

CITY OF CAMARILLO

SIGN REGULATIONS DURING ELECTION PERIODS AND OTHER TIMES

This handout summarizes the City of Camarillo’s Sign Code¹ provisions regarding “noncommercial signs”² that may be posted with campaign or political messages. Some noncommercial signs are permitted at any time, and other sign opportunities are only provided during an “election period,” which is defined as “the period commencing 90 days before any national, state, or local election in which city electors may vote up through the date of the election.”³

Temporary Noncommercial Sign Opportunities on a Parcel During an Election Period

<u>Residential Zones</u>	<u>Commercial Zones</u>	<u>Industrial & Agriculture Zones</u>
8 temporary freestanding noncommercial signs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 sq. ft. area/face • 4 feet max. height • Non-illuminated • Must be removed promptly after the election 	8 temporary freestanding noncommercial signs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 sq. ft. area/face • No more than 4 feet high at the bottom of the sign • 10 feet maximum height • Non-illuminated • Must be removed promptly after the election 	8 temporary freestanding noncommercial signs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 sq. ft. area/face • No more than 4 feet high at bottom of the sign • 10 feet maximum height • Non-illuminated • Must be removed promptly after the election

The Sign Code also provides the following noncommercial sign opportunities at all times.

Temporary Noncommercial Sign Opportunities on a Parcel at All Times

<u>Residential Zones</u>	<u>Commercial Zones</u>	<u>Industrial & Agriculture Zones</u>
2 temporary freestanding noncommercial signs (which may be for campaign messages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 sq. ft. area • 4 feet height • Non-illuminated 	N/A	N/A
1 temporary window sign (which may be a noncommercial/campaign sign) is permitted on each building frontage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 sq. ft. in area or 25% of the window area of any single window, whichever is greater 	No more than 25% of the window area may be utilized for window signs, which may include noncommercial/campaign signs	1 temporary window sign (which may be a noncommercial/campaign sign) is permitted on each building frontage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 sq. ft. in area or 25% of the window area of any single window, whichever is greater

In addition to the above opportunities, and subject to the consent of the property owner, a noncommercial message of any type may be substituted for all or part of the commercial or noncommercial message on any sign allowed under the City’s Sign Code. No special or additional approval is required to substitute a noncommercial message for any other message on a

¹ Camarillo Municipal Code (CMC) Chapter 17.04.

² CMC §17.04.020 (Definitions) defines a “noncommercial sign” as “a sign that does not name, advertise or call attention of a commercial or industrial business, commodity, product, good, service or other commercial or industrial activity for a commercial or industrial purpose.” This definition include signs with political or campaign messages.

³ CMC §17.04.020.

permitted sign, provided the sign structure is already approved or exempt from the City's sign permit requirement and no structural or electrical change is made. (CMC §17.04.040.D.)

General Time, Place and Manner Sign Code Regulations Affecting Noncommercial Signs

Please note that:

- No sign may be placed or erected on private property without the full knowledge and consent of the lawful occupant or, if there is no lawful occupant, without the full knowledge and consent of the property owner. (CMC §17.04.040.B.)
- No sign may be placed in a manner that impedes, obstructs, denies or impairs the sight distance for safe pedestrian or vehicular traffic. If a residential property abuts a non-residential road, please make sure the sign is located on the private property and, if possible, set back at least 10 feet from the public road. (CMC §17.04.070.A.3; §17.04.130.M.)
- Signs may not be placed on any public property or in the public right-of-way, which includes, but is not limited to, any street, sidewalk, walkway, parkway, floodway, wall, or other city-owned structure. Signs also may not be posted in such a manner as to hang over or into a sidewalk or walkway area. (CMC §17.04.070.A.1.)
- Signs may not be attached to any other sign including any traffic sign or be posted in any way that would create a hazard for pedestrian or vehicular traffic. (CMC §17.04.130.M.)

