



Temporary Political Signs

Political Sign Rules & Regulations

During campaign season, the landscape blooms with a special kind of flower - the political sign. Unlike wildflowers that are welcome most anywhere, putting campaign signs at some locations is illegal. So before you plant that sign, learn the law and keep Longview safe and beautiful.

What You Need to Know

As you conduct your campaign for public office, please keep in mind that it is illegal to place signs on public property (parks, medians, city owned property, etc.) or within the right-of-way of state highways (Ocean Beach Hwy., 1st and 3rd Avenue, Industrial Way, Tennant Way, etc.) See detailed list of state highways below. *RCW 47.42.080(5)*

“Temporary political signs” include those signs pertaining to nonpartisan elections, bond measures, initiatives, and similar matters as well as customary partisan politics. *(The term “signs,” shall not be deemed to include permanent outdoor advertising structures or billboards, which are regulated by other sections of the Longview Municipal Code, regardless of whether political advertising is carried on such outdoor advertising structures or billboards.)*

Rules & Regulations: *(LMC 16.13.030 Section 1403)*

- Political candidates must register their intent to place temporary political signs with the city clerk and provide a deposit of \$50 as a guaranty that the signs will be removed within ten (10) days after the election.
- It is illegal to place or post any temporary political sign on trees, telephone poles, traffic signs, and other objects on the right-of-way.
- Temporary political sign faces may not be larger than four feet in height and eight feet in width.
- Temporary political signs that are six feet or more above grade are subject to the design and construction requirements contained in Chapter 4 of the Uniform Sign Code.
- Except for state highway right-of-ways, temporary political signs can be placed upon the planting strip/public right-of-way subject to the following regulations:
 1. **Have the adjoining property owner’s permission to do so.** It is unlawful to erect any sign on public property, except within the public right-of-way adjoining a street whereby the person approving the installation of the sign owns the underlying fee of the public right-of-way.
 2. The temporary political sign not impair the site of vehicles, bike riders or pedestrians at intersections (See LMC 16.13.030 below for sight triangle requirements.)
 3. The temporary political signs within a sight triangle shall be no taller than 42 inches.
 4. The temporary political sign shall not hang over the street, alley or sidewalk.
 5. The temporary political sign be no closer than four feet to the improved portion of the street.

* *The following State Highways exist within the City of Longview:*

- **Highway 4** (Ocean Beach Highway)
- **Highway 432** (Tennant Way, I-5 to 3rd Avenue)
- **Highway 432** (Industrial Way, Mt. Solo Rd., Willow Grove Connection Rd.)
- **Highway 433** (Oregon Way, Lewis and Clark Bridge to Industrial Way)
- **Highway 411** (3rd Avenue, 1st Avenue, Westside Highway)

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Sign Removal

If you've placed your temporary political sign in violation to the above listed rules and regulations, or if it is posing a traffic hazard, it may be removed by the City without prior notice. All costs associated with sign removal including possible fines will be paid by the sign owner. Temporary political signs shall be removed by the candidates or their designee within ten (10) days after the election.

Contact Us

For more information about the rules governing campaign signs, please call 442-5000 or call the Code Compliance Department at 442-5093.

Full Text of the Longview Municipal Code Regarding Temporary Political Signs

LMC 16.13.030 Section 1403. Temporary Political Signs – Requirements.

- (1) As used in this section, “temporary political signs” include those pertaining to nonpartisan elections, bond measures, initiatives, and similar matters as well as to the customary partisan politics. The term “signs”, as used in this section, shall not be deemed to include permanent outdoor advertising structures or billboards, which are regulated by other sections of the Longview Municipal Code, regardless of whether political advertising is carried on such outdoor advertising structures or billboards.
- (2) Temporary political signs are subject to the following requirements:
- (a) The face of any such sign shall not exceed four feet in height or width and eight feet in length;
 - (b) It is unlawful to erect any such sign on public property, except within the public right-of-way adjoining a street whereby the person approving the installation of the sign owns the underlying fee of such public right-of-way; however, any such sign within the public right-of-way shall comply with the following:
 - i.) Have no part of the sign interfering with or hanging over the portion of the right-of-way within four feet of the paved portion of a roadway;
 - ii.) Have no part of the sign interfering with or hanging over a sidewalk; and
 - iii.) Shall not block or interfere with the sight distance of any intersection or driveway as set forth in paragraph (4) below;
 - (c) The person desiring to erect any temporary political signs shall, before doing so, deposit the sum of fifty (50) dollars with the City Clerk to cover all such signs erected, as a guaranty that the same will be removed within ten (10) days after the election for which such signs are displayed and thus will not contribute to visual pollution in the city; provided all such signs are removed within such time, which determination shall be made by the Police Department of the city, said fifty (50) dollars will be refunded, without interest, to the person presenting to the City Clerk the deposit receipt issued by the City Clerk at the time of the deposit. If such signs are not so removed within said ten (10) days, the fifty (50) dollar deposit shall be deemed forfeited to the city to help defray the cost to the city of removing such signs. At the time of making such deposit, the person making the same shall designate to the City Clerk the signs, by name of the individual or proposition listed on such signs, for which such deposit is being made.
 - (d) Temporary Political signs that are six (6) feet or more above grade are subject to the design and construction requirements contained in Chapter 4 of the Uniform Sign Code.
- (3) For purposes of this section the term “public property” shall mean: (a) all land and buildings owned and/or occupied by the city or any governmental agency; (b) the portion of dedicated rights-

