CITY OF ENCINITAS
Development Services Department
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CAMPAIGN SIGNS FAQ

This Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) sheet provides responses to the more common questions Encinitas residents and candidates pose 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. The adopted Ordinance No. 2016-03 allows an **unlimited** number of temporary signs displaying political or other noncommercial messages permitted on private property **at all times** as long as the posting is done with the property owner's permission. (*EMC §2.16.040)*

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.

Residential uses in residential zones: the display area of each sign cannot exceed 3 square feet (each side) with a maximum height of five feet.

Nonresidential uses in residential zones: the display area of each sign cannot exceed 32 square feet (each side) with a maximum height of eight feet.

Nonresidential zones: the display area of each sign cannot exceed 32 square feet (each side) with a maximum height of eight feet. (*EMC §2.16.040)*

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 in whole or in part to a non-commercial message, including, but not limited to a campaign message. However the material and design of the new message must comply with any code limitations, design standards and/or permit processing requirements *(EMC §30.60.050.M).*

Before changing any sign message, contact the Development Services Department at planning@encinitasca.gov to learn if an existing sign may be subject to these requirements

CAN I PLACE SIGNS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY?

No. All signs must be located on private property. Signs are not permitted in the public right-of-way, which includes, but is not limited to, all medians and freeway entrances and off ramps, rail right-of-way and along street easements, which generally includes the first five feet from the inside edge of a sidewalk. (*EMC §30.60.050.C)*

HOW DOES THE CITY ENFORCE THESE REGULATIONS?

The Code Enforcement Division within the Development Services Department is the City's lead on the enforcement of signs. Sign sweeps are conducted once a week for the 30 days prior to the election. The day of the sign sweep varies each week and is not disclosed.

Complaints should be directed to the Code Enforcement Division, who will investigate and open a code compliance case. Please visit the website to learn how to file a complaint. When necessary, standard code enforcement procedures are followed to gain compliance (warning, followed by citations for continued noncompliance).

WHAT DOES THE CITY DO WITH REMOVED CAMPAIGN SIGNS?

Removed signs will be held by the City for 30 days, during which time the City will make reasonable attempts to notify the candidate or committee of the right to reclaim. Thirty days after the close of the polls for the election, the City will discard or destroy any unclaimed signs.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Code Enforcement Division at 760-633-2685 or via email at code@encinitasca.gov.

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