Any sign not in compliance with the regulations above or other applicable provisions of the Camarillo Municipal Code may be removed by the City. Nothing prohibits the removal of any sign that is determined by the Public Works Director or Director of Community Development, or their designees, to be an immediate danger to persons or property. Additionally, any sign may be removed with the property owner's authorization. (CMC §17.04.140.) If a sign is removed by the City, it will be stored in the Community Development Department at City Hall. It is the candidate's responsibility to reclaim the sign.

If you have any questions, you can contact Elena in the Code Enforcement Division at (805) 383-5660.



NOTICE TO ALL POLITICAL CANDIDATES POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS AND ADVERTISING IN COUNTY ROAD RIGHT OF WAY

Watershed Protection District
Norma J. Camacho, Director

Transportation Department
David L. Fleisch, Director

Engineering Services Department
Phillip L. Nelson, Director

Water & Sanitation Department
R. Reddy Pakala, Director

Central Services Department
Janice E. Turner, Director

As we enter into the election season, it is appropriate to remind all candidates that it is a violation of the County Encroachment Ordinance (Division 12 of the Ventura County Ordinance Code) to place political campaign or other such advertisements or endorsements in the County road right-of-way. This includes the center medians, sidewalk or paths, and the portion of the County road right-of-way immediately adjacent to the pavement. (Note: The County Encroachment Ordinance applies only to the unincorporated area of the County; however, most cities have similar ordinances).

Similarly, it is a violation to place such campaign signs or other such advertisements on official traffic signs, public utility poles, or other improvements located in the County road right-of-way.

When placing any advertisements, banners, or signs on private property, please make sure that you obtain the property owner's permission. Also, please make sure these signs or banners do not interfere with motorist sight distance or pedestrian use of the right-of-way, including sidewalks and the like.

Public Works Agency does not have the resources to enforce all violations of the Encroachment Ordinance. However, if we observe them or receive notifications, we will try to notify you first and give you the opportunity to move the item. If the encroachment obstructs or interferes with the public's safe use of the right-of-way, we may have to immediately remove any such encroachment without notifying you.

We felt you would want to be aware of this Ordinance to make sure you and your supporters comply with the County's rules and regulations regarding political campaign signs and advertising. It would also be appreciated if as soon as possible after the election is over - win or lose - that all of your signs and/or banners were removed. We all take pride in the appearance of our County.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

David Fleisch
Director
Transportation Department



(805) 654-2077, david.fleisch@ventura.org

In County road right-of-way

COUNTY

The Ventura County Ordinance only regulates signs placed in the unincorporated areas of the county. You are encouraged to read it and if you have any questions relating to political signs, the staff of the Ventura County Planning Department will be happy to assist you. They can be reached at (805) 654-2488 or (805) 654-2451.

COUNTY SIGNS - STANDARDS AND PERMITS

County of Ventura Planning Code, Chapter 8, states:

§8110-6.8 - Political Signs

The purpose of this section is to prevent damage to Public property, protect the integrity of the electoral process and prevent the erosion of aesthetic quality and historic values within the County. It is specifically recognized that if temporary political signs on private property are not removed after the election is held, the deteriorating signs and accumulating debris become a blight, defacing the landscape. It is therefore an intent of this Article to make provision for the erection and removal of such signs after the election which they publicized has been held.

§8110-6.8.1 - Political Signs on Private Property

No temporary political sign face shall exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area. The aggregate area of all temporary signs placed or maintained on any lot in one ownership shall not exceed ninety-six (96) square feet.

§8110-6.8.2 - Political Sign Registration

In order to keep track of the placement of temporary political signs to assure removal subsequent to an election, such signs shall be registered with the Planning Department by the candidate or his or her registered agent, or, when a ballot proposition is involved, by an authorized agent of the group or organization sponsoring the signs, prior to the distribution of such signs for the attachment or installation on any property. Registration of political signs shall be on forms available in the Planning Department and shall be accompanied by an agreement signed by the candidate or his or her authorized agent, or when a ballot proposition is involved, by an authorized agent of the group or organization sponsoring the signs, that within ten calendar days after the election all political signs shall be removed, and a certified statement by the registrant that consent will be obtained from each owner of the property on which a sign is to be posted.

