

2023 POLITICAL SIGN REGULATIONS

Clark County, Washington

Includes:

City of Battle Ground

City of Camas

City of La Center

City of Ridgefield

City of Vancouver

City of Washougal

City of Woodland

Town of Yacolt

Clark County

Washington Dept. of Transportation

Table of Contents

City of Battle Ground	2-3
City of Camas	4-5
City of La Center	6
City of Ridgefield	7
City of Vancouver	8-15
City of Washougal	16-18
City of Woodland	19
Town of Yacolt	20
Clark County	21-24
Washington State Department of Transportation	25



POLITICAL SIGN GUIDELINES

The City of Battle Ground's Sign Ordinance identifies election-oriented signage as temporary signage, which are generally exempt from signage regulations and standards specified in Battle Ground Municipal Code Section 17.139. However, as per BGMC 17.139.120 (D) does recommend the candidate, promoters and opponents of ballot measures of their campaign committees to complete and submit a volunteer compliance form for placement and removal of signs within 15 days of the election. Temporary signage shall not be located within the public right-of-way, and may be located on private property with the property owner's authorization only. Any temporary signage that it located within the public right-of-way will be removed and signage will be discarded.

Further questions regarding signage regulations in the City of Battle Ground should be directed to City of Battle Ground Community Development Department at (360) 342-5047.

CHAPTER 17.139: SIGNS

Subsection 040.7.z. "Temporary sign" means any sign or advertising display constructed of cloth, wood canvas, light fabric, paper or other materials with or without frames intended to be displayed for a limited time only as determined by the planning director, and not permanently mounted. Temporary signs include special event signs that advertise civic events such as street fairs, community festivals, parades, farmer's markets charity benefits, signs attached to external window surfaces and that are readily removable, garage sale signs, pennants, reasonable temporary and seasonal decorations, construction signs, election-oriented political signs and new business/location signs or other such similar signs as determined by the planning director.

To: City of Battle Ground
Community Development Department
109 SW 1st Street, Suite #127
Battle Ground, WA 98604

File No: _____

Date Received: _____

VOLUNTARY PLEDGE TO COMPLY
WITH
BATTLE GROUND POLITICAL SIGN GUIDELINES

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, hereby voluntarily pledge to comply with the City of Battle Ground political sign guidelines as outlined in BGMC 17.139.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

Approximate number of signs: _____

Approximate size of signs: _____

NAME OF PERSON RUNNING FOR OFFICE OR BALLOT MEASURE:

CONTACT PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVAL OF SIGNS (Within 15 Days of Election)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Received by: _____ this _____ day of _____, 20____

Signature: _____

STAFF ENTRY ONLY

Received by: _____ this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Signature: _____

CITY OF CAMAS

Political Sign Regulations

Camas Municipal Code § 18.15.040 - General definitions and regulations

B. Sign Types

20. "Temporary sign" means a sign that is used in connection with a circumstance, situation, or event that is designed, intended or expected to take place or to be completed within a reasonably short or definite period after erection of such sign; or is intended to remain on the location where it is erected or placed for a short period of time (Refer to additional requirements in Section 18.15.100 CMC). "Temporary signs" include, but are not limited to the following examples:

- a. Political signs advocating political candidates or political issues;
- b. Real estate signs advertising property for sale or lease;
- c. Construction signs identifying the builder of a structure or the developer of a residential, commercial or industrial development;
- d. Special event signs or banners advertising grand openings, fairs, carnivals, circuses, festivals; or
- e. Community events, garage and yard sale signs, and any other sign of a similar purpose.

Camas Municipal Code § 18.15.050 Signs controlled by zoning district

The following table identifies signs by zoning district as permitted (P), prohibited (X), or only allowed with a Conditional Use Permit (C). All permitted signs are subject to the requirements of this chapter, and any other applicable sections of CMC. If dimensions of a sign vary by zone, then it is noted in this table.

Table 1 - Signs controlled by Zoning district

(Excerpt of Table - Full Table available online at <http://www.ci.camass.wa.us>)

Sign Types as defined in this chapter	Residential and Multi-family Zones	Commercial and Industrial Zones	LI/BP Zone
Temporary sign (e.g. construction signs, real estate, banners, and other sign types as defined in this chapter)	P ¹	P ^{2, 3}	P ^{2,3}

Notes:

- ¹ Sign may not exceed six square feet in area per lot unless approved with a Master Sign Permit.
- ² Sign may not exceed ten percent of the size of the wall area in combination with all other permitted signs on the same plane and visible from public view unless approved with a Master Sign Permit.
- ³ If lot is vacant, then sign is limited to ninety-six square feet.

Camas Municipal Code § 18.15.100 Temporary signs

A. Temporary signs are exempt from permit requirements as described in this section. Although no permits will be issued, compliance with this chapter is required. Temporary signs may be permitted with a Master Sign Permit as described in this chapter.

1. Number. One sign per lot, per candidate, issue or event.
2. Size. Refer to "Table 1" of this chapter for sign dimensions per zoning district and bonuses as allowed with a Master Sign Permit.

3. Consent. If displayed on private property, the responsible party must obtain consent of property owner.

B. Temporary signs may not be illuminated.

C. Removal. Temporary signs shall be removed by sign owner within ten days after occurrence of the event. For example, political signs should therefore be removed within ten days following an election, real estate signs should be removed within ten days following sale or lease of the property, constructions signs should be removed within ten days following issuance of the certificate of occupancy for the building, special event signs should be removed within ten days after occurrence of the special event, and yard and garage sale signs should be removed within ten days following the sale.

