

CAMPAIGN SIGNS

IN CITY LIMITS

COLUMBIA FALLS

Signs supporting a candidate or event may be erected not more than thirty (30) days prior to the event or election, and must be removed not more than one week after. Signs may be 12 square feet in size.

KALISPELL

Signs that do not require permits - signs advocating support for a candidate or ballot issue; individual signs not to exceed six (6) square feet per sign face in residential districts and thirty two (32) square feet per sign face in other districts and erected not more than thirty (30) days prior to, and removed not more than fourteen (14) after, the election or event to which the sign pertains.

Kalispell Municipal Code 27.22.050

WHITEFISH

CAMPAIGN SIGN STANDARDS

A campaign sign advertises for a candidate for public office or an election measure on an upcoming ballot.

This type of sign does not require any special permit from the city, provided they meet the following standards:

- Must be located wholly on private property;
- May not exceed 32 square feet per sign;
- May not be placed more than ninety (90) days before an election; and
- Shall be removed within seven (7) days after the election.

POLITICAL SIGN STANDARDS

A political sign expresses a political or social position, as opposed to supporting a political candidate or election measure. This type of sign does not require any special permit from the city, provided they meet the following standards:

- Must be located wholly on private property;
- Shall not exceed 32 square feet on commercial or industrial property or 16 square feet on residential property.

PROHIBITED SIGNS

No sign may be:

- Located within the city or state rights-of-way or attached to public property (such as: power poles, streetlights, trees, fences, bridges, curbs, sidewalks, park benches or other locations on public property);
- Animated, rotating, flashing or blinking signs, strobe lights, etc.;
- Imitate or resemble official traffic or government signs or signals;
- Internally illuminated;
- Electronically automated changeable copy; or
- A portable reader-board.
- Signs that constitute a traffic hazard are also prohibited.

CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL SIGNS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS:

Signs installed out of compliance with Whitefish City provisions or continued after Election Day may be removed by the City without prior notice to the owner of the sign. The city will store these signs and may dispose of them after 30 days notice to the owner, if known.

Sign owners can retrieve their signs from city staff. Contact the Planning Department at 863-2410 or 510 Railway Street.

COUNTY LIMITS – ZONED AREAS ONLY!

Signs must be placed on private property. Check with the Flathead County Planning and Zoning office to verify if property is zoned or not.

Campaign signs can be no larger than 32 square feet or 4'x8'.

Signs cannot be put up earlier than thirty (30) days prior to the election. Signs must be removed no later than 1 week after the election.

Flathead County Planning and Zoning
1035 1st Ave W, Kalispell MT 59901
Phone (406) 751-8200





CAUTION ON POLITICAL SIGNS

Federal law requires that any sign intended to be read from the highway must be regulated by the state. In Montana, as in other states, controlling signs is the responsibility of the Department of Transportation. Failure to control signs brings the threat of federal sanctions, and can disrupt highway improvement projects.

Political campaign committees, and candidates are being reminded again about restrictions on where their signs can be placed. Signs that are on highway fences, utility poles, and otherwise on state right of way are not allowed, and will be removed by Department of Transportation crews.

It is unsafe, and illegal to drive or park in a ditch along a highway to install a sign on private property. Within 30 days following the applicable election the signs should be removed.

The candidates' cooperation in adhering to the regulations, and statutes will benefit the Department of Highways, and the taxpayers of Montana.

For further information contact:
Outdoor Advertising Control
(406) 444-6068

18.6.246 POLITICAL SIGNS

(1) Signs promoting political candidates or issues shall be placed on private property only and cannot be placed without the permission of the property owner.

(2) Political signs shall not:

(a) be placed in the public right-of-way or on public property;

(b) be attached on public right-of-way fences;

(c) obstruct the view of motor vehicle operators or create a traffic hazard;

(d) be located within 500 feet of an intersection at grade along a primary highway, or within 500 feet of an interchange or rest area on the interstate highway system as measured from the beginning of the pavement widening for the interchange;

(e) be erected or maintained prior to 90 days before the applicable election.

(3) Political signs must be removed within 30 days following the applicable election. The department shall notify the landowner of illegal signs which are not removed within 30 days. The signs shall be removed by the department 24 hours after notification to the landowner. The department shall retain removed political signs for five working days after notification of removal before their destruction. The sign owner may retrieve the signs during this period.

(4) Political signs do not require permits and are not subject to permit fees.

History: [75-15-121](#), MCA; [IMP](#), [75-15-111](#), MCA; [NEW](#), 1996 MAR p. 1855, Eff. 7/4/96; [AMD](#), 2008 MAR p. 2476, Eff. 11/27/08.