

# CITY OF SEAL BEACH

## TEMPORARY POLITICAL SIGN GUIDELINES

In order to protect public property and reduce visual clutter and distractions to drivers while protecting residents' rights to free speech, the City of Seal Beach has provisions in the Municipal Code that regulate the display of signs within the City.

Most political campaign signs are a form of temporary noncommercial sign. For constitutional reasons, all temporary noncommercial signs posted legally in Seal Beach are treated in the same way, regardless of the message's topic or content. Different display time periods, size and locational requirements may apply depending on the applicable zoning district.

Unfortunately, many signs are posted illegally. The information in these Guidelines is designed to assist political candidates by informing them of the City's regulations for displaying temporary political campaign signs and other temporary noncommercial signs.

The following Municipal Code sections regarding posting of signs within the City are available online at <http://www.gcode.us/codes/sealbeach/>:

Chapter 7.20, Section 7.20.075 SIGNS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY;  
Chapter 11.6.05 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS; and  
Chapter 11.4.25 SIGN REGULATIONS.

Under SBMC Section 11.4.25, campaign signs and other temporary noncommercial signs are allowed in any zoning district subject to the following:

- *Commercial, Mixed-Use and Other Non-Residential Districts and Uses:* For properties not subject to a master sign program, the maximum number of temporary noncommercial signs per property at a time shall be four (4) signs. Temporary noncommercial signs cannot exceed an aggregate surface area of 25 square feet per lot, up to 4 per lot; and signs posted on a building face or in a window shall not exceed 36 inches by 48 inches in size. Temporary noncommercial signs must be removed or replaced within 60 days of placement.
- *Residential Districts and Uses:* Up to four (4) temporary noncommercial signs, each no larger than 6 square feet in area, are permitted per dwelling unit. In addition, no more than 4 such signs are permitted to be located in the front yard or street-facing side yard of any residential property, whether single-unit, two-unit, or multi-unit. Temporary noncommercial signs may be attached to freestanding sign structures no more than 5 feet in height, building walls, or fences. Temporary noncommercial signs must be removed or replaced within 60 days of placement.

The City of Seal Beach has always prohibited the posting of signs on its streets, sidewalks, parkways, medians, public rights of way, trees, landscaping, structures, telephone and utility poles, and other fixtures. (SBMC Section 7.20.075)

- Signs will be removed from public property by City staff and will be kept at the City's Public Works Yard (located at 1776 Adolfo Lopez Dr.) for a limited time. The sign owner or his/her representative can pick up the signs during business hours - after a week the unclaimed signs will be discarded.
- The City assumes no responsibility for any loss of or damage to signs that occurs during the signs' removal or storage.

The candidate will be responsible for all signs posted by their campaign workers. If a candidate or his/her supporters continue to violate the municipal code in this manner, an administrative citation may be issued to deter repeated violations. Administrative citation fines: 1st offense - \$100; 2nd offense - \$200; and violations after that will have a fine of \$500.