



Campaign Signs

Responses to Common Questions

This Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) sheet provides responses to the more common questions Poway residents and candidates post to staff related to campaign (political) signs. Following each response is the applicable code section should you want to learn more about the sign requirements.

IS THERE A TIME LIMIT TO WHEN I CAN POST CAMPAIGN SIGNS; I.E. BEFORE OR AFTER AN ELECTION?

No. With recently adopted Ordinance No. 16-791, an unlimited number of temporary signs displaying political or other noncommercial messages are permitted on private property at all times as long as the posting is done with the property owner's permission. (PMC §17.40.090.D.4)

IS THERE A SIZE LIMIT TO THE CAMPAIGN SIGNS I CAN POST ON PRIVATE PROPERTY?

Yes. Although there is no limit on the quantity of temporary campaign signs allowed on private property, there is a limit on the size of each individual sign. Signs shall not exceed six square feet (each side) with a maximum height of four feet. (PMC §17.40.090.D)

CAN I REPLACE THE MESSAGE ON AN EXISTING SIGN WITH A CAMPAIGN MESSAGE?

Yes, with limitations. The area of any existing legally displayed sign may be converted. However, the converted sign must comply with any code limitations, design standards, and/or permit processing requirements. (PMC §17.40.020 - §17.40.040)

CAN I PLACE SIGNS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY?

No. Signs are not allowed in the right-of-way, which is generally along roadsides and sidewalks (PMC §17.40.090.D). If you have any questions where the right-of-way is, please call 858-668-4656.

HOW DOES THE CITY ENFORCE THESE REGULATIONS?

The Code Compliance Division within the Development Services Department is the City's lead on the enforcement of signs. Signs placed in the right of way will be removed immediately. In instances of signs placed on private property which do not follow city regulations, the property owners will be notified and abatement will be conducted.

Complaints should be directed to the Code Compliance Division, who will investigate and open a code compliance case. Please visit the website via the link below to learn how to file a complaint. When necessary, standard code enforcement procedures are followed to gain compliance. <http://poway.org/168/Code-Compliance>

WHAT DOES THE CITY DO WITH REMOVED CAMPAIGN SIGNS?

In the event a sign is removed, code compliance staff will contact the owner of said sign and coordinate pick-up.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Cindy Wishert, Code Compliance Officer, at (858) 668-4663 or Daniel Welte, Code Compliance Officer, at (858) 668-4664. You may also contact Code Compliance staff via email at codecompliance@poway.org.