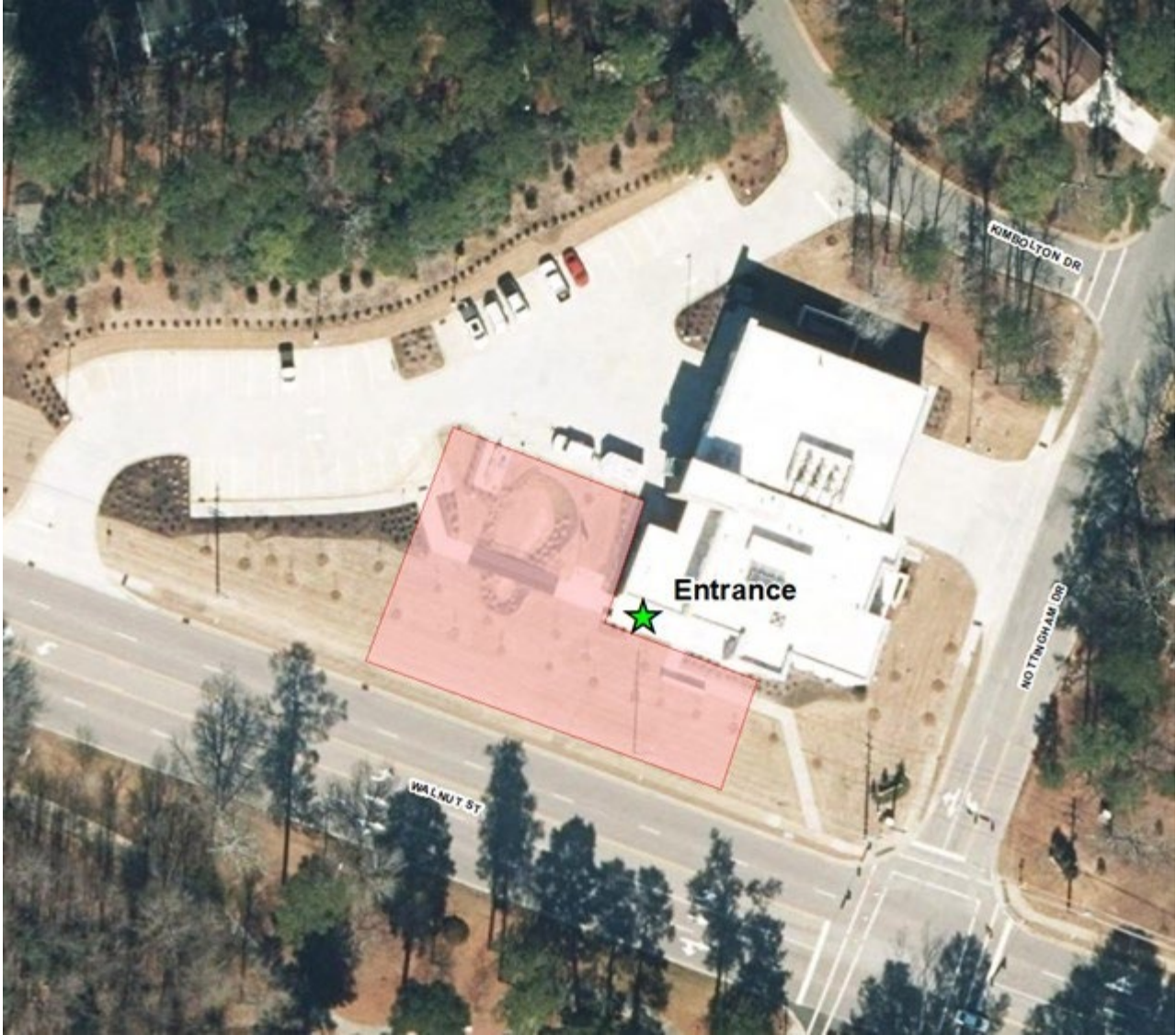
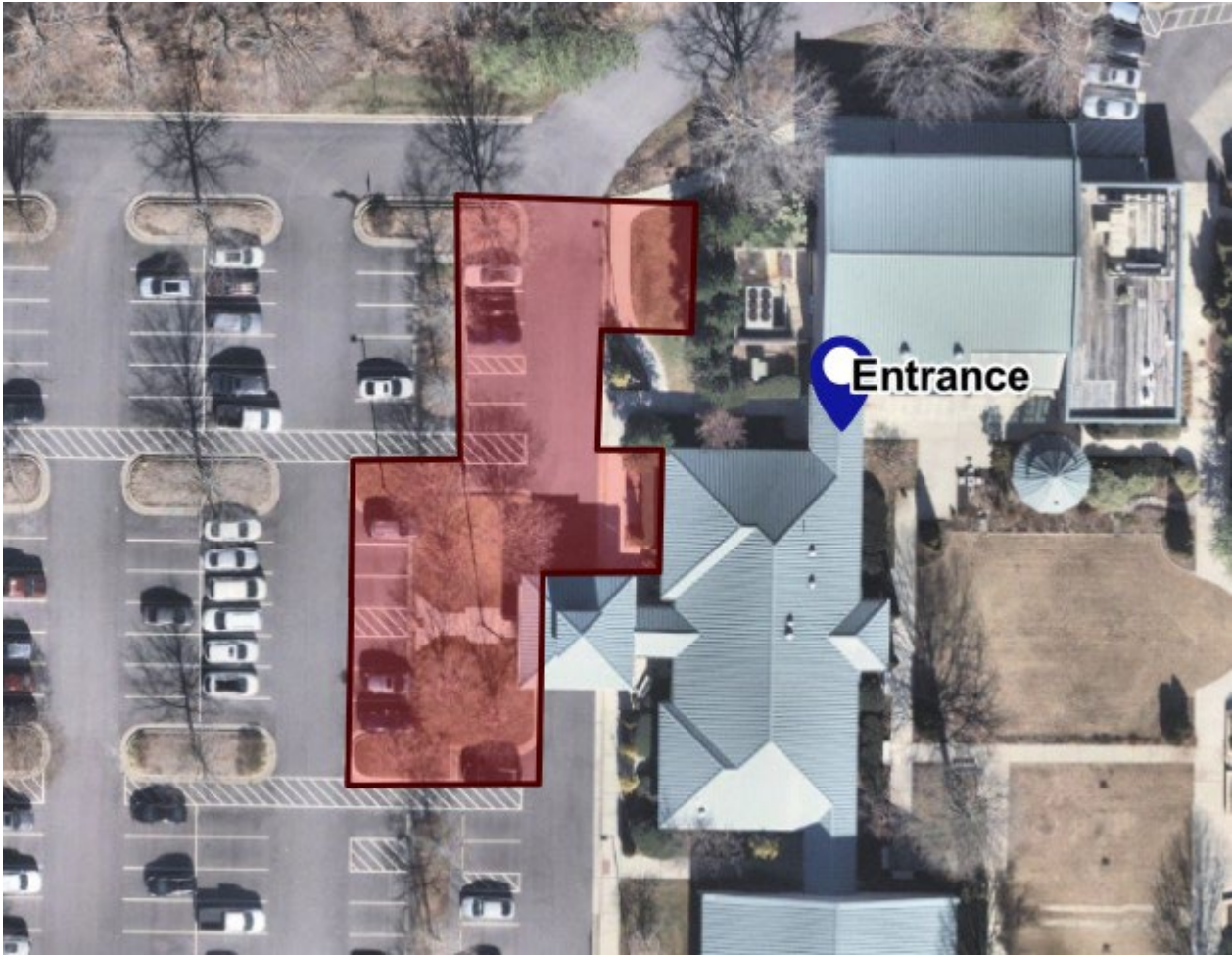


