



Guidelines for Posting Election Signs

Election Signs

During election season, we frequently receive questions about the City's rules regarding election signs. However, because the City recognizes and values the right to freedom of speech, the City only regulates signs based on their physical characteristics, such as size, construction materials, location, etc.—not based on the message or content of the sign. Therefore, the rules for “election signs” are the same as the rules for any other sign, and will depend on the physical characteristics of the sign.

This guide provides an overview of the rules applicable to the type of election sign we receive the most questions about—what the Sherwood Zoning and Community Development Code (SZCDC) refers to as “portable signs,” and specifically portable signs attached to a wood or wire h-frame stake driven into the ground. If you have questions about other types of signs, or questions about portable signs that are not covered by this guide, please call the Sherwood Planning Department at 503-925-2308. Additionally, separate rules apply for businesses in Old Town—contact the Planning Department for more information.

Portable Signs

“Portable signs” are defined as “small movable signs no greater than twenty-four (24) inches in height and a sign face no larger than eighteen (18) inches by twenty-four (24) inches in size used for a temporary period of time. Portable signs include stand-alone signs, not attached to a building or any other permanent structure.”

Portable Sign Regulations Generally

1. Portable signs on private property do not require a permit and shall not be placed on private property without the express permission of the property owner.
2. Signs shall not be illuminated and may not include pennant strings, balloons, streamers, spinners, propellers, searchlights, or other items that involve motion to attract attention.
3. Signs shall not obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
4. It is the responsibility of the person posting a portable sign to remove it.
5. No portable sign shall be placed in any publicly owned right-of-way except on Friday after 6 am through Sunday at 6 pm.
6. Signs shall not create a traffic safety or maintenance problem, and the City may remove and dispose of any signs that constitute a problem.
7. Signs shall be freestanding and shall not be attached to any structure or vegetation such as utility poles, traffic signs, street signs, trees, or similar items.
8. Portable signs attached to a wood or wire h-frame stake shall be driven into the ground well clear of tree roots, irrigation lines, and any other underground utility that could be damaged by such stakes.

Limitations on Numbers of Portable Signs

1. No more than four portable signs are allowed on any residentially zoned lot, except that properties over an acre in size that are developed with an approved nonresidential use may place one portable sign every fifty feet for the length of the site's frontage along a public street.
2. No more than one portable sign per business is allowed in all other zones (Commercial/Industrial), except the Institutional and Public (I-P) zone.
3. Properties zoned Institutional and Public (I-P) may place one portable sign every fifty feet for the length of the site's frontage along a public street.

Portable Signs are Prohibited in the Following Locations

1. Within any ODOT right-of-way, including but not limited to Highway 99.
2. Within any Washington County right-of-way, including but not limited to Roy Rogers Road, Edy Road, and Tualatin-Sherwood Road (with limited exception).
3. Within any clear vision area as defined in SZCDC Section 16.58.010.

Questions, please call Sherwood Planning Department 503-925-2308