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of-way between the centerline of the street and the edge of the sidewalk farthest away from such centerline; (c) the portion of the dedicated rights-of-way between the centerline of the street and a point that is four feet from the nearest edge of the improved surface of the street where there are no sidewalks; and (d) all median areas within dedicated rights-of-way.

LMC 16.13.030 Section 1403 (4) Sight triangle requirements concerning sight distance at street intersections and driveways shall be as follows:

(a) In all areas of the city where yards or open space are required in front yards or side yards, sight triangles shall be maintained at intersections of streets, and intersections of driveways and other entrances to streets in order that visibility may exist from one to the other, enabling operators of motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and others using such streets, driveways and sidewalks, to observe other motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians and others before entering streets or crossing sidewalks from other streets, or driveways.

(b) Intersections and Entrances.

(i) Driveways from Private Property Emerging onto Streets Where There Are No Sidewalks. At all locations in the city of Longview where front or side yards are required by LMC Title [19](#), where driveways emerge onto streets, and where, on both sides of such driveway, there are no improved sidewalks existing between the land abutting such street and the paved portion thereof, there shall be maintained a clear field of vision between a point which is 42 inches above the edge of roadway where the driveway intersects or merges, and 96 inches above such point. Such field of vision shall be of such distance as to enable the operator of any motor vehicle, bicycle or other transportation device to clearly see onto the intersecting street from a distance which is 10 feet back from the point where such driveway intersects with such street, and along the intersecting street for a distance of not less than 10 feet, providing for a clear field of visibility. Said field of vision area is described as a triangular-shaped area determined by measuring from the point where the driveway and the paved portion of the street intersect, a distance of 10 feet along the driveway and 10 feet along the nearest edge of the pavement of the street onto which such driveway emerges, in both directions.

Property which adjoins a property with a required sight distance triangle for a driveway shall be required to maintain temporary signs consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

(ii) Driveways and Other Entrances From Private Property Emerging onto Streets Where There Are Sidewalks. At all locations in the city of Longview where front or side yards are required by LMC Title [19](#), where driveways emerge onto streets, and where on both sides of such driveway there are improved sidewalks, on either side, existing between the land abutting such street and the paved portion thereof, there shall be maintained a clear field of vision between a point which is 42 inches above the edge of roadway where the driveway intersects or merges, and 96 inches above such point. Such field of vision shall be of such distance as to enable the operator of any motor vehicle, bicycle or other transportation device to clearly see onto the intersecting street from a distance which is 10 feet from the edge of the sidewalk which is nearest the property line and along the intersecting sidewalk for a distance of not less than 10 feet, providing for a clear field of vision. Said field of vision area is described as a triangular-shaped area determined by measuring from the point where the driveway and the paved portion of the sidewalk intersect, a distance of 10 feet from the edge of sidewalk, along the driveway and 10 feet along the nearest edge of the pavement of the sidewalk onto which such driveway emerges, in both directions.

Property which adjoins a property with a required sight distance triangle for a driveway shall be required to maintain temporary signs consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

(iii) Streets Intersecting Other Streets. At all locations in the city of Longview where front or side yards are required by LMC Title [19](#), where streets intersect with other streets, there shall

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be maintained a clear field of vision between a point which is 42 inches above the highest level of such streets and 96 inches above such point. Such field of vision shall be of such distance as to enable the operator of any motor vehicle, bicycle or other transportation device to clearly see onto the intersecting street from a distance which is 20 feet along the property line from the point where such street rights-of-way intersect, providing for a clear field of visibility from each of said streets. Said field of vision area is described as a triangular-shaped area determined by measuring from the point where one street right-of-way intersects with another street right-of-way a distance of 20 feet along the right-of-way of one street and 20 feet along the intersecting edge of the intersecting street right-of-way.

(c) Authority of Traffic Engineer. The city of Longview traffic engineer shall have the authority where, in his professional opinion, a hazard to pedestrians or motorists exists due to the placement or height of temporary political signs to require the removal or relocation of said signs.

