

Political Sign Information

Washington State Department of Transportation

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 Trevor McCain at 360-705-7282 or email at mccaint@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.

Mason County – Code of Ordinance

Prohibited and Temporary Signs

Signs may not be located in county right-of-way, unless otherwise approved with a road-use permit from the Public Works Department and adjacent property owner's permission.

Temporary signs are defined as those signs associated with a particular event or short-term activity such as, but not limited to; agricultural or garage sales signs, grand opening displays, festival, carnival or parade signs, political signs and real estate signs, which are to be removed within ten days when the event or activity ends. Temporary signs are allowed in all rural areas of the county and the Shelton UGA subject to the following limitations:

- Signs shall not be posted in a manner or location, which may cause visual obstruction or visual safety hazard for traffic especially in and around intersections, driveways and other access points.
- Signs may not be placed in a location typically used by motor vehicles in a lawful manner (road shoulders).
- Signs may not be placed in a location, which may impede pedestrian, bicycle, or handicapped travel or access.
- Signs may not be placed within drainage areas and other areas maintained by the County Public Works Department.
- Signs may not exceed four (4) square feet in size.
- Signs shall not be posted on trees including in county right-of-way.
- Signs shall not be attached to utility poles or any other publicly owned structure;
- Any county official may confiscate signs wrongfully placed in the right-of-way or off-premise signs located in trees.

Mason County Code: 17.05.025 – Temporary Signs & 17.03.202 – Prohibited Signs

If you have any questions about the placements of campaign signs along county roads, please call (360) 427-9670 ext. 456.

City of Shelton Municipal Code

Chapter 20.38.100 Temporary Signs

D. Political Signs. No sign permit is required. Political signs or posters may be placed only upon private property with owner's consent. Signs in the residential zones, which includes neighborhood residential (NR), and professional office/residential mix (PR-A) zones, shall not exceed ten square feet in sign area. Signs placed in the commercial and industrial zones, which includes the downtown (DT), general commercial (GC), commercial residential valley (CR-V), commercial residential Goose Lake (CR-G), low-intensity mixed use (MU), low-intensity commercial (LI-C), medical educational (ME), commercial industrial (CI) and the industrial (I) zones shall not exceed thirty-two square feet in sign area. The signs shall not exceed six feet in height. Signs shall not be posted or attached to trees, telephone poles, power poles or other public utility facilities. It is unlawful to place, erect or maintain any political sign so as to pose a visibility hazard to pedestrian or motor vehicle traffic along streets, sidewalks, or street corners. Political signs shall be removed within seven days after the election in which the candidate or issue advertised on a sign has been determined. For a successful candidate in a primary election, the sign may remain until the final election, but shall be removed within seven days after the election. The candidate or committee for which the sign is displayed shall be responsible for its removal and subject to the penalties as provided in this chapter.