D. Confiscation. The city or property owner may confiscate signs installed in violation of this chapter and dispose of it. The property owner is not responsible for notifying owners of confiscation of illegal sign. (Ord. No. 2600, § II, 11-1-2010)

Camas Municipal Code § 18.17.030 - Vision Clearance

On all corner lots no vehicle, fence, wall, hedge, or other obstructive structure or planting shall impede visibility between a height of forty-two inches and ten feet above the sidewalk or fourteen feet above the street and ten feet above the street.

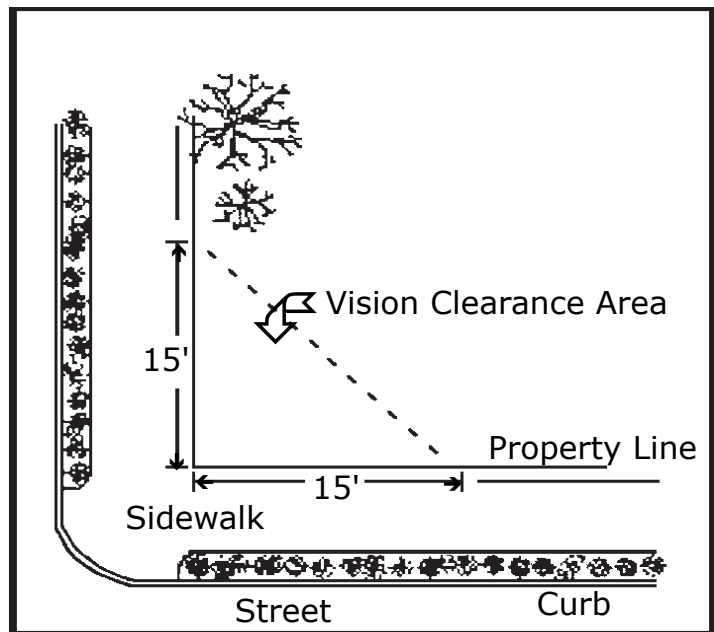


Figure 18.17.030-1 Vision Clearance

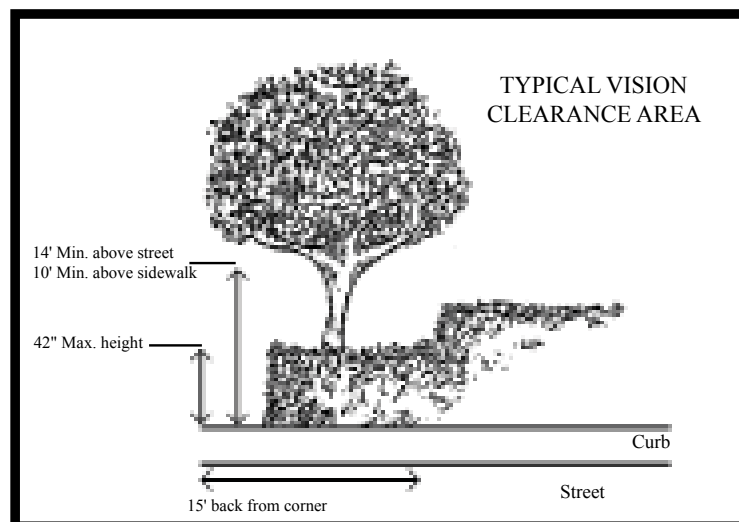


Figure 18.17.030-2 Vision Clearance Area



POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS

Updated 3-11-22

The City of La Center regulates the placement of all temporary signs. Political signs are regulated as temporary signs. To qualify as a temporary sign, the sign area shall not exceed four square feet, have no part of the sign higher than three feet above ground level and have no more than two faces. The sign may not be located on a sidewalk or in the vehicle travel portion of the right-of-way. It cannot obstruct or interfere in any way with the public's ability to clearly view governmental signs, traffic, visibility or passage within the public right-of-way, including vehicle travel lanes, sidewalks and bike lanes. Signs are not allowed to be attached to a utility or governmental pole/post. Temporary signs can only be made of nondurable materials.

Temporary signs within the right of way, do not require a permit, but do require permission from the City. There is no fee, but you must apply for and pick up a permission label at City Hall located at 210 E 4th St, La Center, WA 98629. Office hours are Monday- Friday 8 am - 5 pm.

There is no limit on the number of temporary signs so long as they do not create or exacerbate an existing traffic or pedestrian safety hazard and all signs comply with all applicable provisions of Chapter 8.60 of the La Center Municipal Code.

Temporary signs located on private property must receive the permission of the property owner and must comply with the zoning regulations for that property, please see LCMC 8.60 for allowed sign types, locations and size limitations.

Permanent signs require a permit and a \$25 fee. Please contact the Public Works Office for further information.

Please be responsible and respectful when placing and removing signs. If sign placement requires a locate request (call before you dig) the individual installing the sign assumes all responsibilities under RCW 19.122.

