



City of Phoenix

Development Services Department

SIGNS – POLITICAL

The City of Phoenix in its ongoing efforts to provide a safe and well-maintained environment addresses the erection and display of political signs in the Zoning Ordinance. The following information is provided as an introduction to political sign regulations and to help you avoid placing your political signs in prohibited areas.

Additional information may be obtained at Sign Services of the Development Services Department, Phoenix City Hall, 200 West Washington Street (602) 495-0301.

This publication can be made available in alternate formats (Braille, large print, computer diskette, or audiotape) upon request. Contact the Development Services Department at (602) 262-7811 (voice) or (602) 534-5500 (TTY).

All individuals or organizations will be required to file notification which includes the name, address, and telephone number of a person(s) who will be responsible for the proper erection and timely removal of the signs.

Ordinance Regulation:

All non-commercial signs, including political signs, may be erected on a lot or property with permission from the legal property owner, so long as each sign does not exceed 32 square feet. However, as stated above you are required to file notification.

Signs cannot be erected on public rights-of-way, public utility poles, public buildings, or parks and trees therein. They also must not be placed in any manner that will cause a traffic hazard or unsafe conditions for motorists and pedestrians. Signs in public rights-of-way and utility structures often pose dangerous conditions. The Zoning Ordinance provides that enforcement personnel can confiscate signs, and/or a formal citation can be issued.

While political signs that are 32 square feet or less are exempt from obtaining permits, other provisions of the Sign Ordinance remain applicable. We ask that you please review and understand:

Section 705.B.2.h., Political Signs
Section 705.B.3.a., Signs Which Occupy or Project Into the Public Right-of-Way
Section 705.B.3.c., Signs Which Pose a Traffic Hazard
Section 705.B.3.e., Signs Which Interfere With Visibility at Intersections or Driveways
Section 705.C.2., Flags and Banners

Please note that Chapter 3 of the City Code has additional regulations on advertising materials such as the distribution of handbills, placards, etc.

All political signs shall be removed within ten days after the election to which they refer, as stated in Section 705.B.2.h.(3) of the Phoenix Zoning Ordinance.

We request your cooperation and suggest that those responsible for erection or distribution of political signs, posters, etc., become familiar with those provisions of the City Code and Sign Ordinance referred to above.

Common Political Sign Questions

- Do I need a sign permit for my political sign?

Yes, if the sign is larger than thirty-two (32) square feet.

No, if the sign is thirty-two (32) square feet or less. However, you need to file the name, address, and telephone number of the person responsible for the proper erection and timely removal of the signs with the Development Services Department.

- How do I file with the Development Services Department?

You can file with the Development Services Department either by U.S. mail or via facsimile.

U.S. Mail: City of Phoenix, Development Services Department-Signs Services, 200 West Washington, 2nd Floor, Phoenix, AZ 85003, Fax Number: (602) 534-0852

- How early can I put up my signs before the election?

There is no restriction on when political signs may be erected prior to the election.

- Where can I place my signs?

If the sign(s) is larger than thirty-two (32) square feet a permit can be obtained at City Hall, Development Services Development Center, 200 West Washington, 2nd Floor, Counter Three.

If the sign(s) is thirty-two (32) square feet or less, then the sign can be placed only on private property with the property owner's permission. Property ownership information can be obtained from the City Clerk Property Records Section at (602) 262-6878.

- Can my sign be placed anywhere on private property?

Yes, unless the height of the sign exceeds three feet in height, in which case the sign may not be placed in the visibility triangles at the driveway or intersection. The visibility triangle is ten (10) feet by (20) feet at driveways and thirty-three (33) feet by thirty-three (33) feet at intersections.

- How do I determine where the property line is?

The property line does not necessarily begin where the sidewalk or curb ends. The half-street dimension given on City quarter section maps determines property lines. Half streets are identified in the street by a brass cap, which is where a half street should be measured from. City right-of-way widths can be obtained by calling City Clerk Property Records (602) 262-6878.

- What if my sign is in violation?

If Development Services Sign Inspectors find violations they normally contact the responsible party and allow forty-eight (48) hours to obtain compliance. In the event that it is a safety hazard, Sign Inspectors will lay the signs down and then contact the responsible party. Inspectors will take signs that can not be laid down safely to a storage yard where the candidate may retrieve it.

- When do the signs need to be removed?

Signs must be removed ten (10) days after the election to which they refer. In the event of a run-off, the signs may remain for ten (10) days after the run-off election. Please be sure to remove the stakes that the signs are placed on, as they pose a safety hazard to pedestrians and bicyclists.

- What If I have more questions?

Please contact Development Services Sign Services Section at (602) 495-0301 or (602) 256-4242 or (602) 534-2578.