§8110-6.8.3 - Location

Political signs may not be affixed, installed, or erected within 100 feet of a polling place or historic site, nor within the right of way of any highway, nor within 660 feet of the edge of a "Scenic Highway" or landscaped freeway, nor in any location where the sign will impair sight distance or create a hazard to traffic or pedestrians, nor on any telephone pole, lamppost, tree, wall, fence, bridge, bench, hydrant, curbstone, sidewalk or other structure in or upon any public right-of-way, nor upon any other public property.

§8110-6.8.4 - Time Frames

Temporary political signs shall not be posted sooner than 90 days prior to a scheduled election administered by the County Elections Department. Said signs shall be removed within 10 days after the election.

§8110-6.8.5 - Enforcement

Except for signs remaining posted after the post-election deadline, any political sign not posted in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall be deemed to be a public nuisance and shall be subject to removal by the candidate, property owner, or, when a ballot proposition is involved, the authorized agent of the group or organization sponsoring the sign or, upon their failure to do so after reasonable attempt at notice by the County, by County officers or zoning inspectors. Any political sign which is not removed within the specified period following an election shall be subject to summary removal and confiscation by the County.

POLITICAL SIGNS

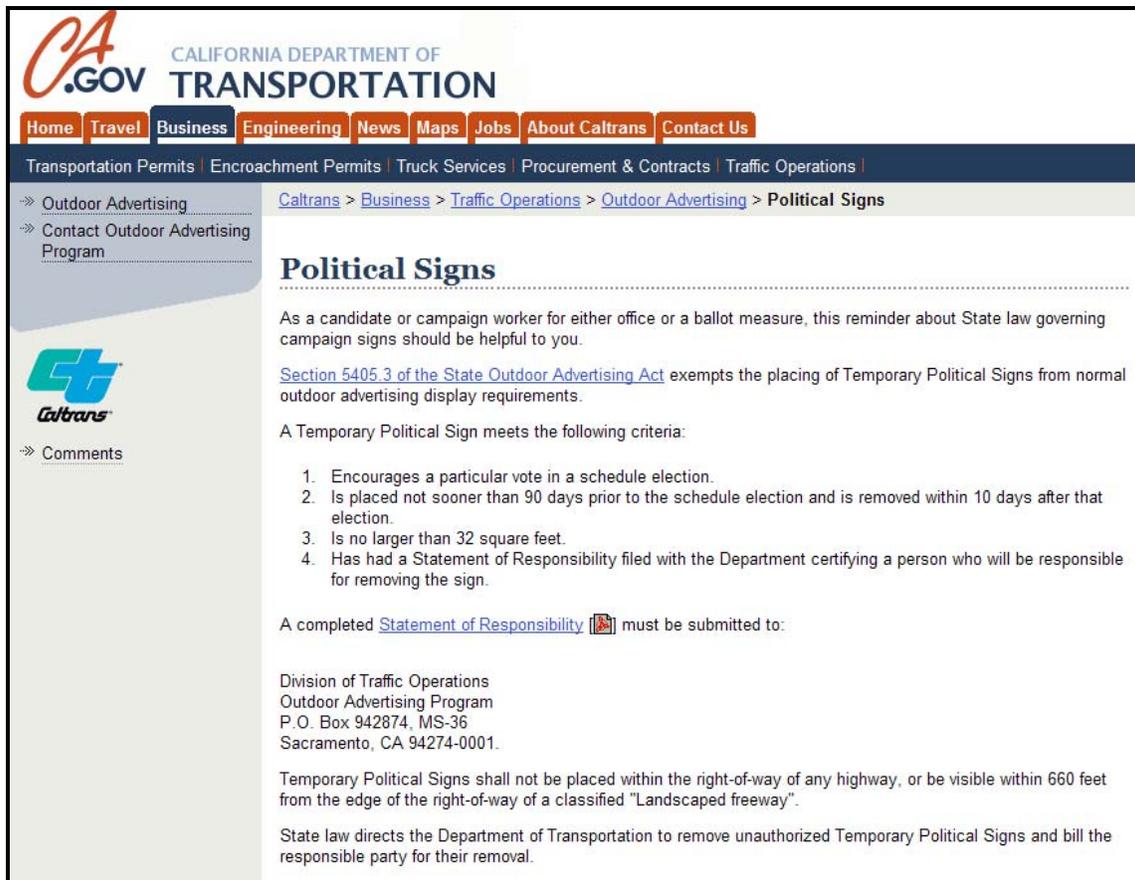
STATE HIGHWAYS

Please visit <http://www.dot.ca.gov/> (business > traffic operations > outdoor advertising > political signs) for information about the placement of political signs within the right-of-way of any highway or visible within 600 feet from the edge of the right-of-way of a classified "landscaped freeway."

Within the City of Camarillo this would apply to:

1. U.S. Highway 101
2. Lewis Road from Upland Road to Pleasant Valley Road
3. Pleasant Valley Road from Lewis Road to Fifth Street

This would also apply to state highways located in unincorporated areas surrounding the City (for example, Lewis Road/Somis Road from Upland Road to Highway 118).



The screenshot shows the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) website. The header includes the Caltrans logo and navigation links: Home, Travel, Business, Engineering, News, Maps, Jobs, About Caltrans, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "Political Signs" and provides information about campaign signs. It states that as a candidate or campaign worker, a reminder about State law governing campaign signs should be helpful. It references Section 5405.3 of the State Outdoor Advertising Act, which exempts the placing of Temporary Political Signs from normal outdoor advertising display requirements. A list of criteria for a Temporary Political Sign is provided: 1. Encourages a particular vote in a schedule election. 