Contact information: La Center City Hall, 210 E 4th St., La Center, Washington 98629. (360) 263-7665. To view the municipal code in its entirety, visit <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/LaCenter/>

CITY OF RIDGEFIELD

Signs for the purpose of endorsing political candidates or ballot propositions fall under the Ridgefield Municipal Code “Temporary Signs” requirements (RMC 18.710.270):

Temporary Signs. Any sign, which is not permanently installed or affixed to any sign structure or building, and not displayed for longer than thirty to sixty days. In cases of construction project signs, they may be maintained for the duration of the construction. Temporary signs shall also include balloons attached to buildings or property.

Removal of Signs. Temporary signs must be removed if the sign is in need of repair, creates a public nuisance, or within sixty days, whichever occurs first.

Signs on City Property. Temporary signs on city-owned property are allowed only in conjunction with an approved special event permit.

Signs on City Right of Way. Temporary signs are prohibited in the roadway. Temporary signs on city right-of-way placed outside of the roadway are allowed between the property line and the back of the nearest curb, or where no curb exists, between the property line and the nearest edge of the roadway pavement.

- Signs may not be placed on sidewalks, driveways or other paved areas designed for pedestrian or vehicular use, or as conditioned in a right-of-way use permit.
- Signs must be on stakes that can be manually pushed or hammered into the ground.
- Signs are limited to four square feet, and three feet in height.

Signs in Residential Zones. Temporary signs may be placed on residential property as follows:

- There is only one temporary window sign per residential unit, not to exceed four square feet.
- In single family zones free standing signs shall not exceed five square feet in size and six feet in height if the sign is mounted on the ground, and shall not exceed three feet in height if the sign is stake mounted or portable.
- In multi-family zones temporary free-standing signs shall not exceed six square feet in size and six feet in height if the sign is post mounted on the ground, and shall not exceed three feet in height if the sign is stake-mounted or portable.
- Surface mounted signs are limited to sites that are two acres or larger and must not exceed thirty two square feet. The signs must be flatly affixed to walls or on-site fences. Signs shall not be attached or tethered to other site improvements.

Signs in Non-Residential Zones. Signs are allowed on non-residentially zoned property as follows:

- Window signs are limited to twenty five percent of the window area.
- Freestanding signs are limited to four square feet and five feet in height if the sign is mounted in the ground and not to exceed three feet in height if the sign is portable.
- Surface mounted signs are limited to thirty two square feet and must be flatly affixed to walls or on-site fences. Signs must not be attached or tethered to other site improvements.

Signs on Large Properties. Any type of sign may be placed on a site that is at least two acres in size if it does not exceed sixty four square feet and eight feet above ground level. This type of sign shall be not be displayed with or in addition to any other temporary sign.

Surface-mounted signs. Limited to sites two acres or larger:

- a. Size. No larger than thirty-two square feet.
- b. Location. Must be flatly affixed to walls below the fascia or parapet line, or flatly affixed to on-site fences either facing or abutting the street, or facing inward to the subject site. Signs shall not be attached or tethered to other site improvements.



March 13, 2023

Dear Candidates and Committee Members:

Every political season generates considerable citizen comments regarding the number, construction and placement of political signs during election campaigns. I am writing to familiarize you with Vancouver's sign regulations and policies regarding political signs. I am also writing to urge you to make a voluntary pledge to comply with a program to minimize the visual blight that the political season can engender, especially in some of Vancouver's most beautiful and historic areas.

Vancouver sign regulations prohibit¹ the following:

- Posting of any signs on trees, structures or installations upon a public street. This includes no posting of signs on telephone poles, utility cabinets, fire hydrants, streetlights or parking meters.
- Posting of any signs on any property (including abutting parking strips) without the consent of the owner or owner's agent.
- Posting of any signs on City owned or leased property without the consent of the City. (See the attached policy regarding 'Political Signs on City Property').
- Placement of any sight obscuring object, including but not limited to signs, within any required yard area between 30 inches and 10 feet above the street grade within the triangular vision clearance area as shown in the attached diagrams.
- Signs and sign support structures that are not constructed to resist being overturned by wind.

I believe that there is widespread community support to go beyond these minimum legal requirements to keep Vancouver's street rights-of-way and public areas free of the clutter of unlimited political signs. You are also no doubt aware of court decisions which limit the ability of the City to prohibit this unsightly clutter along our City streets.

We are therefore requesting that all candidates, promoters and opponents of ballot measures and their campaign committees to voluntarily pledge to abide by Vancouver's voluntary guidelines for political signs and to limit the use of political signage in street rights-of-way, medians, traffic islands, and circles and in particular to keep political signs out of the street rights-of-way in Vancouver's most scenic and historic areas. We ask that no signs be placed in the historic or scenic areas such as Officer's Row and Vancouver's National Historic Reserve, a portion of which is also subject to federal restrictions as described in the attached policy.

¹ This list is meant to provide a short synopsis of what is contained in Vancouver's ordinances. It is not meant to be exhaustive, and any discrepancy between this list and the text of the Vancouver Municipal Code is resolved in favor of the

We also ask that political signs not be placed in street rights-of-way prior to the candidate filing with the County Elections Department for the next election and to remove political signs from street rights-of-way within fifteen days after the election.

Also enclosed is a pledge form we are asking you to sign as your promise to Vancouver and its citizens that you will abide by these voluntary guidelines. Please file this form with the City Clerk's Office, 415 W 6th Street, Vancouver, WA 98660.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Turner, Land Use Manager, at 360.487.7883 or via email (greg.turner@cityofvancouver.us).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Holmes".

