



City of Portland, Oregon
Bureau of Development Services
Plan Review / Permitting Services
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

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To: Political Candidates – 2016

Subject: Posting of Political Signs in the City of Portland

We are approaching another political campaign season and the City of Portland, Bureau of Development Services would like to provide a friendly reminder about the use and placement of political campaign signs.

Although the City of Portland's Sign Code does not provide regulations that are specific to political campaign signs, there are standards which address the types of signs typically used in political campaigns. These regulations apply to all signs on private property, regardless of the text of the sign.

If you have questions about signs or registration requirements, please visit the Development Services Center located at 1900 SW 4th Avenue (open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Thursday 8:00 a.m. to noon) or e-mail bdssignpermits@portlandoregon.gov or telephone 503-823-7996.

The three typical political signs that are used in the City of Portland are described below with the definition for use.

Lawn Signs: Lawn signs are defined as freestanding signs, made of lightweight materials, such as cardboard, vinyl or plastic pressboard, which are supported by a frame, pole or other structure and placed directly in the ground. Lawn signs are allowed without permit but must meet the standards of City of Portland Title 32, Section 32.32.030.J. There is no limit on the number of lawn signs, but each sign may not be larger than 3 square feet on a single pole or stake. These signs are allowed on private property only and may not be illuminated. These signs are not allowed in rights-of way such as sidewalks, street medians, traffic islands, planting strips or freeway entrance/exits.

Temporary Banners: Banners are signs made of fabric or other similar non-rigid material. Banners are not enclosed in a framework but are either anchored at 4 corners or along two edges. Banners can not contain any electrical components or lighting. While banners are allowed in any zone, except sites with houses, duplexes, or attached houses, the limitations in size differ depending on the zone and use of the property (Section 32.32.030.K.3). These signs are not allowed in rights-of way such as sidewalks, street medians, traffic islands, planting strips or freeway entrance/exits.

Temporary freestanding signs: Temporary freestanding signs are signs on a frame, pole, or other support structure that are not attached to any building. They are only allowed in the RX, C, E and I zones (Section 32.32.030.K.6). Each sign may be no larger than 32 square feet in area. A

sign may have an additional face of up to 32 square feet, if the angle between the sign faces is less than 90 degrees. Larger sites may install one temporary freestanding sign per 300 feet of arterial street frontage. The allowed height of temporary freestanding signs varies between 15 and 25 feet, depending on the zone. Extensions of temporary freestanding signs into rights-of-way, such as sidewalks, street medians, traffic islands, planting strips or freeway entrance/exits, is prohibited.

Temporary wall (fascia) signs: Temporary wall (fascia) signs are single-faced signs attached flush to a building or other structure or signs consisting of light projected onto a building or other structure. They do not include signs that are attached to or projected onto structures defined as sign structures in Title 32 of the Portland City Code. One temporary wall sign is allowed per street frontage in the RX, C, E and I zones and may be up to 32 square feet in area (Section 32.32.030.K.5). They may not extend above roof lines or into the right-of-way.

Temporary wall signs and freestanding signs may be posted without permit or registration provided they meet the above standards. Each sign may be erected for two continuous periods of up to 180 days per year. See the brochure "[Signs: Portable and Temporary](#)" for more details regarding temporary freestanding signs.

Again, please feel free to contact us either by phone, e-mail or by visiting the DSC with any questions about signs for your campaign.