

# **POLITICAL SIGN REGULATIONS**

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## **SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL CANDIDATES**

The Anaheim Municipal Code Sections 18.44.210, Political Campaign Signs; 4.04.130, Prohibition of Signs in the Public Right of Way; and 4.04.380, Affixing Signs and Notices to Property-Permission of Owner Required have been enclosed for your information.

If you have any questions regarding any political sign regulations, please contact Sandra Sagert, Community Preservation Manager at (714) 765-4413.

*Anaheim Municipal Code language included in this Section.*



City of Anaheim  
**PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT**  
Code Enforcement Division

July 1, 2018

Dear Candidate and Political Supporters:

The City of Anaheim takes pride in being one of the premier locations in Southern California. As such, we want to ensure that our city looks as good as possible for our many residents, visitors and those who do business in our city. The City has adopted regulations for temporary political signs to ensure that candidates have the ability to promote their campaigns without cluttering the city's public spaces.

Please be advised that the Anaheim Municipal Code prohibits the placement of signs in the public right-of-way. In addition, signs may not be placed on private property without the owner's consent. For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of the City's regulations on political signs.

During an election year, the City receives numerous complaints concerning the proliferation of political campaign signs on both public and private property. Our procedure, upon finding such signs in violation of our municipal code, is to photograph, remove the sign(s), document and store for 10 days. We are asking for your cooperation and that of your supporters in ensuring your signs are compliant with the City's regulations, and in promptly removing any signs that may inadvertently be placed in an inappropriate location.

If you have any questions or need additional information concerning this matter, please contact me at (714) 765-4413.

Sincerely,

Sandra Sagert  
Community Preservation & Licensing Manager

# **ANAHEIM MUNICIPAL CODE**

## **Political Signs**

### **4.04.130 PROHIBITION OF SIGNS IN PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY.**

.010 The term "sign" as used in this section shall include any card, banner, handbill, sign, poster, printing, writing, drawing, painting, decoration, pictorial representation of advertising or publicity or notice of any kind, including any political sign of any kind. Such term shall not include (1) any sign required or permitted by any statute, ordinance or law, (2) any duly authorized official City, County, State or Federal directional or informational sign, or (3) any privately owned directional sign maintained pursuant to an encroachment agreement approved by the City of Anaheim for the sole purpose of providing directions to one or more new "for sale" residential developments provided both said sign and such development(s) are located within the Scenic Corridor Overlay Zone of the City.

.020 The term "public right-of-way" as used in this section shall mean any area of real property dedicated to or owned by the City of Anaheim or the public or any other public body, or over which the City of Anaheim or the public or any other public body holds any easement, for public street, alley, sidewalk, pedestrian, equestrian, or public utility purposes.

.030 It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, committee, or organization, except a public officer or employee in the performance of a public duty or unless required or permitted by ordinance of the City of Anaheim or the laws of the State or of the United States, to place or cause to be placed, any sign on or within any public right-of-way in the City of Anaheim, or to affix any sign to any curb, telephone wire, crossbar or pole, utility wire, crossbar or pole, lamp post, traffic or parking control signs or devices, hydrant, bridge, tree, bus shelter, or any other object located within said public right-of-way.

.040 The provisions of this section shall not apply to signs placed or maintained upon, or in front of, or attached to, or above any building or premises either wholly located upon private property, or upon a building or structure projecting into the public right-of-way and which sign is regulated by the provisions of Title 18, Chapter 18.44 of the Anaheim Municipal Code. The provisions of this section shall likewise not apply to signs affixed to any vehicle provided said vehicle is lawfully located in the public right-of-way.

.050 Any sign violating any of the provisions of this section is hereby declared to be and is a public nuisance.

.060 Any sign violating any of the provisions of this section may be removed by any employee of the City duly authorized so to do by the Director of Maintenance, City Engineer, Public Utilities General Manager, or Director of Community Development and Planning. Any sign so removed shall be transported to the City of Anaheim and placed in the custody of the Maintenance Department of the City and notice of such removal and the right to claim such sign shall be given by the City to the person or entity owning such sign to the extent such ownership can be reasonably ascertained from information contained on the sign. Failure of the City to give

or failure of the owner to receive such notice shall not subject the City or any of its officers or employees to any civil liability or invalidate any other action taken pursuant to this section. The person or entity owning such sign and the person or entity responsible for the affixing of such sign in the public right-of-way shall be jointly and severally civilly liable and indebted to the City of Anaheim for the reasonable cost of removal and storage of such sign incurred by the City which shall be in addition to any other penalty provided by law. In the event any sign so removed is not claimed by its owner and the costs prescribed herein paid to the City within thirty days following its removal, such sign may be disposed of by the City without further notice. For purposes of this section, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the name of any person or entity which appears on such sign in any manner or capacity is either the owner of said sign or the person or entity responsible for the affixing of such sign in the public right-of-way.

