

## CAMPAIGN SIGNS

### CITY LIMITS

#### KALISPELL –

##### 27.22.050 Signs Not Requiring Permits.

The following types of signs are exempted from permit requirements, but must be in conformance with all other requirements of this Zoning Ordinance:

- (1) **Allowed Temporary Signs.** Signs erected on a temporary basis such as, but not limited to, the following categories of signs:
  - ... (c) Temporary signs are allowed in association with commercial and industrial uses for special events such as grand openings or special sales for a single period of time not to exceed 14 total days within a 6-month period and subject to the written approval of the Zoning Administrator.
    1. Banners mounted directly on and parallel to a building wall.
    2. Temporary or portable signs (such as a portable reader board or sandwich board, etc.) per lot are allowed.
    3. Inflatable signs, balloons, tethered balloons, or other gas filled or air filled figures.
  - (d) Political signs not exceeding 32 square feet located on private property.
  - (e) **Campaign** and election signs which are removed within 14 days after the election.
- (2) **General Standards for Temporary Signs.**
  - (a) A temporary sign shall not be placed on or extend over the public right-of-way, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.
  - (b) The location of a temporary sign is subject to clear vision triangle requirements and the location requirements for freestanding/ground signs contained in Section 27.22.090(1). The location is further subject to site and building access requirements.
  - (c) A temporary sign shall be designed to be stable under all weather conditions, including high winds.
  - (d) A temporary sign shall not advertise or promote any off-premises commercial enterprise or event.

#### COLUMBIA FALLS –

##### 18.438.020 Signs permitted in all districts without a permit.

The following signs are allowed in all zoning districts and do not require a permit:

H. Political signs, each not exceeding twelve (12) square feet, not erected more than thirty (30) days prior to, and removed not more than one week after the election or event to which the sign pertains.

#### WHITEFISH –

##### 11-5-4: EXEMPT, PROHIBITED AND SPECIAL STANDARDS:

13. Campaign and election signs not exceeding thirty two (32) square feet, located on private property which are erected not more than ninety (90) days prior to the election and removed not more than seven (7) days after the election. (Ord. 01-04, 2-20-2001)

14. Political signs located on private property not exceeding thirty two (32) square feet for commercially or industrially zoned properties and sixteen (16) square feet for residential and resort residential zoning designations. (Ord. 09-22, 11-16-2009)

### **FLATHEAD COUNTY (OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS)**

For determination if zoning rules apply, check with the Planning and Zoning office – 751-8200

Excerpt from Flathead County Planning & Zoning letter –

### **ZONED AREAS**

- In rural Flathead County, political signs located on private land outside road easement or rights of way are regulated in all zoned areas. Flathead County has an Interactive Mapping Site (IMS) that can be used to view and determine zoned and unzoned areas. Please visit <http://flathead.mt.gov/gis> and click on the “Interactive Mapping” link.
- “Political sign” as defined in Flathead County Zoning Regulations as “a sign with a message advocating a particular candidate, party or proposition.” Additionally, “sign” is defined in Sections [7.18.060](#) of the Flathead County Zoning Regulations as “any medium or visual communication, including its supporting structure and source of light, which is used or intended to be used to attract attention to a location or subject matter for advertising, instruction or informational purposes.”
- Section 5.11.010(8) of the Flathead County Zoning Regulations states that political signs are exempt in zoned areas, provided they are “each not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet” in size, and that are “not erected more than thirty (30) days prior to, and removed not more than one (1) week after, the election *or event* to which the sign pertains” (emphasis added).
- Flathead County absentee ballots will be mailed by the County Election Department 20 to 25 days before Election Day. Since political signs are intended to raise awareness of a candidate prior to voting, it is our office’s interpretation that the commencement of absentee voting qualifies as the “event to which the sign pertains.” **Therefore, political signs meeting the requirements described herein may be posted no earlier than 60 days before Election Day.**