Eric J. Holmes
City Manager

Enclosure: Political Sign Guidelines
Pledge Form
WSDOT Letter re: Signs on Overpasses

CC: Carrie Lewellen, Deputy City Clerk
Chad Eiken, Director of Community and Economic Development

City of Vancouver Political Campaign Sign

Regulations and Guidelines

City Ordinances prohibit:

- Posting of any signs on trees, structures or installations on a public street. This includes no posting of signs on telephone poles, utility cabinets, fire hydrants, streetlights, or parking meters.
- Posting of any signs on any property (including abutting parking strips) without the consent of the owner or owner's agent.
- Posting of any signs on City owned or leased property including City parks without the consent of the City. (also see "Political signs on City Property" below.)
- Placement of any sight obscuring object, including but not limited to signs within any required yard area between 30 inches and 10 feet above the street grade within the triangular vision clearance area as shown in the attached diagrams.
- Signs and sign support structures that are not constructed to resist being overturned by wind.

Political signs on City Property:

RCW 42.17.130 states public facilities may not be used, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition.

Washington courts have held that the First Amendment and the State Constitution's freedom of speech provisions limit local governments' authority to regulate political speech in a "traditional public forum" such as city rights of way.

In keeping with the statutory prohibition but respecting First Amendment issues, political signs may not be posted or placed on any City owned or leased property except as follows:

- As part of a political demonstration or similar political event held in a traditional public forum on City-owned or leased property. These locations would include those portions of City parks or other City properties which are traditional public forums. (e.g. the plaza in front of City Hall.) This does not include any City building or facility that is not a traditional public forum, such as the interior of City Hall, Marshall Center, and other City offices and work facilities. All signage must be promptly removed following the end of the event.
- Political signs may be placed within City right of way such as parking strips, medians, traffic islands, traffic circles and other roadside areas; provided there is no triangular vision clearance or line of sight problem as described herein created by placement of the sign and that such placement does not create traffic safety issues or damage to irrigation lines for vegetation maintenance. Improperly placed signs, and signs that are placed in an area where road maintenance needs to be performed, may be removed and are available for pickup at the Operations Center for thirty (30) days.
- To identify or direct participants to a political function in a rented City facility which is generally made available by the City on a content-neutral basis to private or non-profit entities - e.g. rented meeting or banquet rooms at Luepke Center, Marshall Center or Firstenberg Center. Signs shall be subject to the terms of any lease or use agreement for the specific facility and shall bear a notation stating that the event is not sponsored or endorsed by the City of Vancouver.

Voluntary Candidate Guidelines:

The City of Vancouver believes, based on citizen comments, that there is widespread community support for minimizing the clutter of political signs in the public right of way. Citizens generally comment that a proliferation of signs obstructs their view of traffic and pedestrians at intersections, makes the community look cluttered and interferes with public travel and convenience when they walk or must maneuver to avoid signs posted in parking strips.

In addition to compliance with the City ordinances and state laws described above, the City of Vancouver asks for the voluntary commitment of candidates, supporters and opponents of ballot measures, and their campaign committees to follow these guidelines:

- To ensure that political signs will not be placed in street rights-of-way on or near:
 - o Parking strips in areas where members of the public frequently enter and exit vehicles.
 - o Medians, traffic islands, and traffic circles.
 - o Scenic or historical areas such as Officers' Row, the Vancouver National Historic Reserve area, and City parks and recreation areas. Signage of any kind is prohibited in City parks. (Those areas of the Historic Reserve which are federal property are governed by different regulations and questions regarding such regulation should be directed to the Department of Defense or National Park Service).
- To not display political signs that resemble traffic control devices. If such signage is deemed to be a traffic hazard or distraction, it will be removed.
- To not place political signs in the street rights-of-way prior to the candidate filing with the County Elections Department for the next election.
- To remove political signs from street rights-of-way within fifteen (15) days after the election. (e.g. by making certain that each campaign committee has a master key map of locations and a schedule for picking up signs within that time frame.)

Attached is a pledge form, which the City asks candidates, committee members, and promoters or opponents of ballot propositions to sign as a voluntary agreement to abide by these guidelines. Please fill out this form and forward it to the City Clerk's Office as well as Greg Turner at greg.turner@cityofvancouver.us.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Turner, Land Use Manager at 360-487-7883 or via email at greg.turner@cityofvancouver.us.

Thank you.



Voluntary Pledge to Comply with Vancouver Political Signs Guidelines

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, hereby voluntarily pledge to comply with the City of Vancouver political sign guidelines.