Exhibit E:



## **Tents, Canopies, and Shade Structures Staff Information**

### **1. What is the purpose?**

- To provide information and policies for individuals or groups that plan to use tents, canopies or other similar shade structures on City of Raleigh property or during City of Raleigh events.

### **2. Definitions:**


- Canopy- a pop up structure with one side or no sides
- Tent- a pop up structure with two or more sides

### **3. Rules and fire code provisions for portable tents, canopies or shade structures less than 200 square feet:**

- Check with the site manager regarding where these structures are permitted to be placed at your location.
- All tents, canopies, shade structures must be anchored using sand bags or similar to withstand elements of weather and prevent collapsing. Stakes may not be driven into the ground to erect these structures due to the possibility of underground irrigation. (NC 2403.9)
- Open or exposed flame such as grills, deep fryers or other devices emitting flame are not be permitted inside or within 20 feet of the tent, canopy or structure while open to the public unless approved by the Fire Marshall. (NC Fire Code 2404.7)
- Structures must have 12 feet of clearance with no obstructions and maintained on all sides of the tents, canopies and membrane structures unless otherwise approved by the fire marshall. (NC Fire Code 2403.8.5)
- Each structure must have a portable fire extinguisher. (NC Fire Code 2404.12)
- Flammable liquid-fueled equipment shall not be used in tents, canopies or membrane structures. (NC Fire Code 2404.17.1)

### **4. If the tent structure has an area in excess of 200 square feet and canopies in excess of 400 square feet:**

- The patron will be required to obtain a permit and approval from the fire marshall.
- Full time staff should contact their immediate supervisor and PRCR Risk Management for assistance.
  - The online request for a permit can be found at on the City of Raleigh website.
  - Once approved, the approved permit will need to be submitted to the site manager at least 14 days prior to the rental.

