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Signs of fall campaign remain

By [Bethany Fuller](#) | Statesville R&L

The election is over, but signs of the political process continue to dot the landscape across Iredell County.

More than six weeks after Barack Obama's historic victory over John McCain and the election of a new county commissioner, district attorney and state representative in Iredell, brightly colored signs screaming "vote for me" still litter the roadway.

Iredell County Elections Director Becky Galliher said it is up to the candidates to collect their signs, regardless of who put them out.

"By now, all signs should be taken up," she said.

Property owners who are still displaying their favorite candidates' names are subject to zoning violations, Iredell County Assistant Planning Director Steve Warren said. The signs fall under the temporary sign section of the county ordinance. They can be displayed 60 days before the election, but there isn't a timetable saying when they should come down, Warren said.

Old Mountain Road resident James Mesimore said he has been too busy to put away the Keadle sign in his front yard.

He's removed signs for McCain, county commissioners Ken Robertson and Godfrey Williams and Iredell District Court judge candidate Peter Smith.

A sign promoting Williams' candidacy remains on Charlotte Highway.

Williams, who won a four-year term on the board and was subsequently elected chairman, said he didn't realize he had any signs out.

"Normally all the signs are picked up right after the election," he said. "When I hand out signs, I expect them to pick them up."

Robertson, who won a second four-year term, said he went out with a group of volunteers on election night and retrieved as many signs as possible.

"I thought I got them all," he said. "We rode all over the place. If we missed any, it is because they were knocked down and we didn't see them."

Robertson said he wished candidates didn't have to rely on political signs, equating them to legal litter.

Keadle, who won a two-year term on the board, said he knows he still has signs out along the roadways and he is trying to make the rounds to pick them up. He estimates it would take around 38 hours to drive all the major roadways in Iredell to find the signs his volunteers put out.

"And that's if you don't go home and back track," he said.

He attributed the remaining signs to a "political hangover" of sorts.

"As enthusiastic as they are about putting signs up, they don't want to take them down. In the general election, we have less control over who puts the signs up."