

# **Regulations and Guidelines For Displaying Campaign Signs**

**DEFINITION – “Campaign Sign” is a temporary sign displaying a message relating to a candidate, political party, or public issue that is registered or certified for an upcoming election.**

**Campaign signs are allowed as a form of temporary signage on all residential and commercial zoned properties, subject to the limitations set forth below:**

RESIDENTIAL ZONES (R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R8d, R8a, R11, and R15)

1. Only one (1) wall or freestanding sign per property street frontage.
2. The maximum size of the sign shall not exceed 2 square feet for either wall or freestanding sign.
3. A wall sign shall not project above the uppermost extent of the wall
4. A freestanding sign shall not exceed 6 feet in height.

COMMERCIAL ZONES (NB, CB, GC, OP, and LI)

1. Only one (1) wall or banner sign per property street frontage.
2. The wall, window or banner must not exceed 50 square feet in size.
3. The wall or banner sign must not project above the uppermost extent of the wall, and shall be wholly located upon the building on which it is displayed.

**Campaign signs are not to be posted on fences, trees, other natural features, or strung between poles or posts.**

**Campaign signs are allowed as a form of temporary signage “off-premises” and within the “public right-of-way” subject to the following limitations set forth below:**

1. Only portable freestanding signs may be used as off-premises campaign signage.
2. The freestanding campaign sign must not exceed 6 square feet in sign area.
3. The maximum height for a freestanding campaign sign is 3 feet.
4. Off-premises campaign signs shall be constructed of suitable material and design to adequately withstand the reasonably expected normal or average weather conditions during the intended display period of the sign.
5. Off-premises campaign signs shall be regularly inspected to ensure that they have not been damaged or destroyed by natural forces or vandalism. Damaged or destroyed signs shall be immediately removed or repaired so as to avoid threats to public health and safety or the accumulation of unclaimed refuse upon the public rights-of-way.

**All off-premises campaign signs shall be posted and displayed in accordance with the following regulations:**

1. Off-premises campaign signs may be posted in any portion of the public right-of-way including areas landscaped with lawns. Such signs shall not be posted in right-of-way areas landscaped with trees, shrubs, groundcovers, or other plant materials;
2. Off-premises campaign signs may not be posted in any portion of the public right-of-way typically used by motor vehicles in a lawful manner;
3. Off-premises campaign signs shall be posted so as to not impede pedestrian, bicycle or handicapped travel or access;
4. Off-premises campaign signs shall be posted in accordance with the requirements contained in the City's adopted Design and Construction Standards and Specifications pertaining to driveway and intersection sight triangles and line of sight (drawing #316).
5. Any Off-premises campaign sign posted in the public right-of-way in violation of the regulations set forth in this section constitute a trespass upon public property and are declared to be a public nuisance. Such signs shall be subject to immediate abatement by removal and confiscation. The city shall dispose of all confiscated signs as follows:
  - If of apparent negligible value, the city may immediately destroy and/or permanently dispose of such signs.
  - If of apparent significant value, the city shall retain such signs for a period of not less than 30 days, after which time such signs shall be presumed abandoned under the provisions of RCW Title 63, unless claimed by their owner, and shall be disposed of in any lawful manner.
  - In the event a confiscated sign is claimed by its owner prior to final disposition by the city, the owner shall be liable to the city for all normal and reasonable costs and expenses incurred in the confiscation and storage of such signs. The city shall collect such costs from the owner prior to returning possession of the sign. (Ord. 1805 § 2, 2000).
6. Off-premises campaign signs shall be posted and displayed no earlier than upon registration or certification of the candidate, party, initiative, referendum or other ballot issue for an upcoming election.
7. All off-premises campaign signs shall be removed within 10 days after the primary, general, or special election to which they pertain.
8. There is no maximum number of off-premises campaign signs that may be posted by a single registrant.

**If you are uncertain about the type of sign, or where you may place it, please contact the City's Code Enforcement Officer at (425) 486-8152 prior to installing the sign.**