 Holly Springs, N.C.	<b>P-048</b>	
	<b>Political Activity on Town Property</b>	
<b>Policy &amp; Procedure Statements</b> of the Holly Springs Town Council	Prepared By:	Randy Harrington & John Schifano
	Department:	Administration
	Date Approved:	May 4, 2021
	Effective Date:	May 4, 2021
	Supersedes Old #:	N/A
	Old Effective Date:	N/A

**SECTION 1: Purpose**

- A. To provide clarity on what types of political activity is permissible and not permissible on Town property within 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment free speech protections.

**SECTION 2: Definitions**

- A. “Political Activity” means actions or speech by a person or group to support a particular political candidate, party affiliation, or political position.
- B. “Political Activity Speech” means speech that clearly serves to support one political candidate, party affiliation, or political position over another.
- C. “Town Property” means any property owned, occupied, or maintained by the Town.
- D. “Voter engagement” means political activity or speech via handing out materials and/or interpersonal communication.
- E. “Political Signage” means any sign that advocates for political action or promotion of a candidate, political party, or political position

**SECTION 3: Scope and Permissible/Non-permissible Political Activities**

- A. Political Signage in Town Streets Right-of-Way (ROW)**
  - i. Streets within the Town’s corporate limits include both Town-owned and State-owned streets (street delineation map available from the Town).
  - ii. See Town Ordinance Sec. 6-261(11) for Town regulations.
  - iii. See N.C.G.S 136-32 for State regulations.
- B. Political Signage on Town Property**
  - i. Not permitted using N.C.G.S. 136-32
- C. Early Voting/Election Day Town Facility Site Political Activity**
  - i. North Carolina/Wake County Board of Elections (BOE) laws, policies, and guidelines shall apply to any political activity within any BOE designated regulation or buffer areas. Voter engagement is allowed on Town property outside of the BOE marked buffer zone.
  - ii. Political activity tents or other temporary, shelter structures shall be erected in designated ROW area(s) only and location will be determined by the Town considering BOE regulations, motorist and pedestrian safety, and sightlines for traffic entering/existing facility.
    - a. Temporary tents and shelter structures can be erected after 6:00 a.m. and must be removed daily within 2 hours after polls close.
    - b. It is the responsibility of political groups to properly secure any temporary/portable tent structures to prevent damage to Town property and reduce safety hazards.

- iii. Political signage shall not be affixed, staked, or hung on town property (excluding in designated ROW areas).
- iv. No overnight parking allowed per Town Code Section 12-514.
- v. Prior to the start of any voting period, the Town shall make available a map to political activity persons or groups designating temporary/portable tent locations and ROW areas where signage can be placed.
- vi. For motorist and pedestrian safety, standing, political activity, and voter engagement in the pavement area of drive aisles and parking areas is not permitted, unless expressly allowed in writing by the Town.

**D. Rental of Facilities**

- i. The rental of Town facilities and outdoor space for political fund-raising events (such as pay for attendance or financial solicitation through the event) is not permitted. Rental for other political group meetings or gatherings is permitted (e.g. annual organizational meetings).
- ii. Facility rental fees apply.

**E. Farmers Market**

- i. Eligible Farmers Market vendors include those selling locally grown food and other related farmer’s market products. Booth purchases for political activity are not allowed.

**F. Booth Purchases at Town-organized Festivals**

- i. Political booth purchases are allowed only in designated areas of the festival that are operated by a private or non-profit organization that is a designated partner with the Town for the festival.

**G. Virtual, Official Town Business Meeting Environments**

- i. Elected Town governing body members, Town staff, and invited presenters shall refrain from visually displaying political activity speech within the camera view during Town meetings that distracts or disrupts the proceedings.

**H. Parades**

- i. Political activity is permissible in town-sponsored parades.

**I. Advertising at Town Facilities or on Recreation Field Billboards**

- i. The purchase of political activity billboard advertising signage at Town facilities or on recreation fields is not permitted.