2. Is placed not sooner than 90 days prior to the schedule election and is removed within 10 days after that election. 3. Is no larger than 32 square feet. 4. Has had a Statement of Responsibility filed with the Department certifying a person who will be responsible for removing the sign. A completed Statement of Responsibility form must be submitted to the Division of Traffic Operations, Outdoor Advertising Program, P.O. Box 942874, MS-36, Sacramento, CA 94274-0001. The page also notes that Temporary Political Signs shall not be placed within the right-of-way of any highway, or be visible within 660 feet from the edge of the right-of-way of a classified "Landscaped freeway". State law directs the Department of Transportation to remove unauthorized Temporary Political Signs and bill the responsible party for their removal.

http://www.dot.ca.gov/oda/political_signs.htm

The County of Ventura is located in District 7, 100 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, 90012 (213) 897-3656.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF TRAFFIC OPERATIONS
OUTDOOR ADVERTISING BRANCH

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEMPORARY POLITICAL SIGNS

Election Date: _____ June _____ November Other: _____

Candidate's Name: _____

Office sought or Proposition Number: _____

County where sign(s) will be placed: _____

Number of signs to be placed: _____

RESPONSIBLE PARTY:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (Include Area Code) _____

The undersigned hereby accepts responsibility for the removal of Temporary Political Signs placed pursuant to §5405.3 of the Outdoor Advertising Act for the above candidate or proposition.

It is understood and agreed that any Temporary Political Signs placed not sooner than ninety (90) days prior to the election and/or not removed within ten (10) days after the election, may be removed by the Department and the responsible party will be billed for any associated removal costs.

SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE PARTY

DATE

Mail Statement of Responsibility to:

Division of Traffic Operations
Outdoor Advertising Program
P.O. Box 942874, MS-36
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001