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone Number:

Approximate Number of Signs:

**Name of Person Running for
Office or Ballot Measure:**

Date:

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVAL OF SIGNS

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Signature of Applicant:

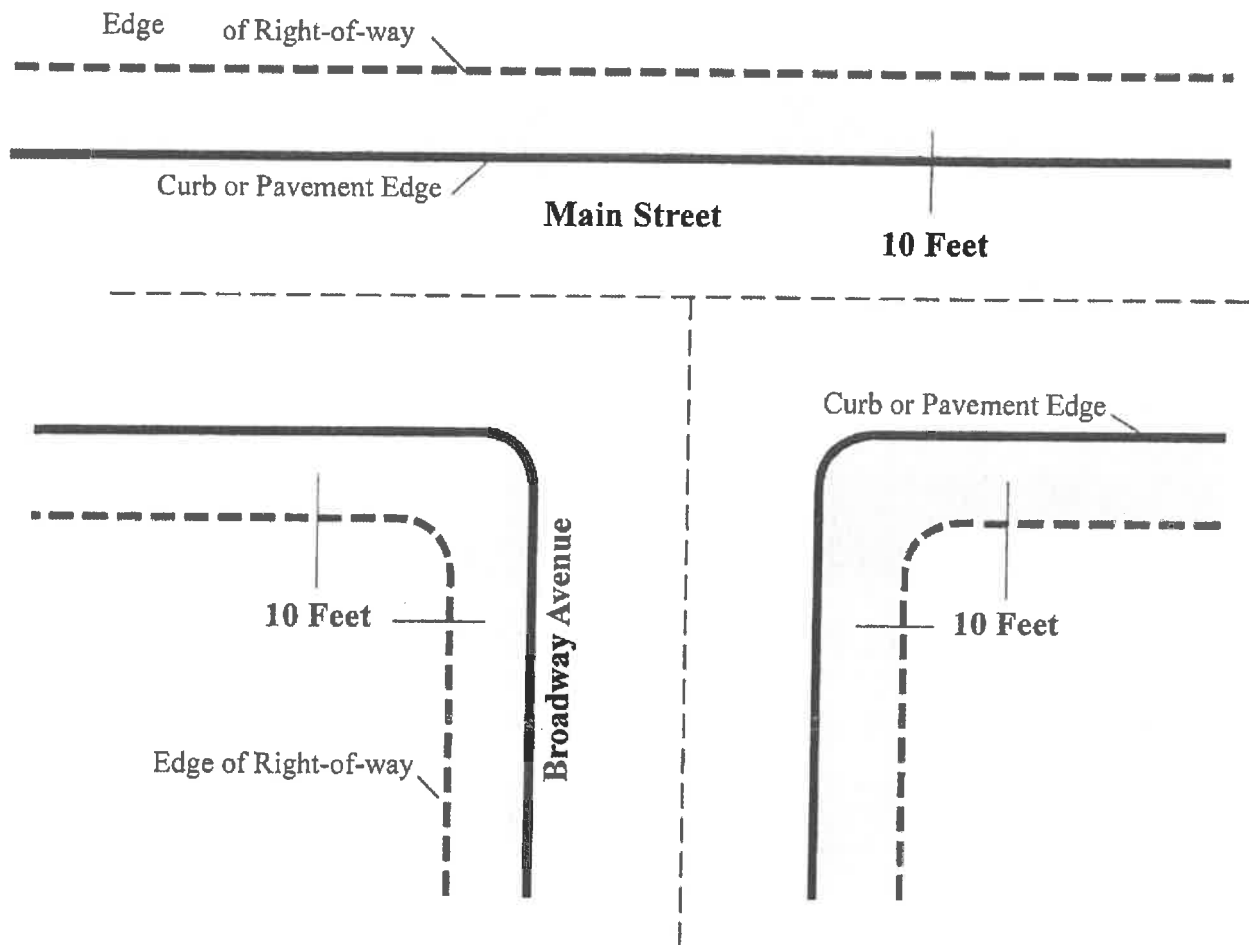
Received by: _____ **this** _____ **day of** _____ **2023.**

Signature: _____

Please email the completed form to Greg Turner, Land Use Manager at greg.turner@cityofvancouver.us

CITY OF VANCOUVER
Voluntary Compliance Guideline Diagram

Please do not place signs within the shaded areas.

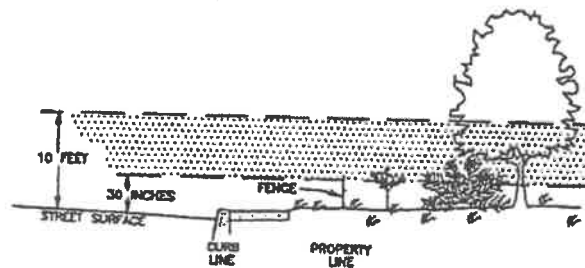
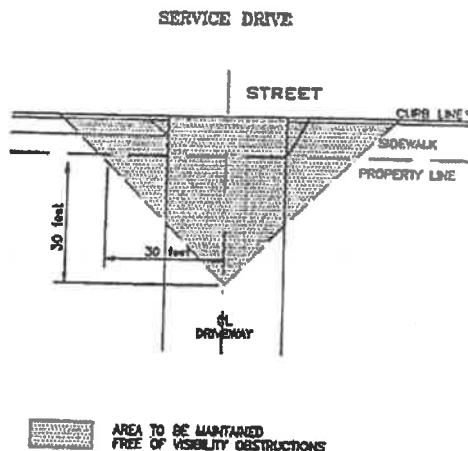
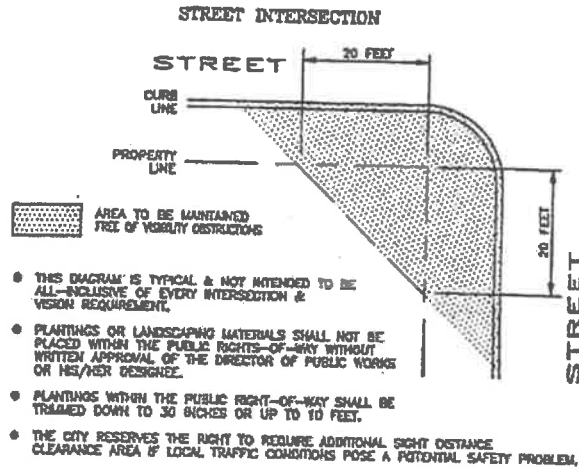