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*End of Policy Statement No. P-048*

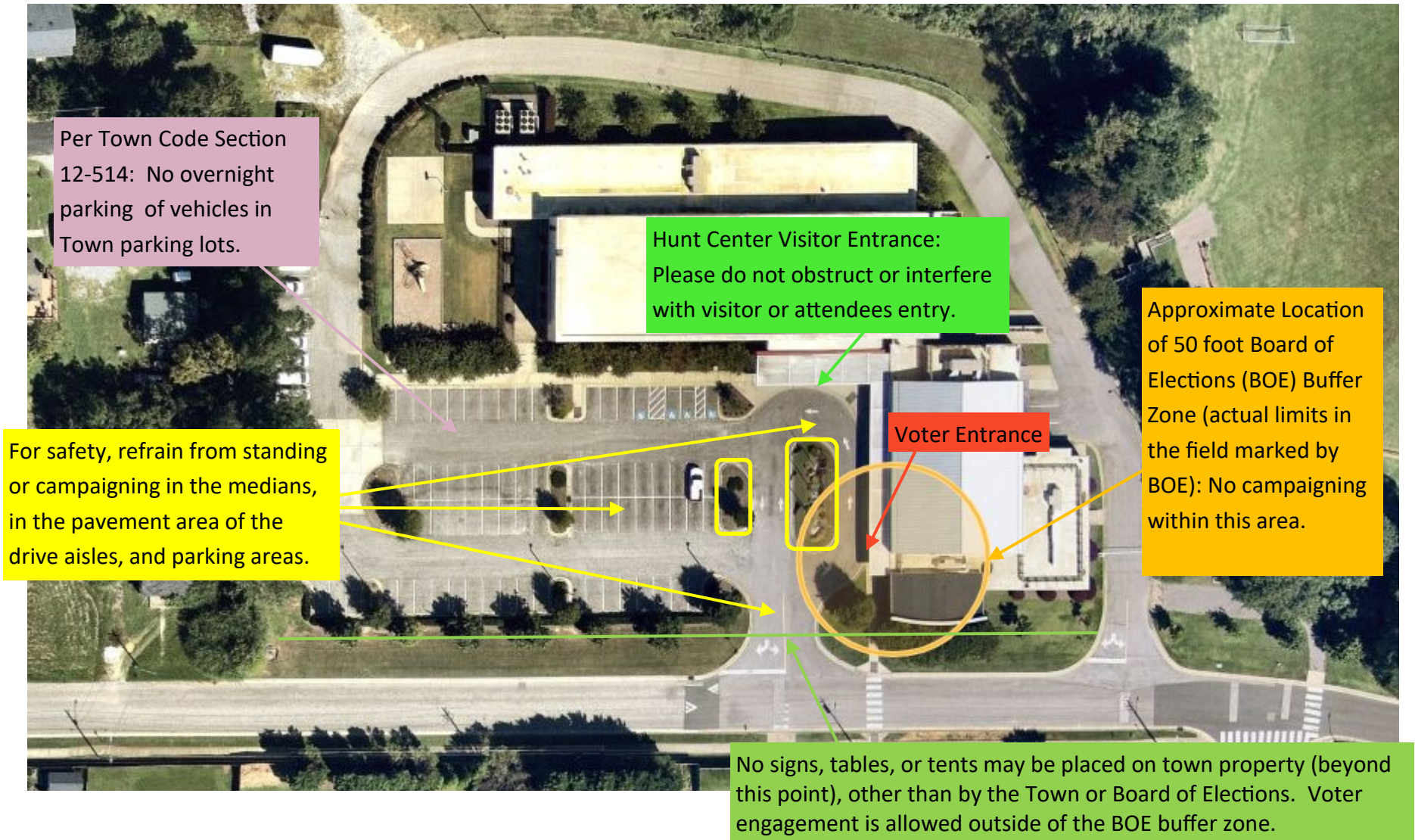
Approved by the Holly Springs Town Council, this, the 4th day of May, 2021.

*Linda C. McKinney*  
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 Linda McKinney, CMC, Town Clerk



(Town Seal)

## Voting Site Guidance for W. E. Hunt Center



- For general questions about voting, please contact Wake County Board of Elections (919-404-4040)
- For questions related to the W. E. Hunt Center facility/grounds, please contact Assistant Director, Kristen Denton (919-557-6293)

## Town Hall Campus

### Elections Sign and Tent Information

Please leave all walkways open for foot traffic.

Areas in **green** are permitted areas for signs and tents.



**Posted  
Signs and  
Tents Permitted**

**Pulled sign pick up location**