.070 Penalty. Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an infraction which shall be punishable by a fine in an amount as prescribed by State law but in no event less than the amount of any reward prescribed payable pursuant to subsection .080 hereof.

.080 Every person who provides information resulting in the conviction of any person who violates any of the provisions of this section shall receive as a reward from the City of Anaheim the sum of Fifty Dollars. Conviction of multiple violations as a result of a single criminal complaint shall be deemed a single conviction for purposes of this subsection. The Finance Director is hereby authorized and directed to pay from any appropriation created for the purpose the sum of Fifty Dollars to each person who gives such information, provided that a claim therefor is filed with the Finance Director within sixty days after conviction and that such claim is approved by the City Attorney. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, only one such Fifty Dollar reward shall be payable by the City for each conviction. In the event more than one person claims such reward for any conviction, the Fifty Dollar reward shall be divided equally among the total number of persons providing information resulting in such conviction as determined by the City. (Ord. 508 § 12; June 9, 1927; Ord. 4097 § 1; January 29, 1980; Ord. 4731 § 1; July 8, 1986; Ord. 4734 § 1; July 8, 1986; Ord. 5075 § 1; November 14, 1989.)

#### **4.04.380 AFFIXING SIGNS AND NOTICES TO PROPERTY — PERMISSION OF OWNER REQUIRED.**

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation, except as a public employee or officer in the performance of a public duty, or a private person in giving legal notice, to paste, post, print, paint, nail, tack or otherwise fasten any card, banner, handbill, sign, poster, advertisement, advertising structure, sign device or notice of any kind upon the property of another without the consent of the owner or person entitled to possession of the property. (Ord. 508 § 27; June 9, 1927; Ord. 4900 § 2; February 23, 1988.)

**18.44.210 TEMPORARY SIGNS – OTHER.**

.030 Political Signs. In addition to any other provision of this title, political signs shall be permitted on private property in any zone, provided:

.0301 Such signs comply with the minimum sight-distance requirements set forth in subsection 18.44.080.080.

.0302 Such signs comply with the provisions of Section 4.04.130 (Prohibition of Signs in Public Right-of-Way) of Chapter 4.04 (Outdoor Advertising Signs and Structures—General); and

.0303 Any structure to which such political signs are attached shall comply with all applicable provisions of Title 15 (Buildings and Housing) of the Anaheim Municipal Code, except that no building permit shall be required for a temporary political sign that has a surface area of thirty-two (32) square feet or less and is removed within one hundred and twenty (120) days of its erection or placement, or within thirty (30) days after the election to which the sign relates. (Ord. 5920 § 1 (part); June 8, 2004: Ord. 5944 24 and 25; September 28, 2004.)

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**DIVISION OF TRAFFIC OPERATIONS  
OUTDOOR ADVERTISING PROGRAM

Dear Candidate or Committee Member:

As a candidate or campaign worker for either office or a ballot measure, this reminder about State law governing campaign signs should be helpful to you.

Section 5405.3 of the State Outdoor Advertising Act exempts the placing of Temporary Political Signs from normal outdoor advertising display requirements.

A Temporary Political Sign meets the following criteria:

- A. Encourages a particular vote in a scheduled election.
- B. Is placed no sooner than 90 days prior to the scheduled election and is removed within 10 days after that election.
- C. Is no larger than 32 square feet.
- D. Has had a Statement of Responsibility filed with the Department certifying a person who will be responsible for removing the sign (Attached).

A completed Statement of Responsibility must be submitted to:

Division of Traffic Operations  
Outdoor Advertising Program  
P.O. Box 942874, MS-36  
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

Temporary Political Signs shall not be placed within the right-of-way of any highway, or be visible within 660 feet from the edge of the right-of-way of a classified "Landscaped freeway".

State law directs the Department of Transportation to remove unauthorized Temporary Political Signs and bill the responsible party for their removal. We are calling these provisions to your attention to avoid possible embarrassment or inconvenience to you and your supporters. Please share this information with those assisting in your campaign.

Should you have any questions, comments or need additional information, please call (916) 654-6473.

Enclosure

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DIVISION OF TRAFFIC OPERATIONS  
OUTDOOR ADVERTISING PROGRAM



**STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEMPORARY  
POLITICAL SIGNS**

Election Date: \_\_\_\_\_ June \_\_\_\_\_ November Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Office sought or Proposition Number: \_\_\_\_\_

County where sign(s) will be placed: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of signs to be placed: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Include Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned hereby accepts responsibility for the removal of Temporary Political Signs placed pursuant to Section 5405.3 of the Outdoor Advertising Act for the above candidate or proposition.

It is understood and agreed that any Temporary Political Signs placed sooner than ninety (90) days prior to the election and/or not removed within ten (10) days after the election, may be removed by the Department and the responsible party will be billed for any associated removal costs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE PARTY

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**Mail Statement of Responsibility to:**

Division of Traffic Operations  
Outdoor Advertising Program  
P.O. Box 942874, MS-36  
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001