



The city of Phoenix, in its ongoing efforts to provide a safe and well-maintained environment, addresses the erection and display of political signs in the Zoning Ordinance. The following information is provided as an introduction to political sign regulations and to help you avoid placing your political signs in prohibited areas.

Additional information may be obtained at Sign Services of the Planning & Development Department (PDD), Phoenix City Hall, 200 West Washington Street, (602) 495-0301 or [pdd.signservices@phoenix.gov](mailto:pdd.signservices@phoenix.gov) or at the following website: <https://www.phoenix.gov/pdd/development/permits/signs>

**All individuals or organizations are required to file notification which includes the name, address, and telephone number of a person(s) who will be responsible for the proper erection, on-going maintenance and timely removal of the political signs.**

Political signs are allowed to be placed on private property and in the public right-of-way. For regulations related to political signs on private property, please refer to the Phoenix Zoning Ordinance. For regulations related to political signs in the right-of-way along streets, please refer to Arizona Revised Statute §16-1019 (see text later in this document).

To determine where the right-of-way boundary is located, please refer to the Maricopa County Assessor's <http://maps.mcassessor.maricopa.gov/>

While political signs that are 32 square feet or less are exempt from obtaining permits for private property only, other provisions of the Sign Ordinance and Arizona State law remain applicable. Please refer to the following websites for more information:

You are responsible for reviewing, understanding and complying with the following:

<http://www.azleg.gov/ars/16/01019.htm>

A.R.S. §16-1019, Political signs; printed materials; tampering; classification

<http://www.codepublishing.com/AZ/phoenix/> (See Zoning Ordinance Chapter 7 in directory on left)

Z.O. Section 705.B.2.h., Political Signs

Z.O. Section 705.B.3.c., Signs Which Pose a Traffic Hazard

Z.O. Section 705.B.3.e., Signs Which Interfere With Visibility at Intersections or Driveways

Z.O. Section 705.C.2., Flags and Banners

Please note that Chapter 3 of the City Code has additional regulations on advertising materials such as the distribution of handbills, placards, etc.

### **City of Phoenix Zoning Ordinance:**

All non-commercial signs, including political signs, may be erected on a lot or property with permission from the legal property owner, so long as each sign does not exceed 32 square feet. However, as stated above, you are required to file notification with PDD.

Signs cannot be erected on public utility poles, public buildings, or parks and trees and fences therein. They also must not be placed in any manner that will cause a traffic hazard or unsafe conditions for motorists and pedestrians. Signs in public rights-of-way and utility structures often pose dangerous conditions.

All political signs on private property shall be removed within ten days after the election to which they refer, as stated in Section 705.B.2.h.(3) of the Phoenix Zoning Ordinance. After the ten-day period, the Zoning Ordinance states that enforcement personnel can confiscate signs, and/or a formal citation can be issued.

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For more information or for a copy of this publication in an alternate format, contact Planning & Development at 602-262-7811 voice or TTY use 7-1-1.

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The entity who erects the signs is responsible for compliance with the city and state regulations, on-going maintenance, and removal of the campaign signs.

**Arizona Revised Statute (ARS § 16-1019):**

The city of Phoenix will not remove, alter, deface or cover any political sign in the right-of-way if the following conditions are met:

- The sign is placed in the city public right-of-way that is owned or controlled by that jurisdiction.
- The sign supports or opposes a candidate for public office or it supports or opposes a ballot measure.
- The sign is not placed in a location that is hazardous to public safety, obstructs clear vision in the area or interferes with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- The sign has a maximum area of sixteen square feet, if the sign is located in an area zoned for residential use, or a maximum area of thirty-two square feet if the sign is located in any other area.
- The sign contains the name and telephone number of the candidate or campaign committee contact person.

These conditions apply only during the period beginning sixty days before a primary election and ending fifteen days after the general election, except that for a sign for a candidate in a primary election who does not advance to the general election, the period ends fifteen days after the primary election.

**FAQ's – Political Signs**

- **Do I need a sign permit for my political sign?**

Yes, if the sign is on private property and the sign is larger than thirty-two (32) square feet.

No, if the sign is thirty-two (32) square feet or less, or it is in the right-of-way. However, you need to file the name, address, and telephone number of the person responsible for the proper erection and timely removal of the signs with PDD.

- **How do I file with PDD?**

You can file with PDD by U.S. mail, via facsimile or email.

U.S. Mail: City of Phoenix, Planning & Development Department, Signs Services, 200 West Washington, 2nd Floor, Phoenix, AZ 85003

Email: [pdd.signservices@phoenix.gov](mailto:pdd.signservices@phoenix.gov)

- **How early can I put up my signs before the election?**

There is no restriction on when political signs may be erected prior to the election on private property. However, political signs can be placed in the right-of-way only 71 days before a primary election.

- **Where can I place my signs?**

If the sign(s) is larger than thirty-two (32) square feet a permit can be obtained by contacting the Sign Section at 602-495-0301 or [pdd.signservices@phoenix.gov](mailto:pdd.signservices@phoenix.gov).

If the sign(s) is thirty-two (32) square feet or less, then the sign can be placed on private property with the property owner's permission. Property ownership information can be obtained from the Property Records Section at (602) 262-7800.

Political signs can also be placed in the right-of-way subject to specific conditions (see Subsections C & H of ARS §16-1019 at website mentioned above).

- **What type of information is required to be placed on the sign?**

The sign must contain the name and telephone number of the candidate or campaign committee contact person.

- **Can my sign be placed anywhere on private property?**

Yes, unless the height of the sign exceeds three feet in height, in which case the sign may not be placed in the visibility triangles at the driveway or intersection. The visibility triangle is ten (10) feet by (20) feet at driveways and thirty-three (33) feet by thirty-three (33) feet at street intersections.

- **How do I determine where the property line is?**

The property line does not necessarily begin where the sidewalk or curb ends. The half-street dimension given on city quarter section maps determines property lines. Half streets are identified in the street by a brass cap, which is where a half street should be measured from. City right-of-way widths can be obtained by calling Property Records (602) 262-7800 or refer to Maricopa County Assessor's website (see above).

- **What if my sign is in violation?**

If PDD Sign Inspectors find violations, they normally contact the responsible party and allow forty-eight (48) hours to obtain compliance. In the event that it is a safety hazard, Sign Inspectors will lay the signs down and then contact the responsible party. Inspectors will take signs that cannot be laid down safely to a storage yard where the candidate may retrieve it.

If the placement of the sign in the right-of-way constitutes an emergency, sign inspectors or police officers may immediately relocate the sign. The city will notify the candidate or campaign committee that placed the sign within twenty-four hours after the relocation.

If a sign is placed in violation of the conditions above yet it is not an emergency, PDD staff may notify the candidate or campaign committee that placed the sign of the violation. If the sign remains in violation at least twenty-four hours after PDD notified the candidate or campaign committee, then staff may remove the sign. City staff shall then contact the candidate or campaign committee and shall retain the sign for at least ten business days to allow the candidate or campaign committee to retrieve the sign without penalty.

- **When do the signs need to be removed?**

Signs on private property must be removed ten (10) days after the election to which they refer. In the event of a run-off, the signs may remain for ten (10) days after the run-off election. Signs in the right-of-way must be removed fifteen (15) days after the election to which they refer except runoff elections. Please be sure to remove the stakes that the signs are placed on, as they pose a safety hazard to pedestrians and bicyclists.

- **What If I have more questions?**

Please contact PDD, Signs Services Section at [pdd.signservices@phoenix.gov](mailto:pdd.signservices@phoenix.gov), (602) 495-0301 or (602) 256-4242.