

TOWN OF DYER
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORDINANCE 2026-01

Prohibiting Politicking and Electioneering on Town Property

The Town Council of the Town of Dyer, Indiana, determines as follows:

1. The Council recognizes the importance of maintaining the neutrality and integrity of municipal government operations;
2. The use of government property, facilities, or resources for political campaigning may undermine public trust in government and create undue pressure on municipal employees;
3. I.C. 3-14-3-21.5 prohibits individuals from soliciting votes or political support from public employees while they are engaged in official duties;
4. I.C. 3-14 and related provisions establish criminal penalties for the misuse of public property or resources for electioneering purposes;
5. I.C. 36-1-3 grants municipalities the authority to adopt policies necessary for the effective operation and ethical governance of local government;
6. It is in the best interests of the Town to establish a clear policy governing political activity on Town-owned property and facilities.

THEREFORE, the Town Council of the Town of Dyer, Lake County, Indiana, resolves as follows:

Section 1 – Purpose

The purpose of this resolution is to prohibit politicking and electioneering on Town-owned property to protect municipal employees, preserve governmental neutrality, and ensure compliance with Indiana law.

Section 2 – Definitions

For purposes of this resolution, “politicking” or “electioneering” means any activity intended to influence the outcome of an election, including but not limited to:

- Soliciting votes or political support
- Distributing campaign materials
- Displaying campaign signs or promotional materials
- Conducting campaign-related meetings or advocacy
- Fundraising for political candidates or political committees

Section 3 – Prohibition

Except as provided in Section 4, below, politicking or electioneering is prohibited on all property owned, leased, or controlled by the Town of Dyer, including but not limited to the Town Hall and administrative offices, department facilities, public works facilities, parks buildings, employee-only work areas, and vehicles or equipment owned by the Town.

No appointed official, elected official, candidate, or member of the public may use Town property or facilities for political campaigning or electioneering.

Section 4 – Permitted Activities

This resolution does not prohibit political activity in the following circumstances:

1. Political events held in Town facilities or parks where political groups are participating as invited or authorized participants, such as candidate forums, debates, or community events where multiple candidates or parties are represented.
2. Public areas traditionally used for public expression, provided such activities comply with applicable Town ordinances and are not directed toward Town employees during their official duties.
3. Private political expression by individuals that does not involve Town resources, employees, or facilities, or otherwise violate state or federal law.

Section 5 – Employees and Appointed Officials

Any violation of this ordinance or any provision of state or federal law governing campaigning or elections by any Town appointed officials may constitute grounds for corrective action by the Town Council, including but not limited to:

1. Formal written warning or reprimand;
2. Removal from board or commission leadership positions;
3. Recommendation for removal from the appointed position; or
4. Any other corrective action authorized by law or ordinance.

Any violation of this ordinance or any provision of state or federal law governing campaigning or elections by any Town employee is governed by the Town's employment policies in effect at the time.

Section 6 – Administration

The Town Manager is authorized to implement administrative procedures necessary to enforce this policy and ensure compliance with Indiana law.

Section 8 – Effective Date

This resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption.


**ADOPTED BY THE
TOWN COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF DYER,
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA:**

3-19-20

(Date)

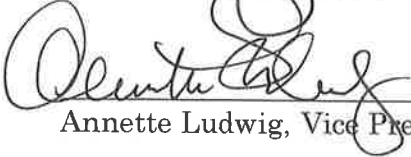
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NAY




Bob Starkey, President

Bob Starkey, President



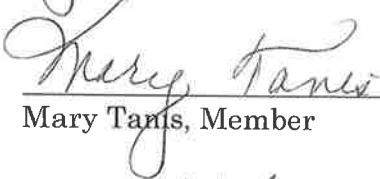
Annette Ludwig, Vice President

Annette Ludwig, Vice President




Jenna Ogrizovich, Member

Jenna Ogrizovich, Member



Mary Tanis, Member


Mary Tanis, Member



Mary K. Timm, Member

Mary K. Timm, Member

ATTEST:



Debbie Astor, Clerk-Treasurer

