



Camas Political Sign Posting Ordinance

CMC 18.15

*Information for citizens, candidates, and election staff/volunteers
regarding the displaying of political signs within the City.*



Code Compliance
Camas Police Department
2100 NE 3rd Avenue
Camas, WA 98607
www.ci.camass.wa.us

Why are there Political Sign Ordinances?

Every political season generates considerable citizen comment regarding the number, construction and placement of political signs during election campaigns. The regulations of the City of Camas impose the minimum legal standards to guarantee that candidates have the ability to effectively campaign, while at the same time ensuring the safety of motorists upon our streets. The City of Camas also believes, based on citizen comments, that there is community support for minimizing the clutter of political signs in the public right-of-way. There are obvious commonsense guidelines which would hopefully be passed on to political campaign staffers, as relates to the placement of signs. However,

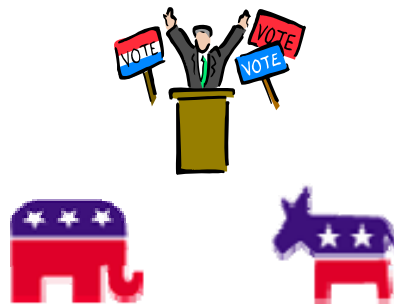
we all know that political campaigns can become quite contentious and political candidates may or may not have the time or ability to inform and direct all of their staff.

The purpose of this pamphlet is to educate political candidates and their staffers, and concerned citizens to minimize the amount and degree of citizen complaints and to avoid the obstruction of traffic and pedestrians by our motorists.



Political Signs:

What better way for a potential city/state official to get his/her name out to the voting public, or for a ballot measure to grab the attention of the undecided than temporarily affixed “political signs”?



Residential areas: Political signs are limited to one sign per candidate per street frontage. Sign surface area shall not exceed six square feet (a standard 3’ x 2’ sign) for residential zoning districts. Signs in public rights-of way which abut private property and are maintained by the property owner are allowed only with the permission of the abutting owner. Subject to the provisions of the CMC, signs are allowed in rights-of-way solely maintained by a public entity. Such signs shall be removed fourteen days following such election or referendum.

Commercial areas: In zones designated as commercial/industrial areas, the posting of political signs is regulated in the same fashion as if they were posted in residential areas with one exception. Political signs in commercial/industrial zones are not to exceed thirty-two square feet (similar to a 4’ x 8’ sign) in size.

Determining sign size: Per CMC, sign size is based on the following factors:

1. The sign area shall not include the base or pedestal to which the sign is mounted.

2. The sign surface area of a double-faced sign shall be calculated by using the area of only one side of such sign.
3. The sign surface area of a double-faced sign constructed in a “V” shall be calculated by using the area of only one side of such sign.
4. The sign surface area of three dimensional signs shall be computed by including the total of all sides designed to attract attention or communicate information that can be seen at any one time by a person from one vantage point.

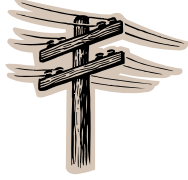
Please note: Signs located in such a manner as to substantially interfere with the view necessary for motorists to proceed safely through intersections or to enter onto or exit from public streets or private roads and driveways will be in violation of CMC 18.15.150 and subject to enforcement by the City of Camas.

Suggested areas to avoid when placing political signs:

1. Property owned by the City of Camas. In particular, the lot on which the City of Camas welcome sign stands in the open space between State Highway 14 and SW 6th Avenue, the Camas cemetery, and city parks.
2. Property owned by the Camas School District #117.
3. Any private property on which the owner has not given consent to post such a sign.
4. Be sure to avoid using signs and sign support structures that are not constructed to resist being overturned by wind.



Also remember: Posting a sign to a City utility pole is a violation of CMC 18.15.150, that states no sign shall be attached to any telephone, telegraph or electric light pole.



All political candidates and staff should become familiar with the City of Camas regulations concerning the placement of signs. These provisions are located within Chapter 18.15 of the Camas Municipal Code. In particular, political signs are regulated pursuant to the provisions of CMC Section 18.15.170 (A).

Please place signs responsibly by following the guidelines specified in CMC 18.15 and keep the City of Camas looking beautiful. For further information go to: <http://bpc.iserver.net/codes/camas/maintoc.htm>

Code Compliance
Camas Police Department
2100 NE 3rd Avenue
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday – Friday
(360) 834-4151

Produced by Code Compliance
City of Camas, WA
May 31, 2007

