

Guide to Regulations for Posting Temporary Political & Campaign Signs on Private Property

Effective July 23, 2002, Updated July 6, 2006

The following information summarizes the zoning requirements for the placement and timing of political and campaign signs on private property in Prince William County, Virginia under Section 32-250 of the Prince William County Code.

What exactly is a “political campaign sign” under the zoning regulations?

These are signs that are temporary in nature, and advertise a candidate, legislation, referendum or other issue relating to an election or voting event.

What regulations must I comply with?

These regulations apply to all political and campaign signs over 2 square feet in size.

- **Size:** The maximum size remains 16 square feet per sign face, with two faces permitted per sign for signs located within residential zones, and 32 square feet per sign faces for signs located within non-residential zones without a Special Use Permit. In Highway Corridor Overlay Districts, the sign can be no larger than 4 square feet.
- **Number:** For lots with 600 linear feet of road frontage or less, one sign no larger than mentioned above, except that for larger road frontages, one sign is allowed for every 600 feet of frontage, with a maximum of four signs for 2400+ lineal feet of roadway frontage.
- **Height:** Signs can be no higher than ten feet (six feet in Highway Corridor Overlay Districts).
- **Posting times:** Signs can be posted on private property up to 90 days before an election or voting event. You are required to remove them no later than five days after the day when voting takes place.

Do I need to get a permit or pay a fee to post these signs?

No, provided that the regulations are met, there is no requirement to obtain a permit or pay a fee.

What about using billboards?

Billboards are commercial advertising structures, and are not covered by these regulations.

What if I want a larger sign or exceed these regulations?

Any property owner who wishes modifications from these rules may apply for a Special Use Permit which is decided upon by the Prince William County Board of Supervisors.

Are there exceptions or exemptions from these regulations?

Yes, the Prince William County Zoning Regulations specifically exempt any sign under two square feet from the provisions of the sign ordinance. These signs do not have time limits, require permits or fees, and can be posted on private property.

What about placing these signs at intersections or on public rights-of-way?

These regulations apply only to private property. Streets and their intersections are restricted from such signs by State law. We also request that property owners placing these signs on their property consider public safety concerns, and not place these signs to impede sight distances for drivers, bicyclists, or pedestrians.

If I have questions or need more information, who do I call?

If you have any questions, need additional information, or wish a copy of the zoning regulations, please call 703-792-6830, the Office of Planning. For more information on Property Code Enforcement, call 703-792-7018. For web access, visit our web site at:

www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=010013001290003841