CITY OF VANCOUVER

Triangular Vision Clearance Area Diagrams

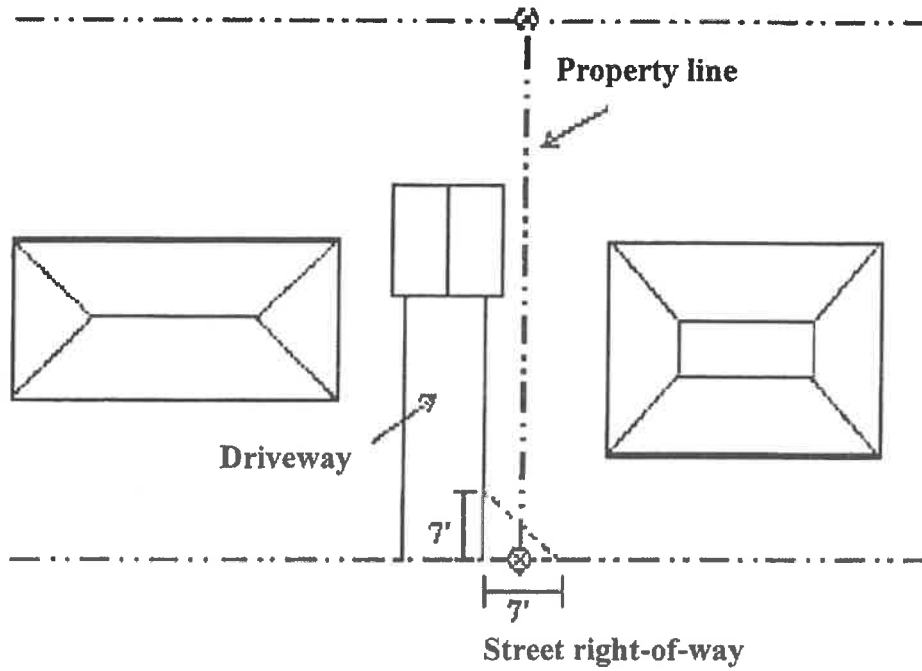
VMC 20.985.020 disallows any sight obstruction at a street intersection or service drive interfering with the view of the operation of motor vehicles on the streets to such an extent as to constitute a traffic hazard.

VMC 20.960.030 categorically prohibits any sign that substantially obstructs free and clear vision of exit, traffic intersection entrance, traffic sign or signal, or constitute a traffic hazard.



H:/Civil Team/jz/doc/political signs visual clearance - 041304 Text Update.jz.doc

Vancouver WA Zoning Ordinance



Vision clearance requirement for private driveway

(M-3701, Amended, 05/02/2005, Sec. 37; M-3643, Added, 01/26/2004)



CITY OF WASHOUGAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Noncommercial Sign Regulations

“Noncommercial sign” is a sign that is intended to display a message, that is not primarily associated with a good, product, or service offered for sale or trade.

Signs Exempted from Regulation

Right-Of-Way, Noncommercial temporary signs

Noncommercial temporary signs within the public right-of-way (not including center medians or roundabouts) with the permission of the adjacent property owner, which do not exceed six square feet in area per face, nor five feet in height, are not illuminated and are not posted for longer than 180 days. Noncommercial temporary signs related to a specific event shall be removed within 10 days following the event. Applicants are asked to submit a “Noncommercial Temporary Sign Voluntary Agreement Form” which notes these standards and provides the city with contact information for the signs.

Private Property, Noncommercial temporary signs

Noncommercial temporary signs on private property, which do not exceed six square feet in area per face, nor five feet in height, and are not illuminated. In addition to these, one larger noncommercial temporary sign per lot frontage is allowed which does not exceed thirty-two square feet in area per face, six feet in height, and is not illuminated. All noncommercial temporary signs cannot be posted longer than 180 days. Noncommercial temporary signs related to a specific event shall be removed within 10 days following the event. Applicants are asked to submit a “Noncommercial Temporary Sign Voluntary Agreement Form” which notes these standards and provides the city with contact information for the signs.

The location and structural design of signs shall be such as to not interfere with the safe and efficient use of off-street parking and loading areas, including aisle ways and access driveways, and sight distances on public streets or private streets.

CITY OF WASHOUGAL

Noncommercial Temporary Sign Voluntary Agreement Form

APPLICANT:

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-mail Address _____

Approximate number of signs to be placed within the city? _____

CONTACT PERSON FOR SIGNS (If not the same as APPLICANT):
(Signs shall be removed within 10 days following the event to which such sign is directed)

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-mail Address _____

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Approval by the Community Development Director:

Signature _____ Date _____



NONCOMMERCIAL TEMPORARY SIGN CRITERIA

“Noncommercial sign” is a sign that is intended to display a message, that is not primarily associated with a good, product, or service offered for sale or trade.

