

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Campaign Signs Have a Place But, It's Not on Utility Poles

The campaign season is in full swing and officials at Sumter Electric Cooperative (SECO) are urging candidates and campaign workers not to post political signage on electric utility poles.

Barry Bowman, SECO Director of Corporate Communications, said, "We certainly understand a candidate's desire to get the word out about their candidacy and we believe strongly in the election process. However, attaching any type of signage, including political signage, to electric utility poles is something we discourage."

"Posting any material on poles can make it difficult, even dangerous, for SECO employees who might have to physically climb the pole to make repairs. Nails and staples left in poles can also cause injury when the poles are retired and cut up for other purposes. And, signage attached to utility poles also has the potential for obstructing the vision of drivers on the road," stated Bowman.

He also pointed out that many municipalities and counties have local ordinances that prohibit the posting of signs on utility poles.

"At SECO we are delighted to see such a vigorous campaign season and so many citizens becoming involved in the political process. Let's just keep it safe by refraining from attaching any type of signage to the Co-op's electric poles," he concluded.

SECO is a not-for-profit electric cooperative serving over 170,000 customers in Lake, Marion Citrus, Sumter, Pasco, Levy, and Hernando counties.

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