

## Political / Campaign Signs

(updated 3/24/2023)

Sign regulations vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction; if you have questions, contact the individual governmental entity where you wish to place your sign. Lane County Elections is providing the information below as a courtesy and is not responsible for any errors or omissions.

### State Property

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)  
District Office (541) 744-8080

Only official traffic control signs and devices are allowed on state highway right-of-way. Other signs, including those for political campaigns, are prohibited.

There also are restrictions for signs on private property that are visible from state highways.

All unofficial signs, including political signs placed on state highway right-of-way will be removed without notice. They are held at local ODOT district maintenance offices for 30 days. Signs are prohibited on trees, utility poles, fence posts and natural features within highway right-of-way. They also are prohibited within view of a designated scenic area.

The width of state highway right-of-way can vary considerably depending on the specific location. If you're uncertain whether you're placing a sign on private property or highway right-of-way, check with your local ODOT district maintenance office.

Temporary signs, including political signs, are allowed on private property within view of state highways with the following restrictions:

- \*All temporary signs are limited to 12 square feet.
- \*No lighting or moving parts are allowed on a temporary sign, including flashing or intermittent lights, or animated or moving lights or parts.
- \*Signs must not imitate an official highway sign or device, and must not attempt, or appear to attempt to direct the movement of traffic.
- \*New signs are not allowed in scenic corridors.

For more information regarding signs along highway right-of-way, contact your local ODOT District Maintenance office. Also see:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/ROW/Pages/Outdoor-Advertising-Sign.aspx>

### County Property

Lane County Public Works  
3040 N Delta Highway, Eugene  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Jennifer Paugh  
(541) 682-6905

Signs must not be placed within Lane County road rights-of-way. In unincorporated parts of the metro area that means the planting area between the sidewalk and curb. In rural areas, it would typically be from the pavement to the fence (anywhere maintenance vehicles or mowers would drive.) Signs placed near a rural road

should be placed on private property behind any utility facilities (poles, closures, etc.) or sidewalks.

Lane County Public Works has the authority to remove any sign that has been placed illegally. Signs are generally removed throughout the year whenever they cause a safety or maintenance issue. Complaints regarding election signs will be resolved through the normal compliance process which can take several business days to resolve. Priority is given to signs that pose an immediate safety hazard or maintenance concern for County staff. All other signs will be investigated and removed as time allows. You can be reunited with your sign(s) at 3040 N. Delta Highway within 30 days of removal, but after 30 days, the sign(s) will be destroyed.

By placing the signs properly, you can avoid unnecessary expense and hassle for yourself, save taxpayer money by saving Public Works personnel from having to handle the signs, and protect your neighbors and visitors from accidents.

Lane Code Chapter 15.215

[Prohibited Activities In the Road Right-of-way - Lane County](#)

**City Property** – Contact the appropriate city for information, as ordinances vary from city to city.

### **City of Eugene**

City Recorder's Office (541) 682-5042

Eugene Code, Section 9.6600 states that signs during an election period are subject to certain restrictions: Signs 12 sq ft or less in area, located on private property during the period from 60 days before to 5 days after any public election to be held in Lane County, Oregon.

Signs on private property only with the permission of the owner (permission required for use of private, vacant lots).

No signs allowed in the public right-of-way including:

- lamp posts, utility poles, or bridge approaches
- median strip between lanes of traffic
- grassy strip between the sidewalk and street
- any publicly owned property

No sign may hide from view any traffic control device.

### **City of Springfield**

Code Enforcement Officer (541) 726-3659

City Recorder (541) 726-3700

#### **8.210 Location and Setbacks**

No sign or sign structure shall be installed within a public utility easement. No sign or sign structure shall be installed within a five-foot setback from the property line. The property line must set back a minimum of 15 feet from the curb in order to be considered for an exemption from the five-foot setback from any property line. No sign shall be located within the vision clearance area as defined in the Springfield Development Code. All signs shall be located entirely on private property unless they are located in the downtown sign district where projection over the right-of-way is permitted with the

appropriate insurance requirements. [Section 8.210 amended by Ordinance No. 6008, enacted March 18, 2002; further amended by Ordinance No. 6276, enacted March 19, 2012; further amended by Ordinance No. 6389, enacted October 15, 2018.]

### **8.234 Exempt Signs**

(5) Exempt Temporary or Small Signs Signs exempted under the following provisions shall not be tacked, nailed, posted, pasted, glued or otherwise attached to trees, utility or light poles, fences or other objects not erected, owned and maintained by the owner of the sign.

(a) One sign with a sign face no larger than three square feet may be located on a property at any time.

(b) One temporary sign not larger than 32 square feet per face may be located on a property for a period of 90 days prior to and five days after an election involving candidates for a federal, state or local office that represents the district in which the property is located or involves an issue on the ballot of an election within the district where the property is located.