Signs Exempted from Regulation

Right-Of-Way, Noncommercial temporary signs

Noncommercial temporary signs within the public right-of-way (not including center medians or roundabouts) with the permission of the adjacent property owner, which do not exceed six square feet in area per face, nor five feet in height, are not illuminated and are not posted for longer than 180 days are exempt. Noncommercial temporary signs related to a specific event shall be removed within 10 days following the event.

Private Property, Noncommercial temporary signs

Noncommercial temporary signs on private property, which do not exceed six square feet in area per face, nor five feet in height, and are not illuminated are exempt. In addition to these, one larger noncommercial temporary sign per lot frontage is allowed which does not exceed thirty-two square feet in area per face, six feet in height, and is not illuminated. All noncommercial temporary signs cannot be posted longer than 180 days. Noncommercial temporary signs related to a specific event shall be removed within 10 days following the event.

Other Provisions Related to Safety

WMC 18.60.110 On-Site Interference

The location and structural design of signs shall be such as to not interfere with the safe and efficient use of off-street parking and loading areas, including aisle ways and access driveways, and sight distances on public streets or private streets.



*P.O. Box 9
Woodland, WA 98674
www.ci.woodland.wa.us*

Police

Office: (360) 225-6965
Fax: 360-225-1201

200 East Scott Avenue

**City Administrator
Clerk-Treasurer**

Mayor

Office: (360) 225-8281
Fax: (360-225-7336

Community Development

Office: (360) 225-7299

Public Works

Office: (360) 225-7999

230 Davidson Avenue

February 23, 2022

The City of Woodland's requirement for political signs is:

- Political signs should be placed on private property only, not in the right of way. The owner's permission is required.
- Political signs should be removed with 10 days after the election.

If you have any questions, please call Travis Goddard at 360.225.7599, extension 127 or email goddardt@ci.woodland.wa.us

Sincerely,

Georgina D. Anderson

Georgina D. Anderson
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

transmittal letter_ political signs 2022.02.23



TOWN OF YACOLT

202 W. Cushman / P.O. Box 160

Yacolt, WA 98675

(360) 686-3922

townofyacolt@townofyacolt.com

Notification regarding Campaign signs within the Town of Yacolt:

Pursuant to Yacolt Municipal Code, Chapter 18 Sec. 18.85.030 § H:

“18.85.030 Signs prohibited.

Erection or maintenance of signs having any of the following characteristics is prohibited in the town:

H. Signs located or projecting within the town **right-of-way** unless a written street use permit has been obtained;”

Pursuant to Yacolt Municipal Code, Ch. 18 Sec. 18.85.050 § F:

“For the purpose of endorsing political candidates or ballot propositions, or advertising fairs, rodeos, or similar temporary activities, the planning director shall issue a special permit for a temporary sign or group of signs. Such signs shall be removed by the permittee within 15 days following cessation of the activities for which the sign application was made. The maximum area of these signs shall be 32 square feet.”

Signs may also be posted on private property, but only with permission of the property owner.

For more information, or to obtain a temporary sign permit, please contact Town Hall at (360) 686-3922 or via email at clerk@townofyacolt.com. Or you are always welcome to come into Town Hall at 202 W. Cushman Street.



CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

clark.wa.gov

CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL

Karen Dill Bowerman, Chair
Glen Yung, Michelle Belkot, Gary Medvigy, Sue Marshall

1300 Franklin Street
PO Box 5000
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000
564.397.2232

March 20, 2023

Dear Candidates and Committee Members:

Election season often prompts questions and concerns about placement of political signs in unincorporated Clark County. With this letter, we would like to ensure that you are familiar with local regulations, policies, and practices, which reflect widespread voter support to keep right of ways clear of clutter.

Requirements are as follows:

- A special registration must be submitted to place political signs in unincorporated Clark County. Registration applications are available online at www.clark.wa.gov/elections/candidates. Completed registrations can be accepted in-person in the permit center at 1300 Franklin Street M-F 8am-2pm or email to permitservices@clark.wa.gov. The subject line of the email must be: **2023 Political Signs**. Approved and signed forms will be emailed back to the applicant.
- Signs may not be placed in locations that would constitute traffic hazards. If you are advised by county staff of hazardous placement, remove the sign immediately.
- Work closely with all volunteers placing signs, outlining for them the rules of sign placement, to avoid complaints and the necessity of revisiting the sign location.
- Political signs must be removed within 15 days after the election. Campaigns with a master map of sign locations and a pickup schedule will find it easier to comply.
- Displaying political signs that resemble traffic control signs is prohibited (CCC 40.310 (D)(5)).

In addition to these requirements, it is our custom to request that candidates and promoters of ballot measures voluntarily commit to keep signs out of rights of way. A diagram showing recommended placement along roads is enclosed to assist you in complying with this request. A copy of the commitment form is also included. Please file this form along with your registration application.

If you have any questions, contact Community Development at 564.397.4078 or permitservices@clark.wa.gov.

Thank you for your cooperation and I wish you the best of luck on all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Karen Dill Bowerman, Council Chair
Enclosures

- Registration application
- Right of way agreement
- Diagram of sign placement

Submit to:
Department of Community Development
Permit Services Division
permitservices@clark.wa.gov
(564) 397-4078

File No. _____

Date Received _____

APPLICATION/REGISTRATION FOR POLITICAL SIGN PLACEMENT

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, hereby make application under the terms of Footnote 6, Section 40.310.010 (F) (2), Clark County Code, to erect political signs.

