

Political Campaign Signs

Legislation/Environmental Committee

7/27/2026



First Amendment - Freedom of Speech

Signs are
permissible on
private property

Municipalities may
place content
neutral restrictions
on their placement

SMC 16.76.040 D. 4. a.

Temporary Political Signs. Temporary political signs shall comply with the following standards:

- i. Signs shall be allowed on private property in any zoning district subject to the owner's permission;
- ii. Signs shall not be located in a public right-of-way, easement, or on other governmental property dedicated to a public purpose;
- iii. Signs shall not be located upon utility or telephone poles;
- iv. Signs attached to a wall, fence, or structure shall not project more than six inches from a wall, fence, or structure;
- v. Every political sign that exceeds five square feet shall have a corresponding statement of responsibility filed with the office of the City Clerk certifying a person who will be responsible for removing the sign and who will reimburse the City for any cost incurred to remove it, such certification being made upon forms prepared by the City; and
- vi. Political signs shall be placed no earlier than 90 days prior to the scheduled election and shall be removed within seven days of an election in compliance with the Municipal Code.

Additional Relative Codes:

16.76.060 - General Provisions for all signs

- Sets size standards, maintenance, and location.

16.76.090 - Illegal Signs

- Establishes authority for Public Works and the Police Department to Abate, Remove, and Recover Costs

12.80.010 - Signs on public property unlawful

- Enforcement - misdemeanor, public nuisance, presumption of responsibility, administrative citation (Code Enforcement)

Questions and direction?