

# CAMPAIGN SIGNS

## RESPONSES TO COMMON QUESTIONS

The table below provides responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) posed to staff by residents and candidates regarding campaign (political) signs. Please refer to Poway Municipal Code Chapter 17.40.090 for exact language and requirements.

<b>Where may I place an election or political sign?</b>	Election or political message signs may be placed on any developed property, commercial or residential, with permission of the property owner, as long as they comply with all other restrictions indicated herein and in the Poway Municipal Code. No signs are permitted on City/public property, including public buildings or improvements, and City maintained right of ways or easements. (PMC §17.40.090.D)
<b>Is there only a limited time frame in which I can post campaign signs; i.e. before or after an election?</b>	No, 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)
<b>Is there a size limit to the campaign signs I can post on private property?</b>	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)
<b>Can I replace the message on an existing sign with a campaign message?</b>	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 obtain prior approval under a sign permit review. (PMC §17.40.020 - §17.40.040)
<b>Can I place signs in the Public Right of Way?</b>	Generally, signs are not allowed to be placed in the public right of way. However, signs may be placed within privately maintained landscape areas on residential properties even when situated inside the boundary of the City right of way. No signs may be placed in right of way areas maintained by the City, including City easements, Landscape Maintenance Districts, and median strips. No signs will be allowed within City right of way frontage on vacant lots. No signs may be placed inside commercial landscaping areas within the City right of way boundaries. (PMC §17.40.090.D)
<b>How does the City enforce these regulations?</b>	The Code Compliance Division within the Development Services Department is the City's lead on the enforcement of signs. Non-compliant 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.
<b>What does the City do with removed campaign signs?</b>	In the event signs are removed, Code Compliance staff will hold the signs for 5 calendar days, after which the signs can be returned. The second time signs from the same candidate are removed, the signs will be held for 30 calendar days before being returned. The third time signs from the same candidate are removed, the signs will be held for 90 days before being returned and the owner of the signs will be required to reimburse the City for any actual costs incurred through confiscation and holding of such signs. All signs removed by the City and not recovered by the owner(s) will be destroyed 15 calendar days following the day they are eligible for recovery. Please contact Code Compliance hotline at (858) 668-4660 or <a href="mailto:CodeCompliance@poway.org">CodeCompliance@poway.org</a> to arrange sign retrieval prior to arriving at City Hall. Please plan to retrieve signs prior to 9:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m. each business day.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For clarification regarding campaign sign rules or to report a violation, please contact the Code Compliance Officer hotline, at (858) 668-4660 or [codecompliance@poway.org](mailto:codecompliance@poway.org).