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____

Approximate number of signs: _____

NAME OF PERSON RUNNING FOR OFFICE OR BALLOT REFERENDUM #

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVAL OF SIGNS

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Approved by the Permit Center Manager/Lead this _____ day of _____, 20_____

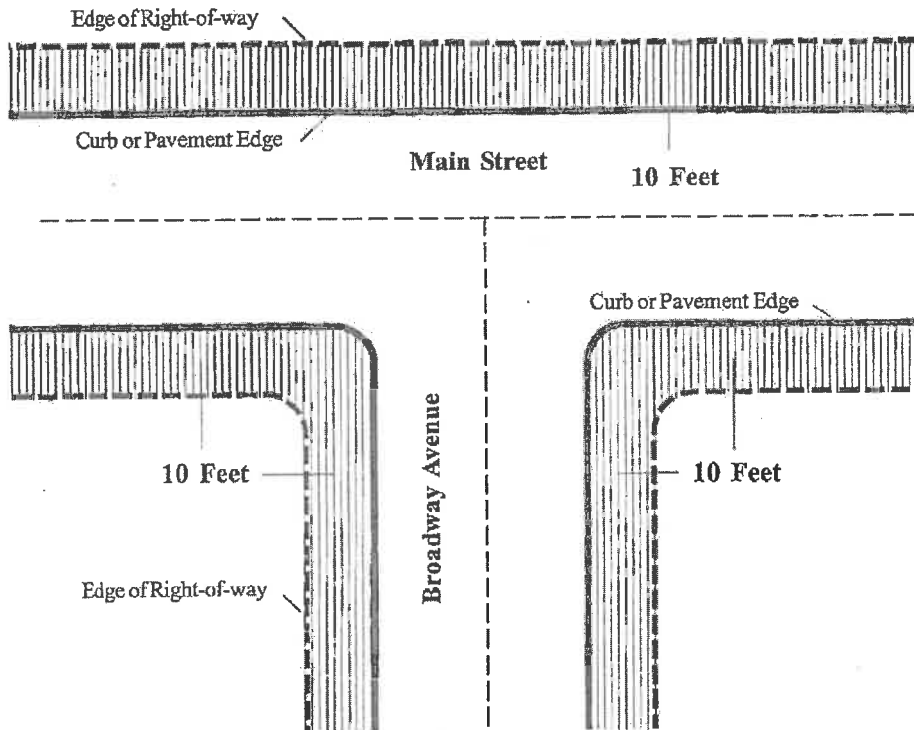
Signature: _____

CLARK COUNTY

Placement Diagrams for Political Signs

We discourage the placement of signs over 3 feet in height upon public property. CCC 12.05A.250 prohibits placement in such a manner as to obstruct the vision of motorists. Removal of all political signs is required after the election.

Diagram #1



SIGN PLACEMENT COMMITMENT

The undersigned candidate or committee official hereby agrees that best efforts will be employed to ensure that political signs of such candidate (or ballot propositions) will not be placed within road rights-of-way.

Name of candidate / ballot proposition:

Date: _____ Signature: _____



Transportation Building
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504-7300
360-705-7000
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov

Dear Candidate:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) wishes to take this opportunity to advise political candidates about the placement of campaign signs and placards along state highways.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 47.42, the Highway Advertising Control Act, regulates signing on Interstate Highways, primary highways, and highways that are part of the Scenic and Recreational System. Signs erected on private property that are adjacent to these highways must comply with the Highway Advertising Control Act, rules contained in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 468-66, and applicable local agency sign codes.

In accordance with WAC 468-66-050, ***Sign Classification and Specific Provisions***, temporary political campaign signs are identified and regulated as a type of on-premise sign intended to express a property owner's endorsement of a political candidate or initiative. Prior to placing signs, WSDOT recommends checking with the property owner for approval and to determine property line locations. Campaign signs are allowed under the following regulations:

- 1) Temporary political campaign signs are limited to a maximum size of thirty-two square feet.
- 2) Temporary political campaign signs must be removed within ten days following the election.
- 3) Sign installers must have permission of the underlying property owner prior to placing signs.
- 4) Temporary political campaign signs are subject to all other applicable provisions of RCW 47.42 and WAC 468.66 that pertain to Type 3 on-premise signs.

In addition to the above restrictions, **the erection of temporary political campaign signs within the right-of-way of all state highways is prohibited. Accordingly, signs placed within the right-of-way of any state highway are subject to removal by the Washington State Department of Transportation.**

Also, RCW 47.36.180(1) states in part that it is unlawful to erect any structure, sign, or device visible from a city street, county road, or state highway that simulates any directional, warning, or danger sign likely to be mistaken for such a sign. Therefore, a campaign sign cannot be designated in a manner that resembles an official traffic control sign.

If you should have any questions about placement of campaign signs along state highways, please contact Tanya Joblonski at 360-705-7294 or email at outdooradvertisingcontrol@wsdot.wa.gov.

We sincerely hope that candidates for public office will observe the laws and regulations enacted to limit driver distraction, and protect and preserve the roadside beauty of our state. Thank you in advance for your courtesy in this matter.

Washington State Department of Transportation