

Campaign Signs Along Utah's Highways

The American political process is firmly interwoven into the fabric of American life. We, at the Department of Transportation, hope your political experience is a rewarding and successful one.

To that end we offer the follow information to assist you in complying with current laws and to help your campaign proceed as smoothly as possible.

The Utah Department of Transportation regularly observes campaign signs placed within UDOT right-of-way throughout the state. Many of these illegally placed signs are attached to utility poles, the right-of-way fence, and UDOT's sign posts. Utility poles are almost always within the right-of-way. Utah state laws govern the placement of signs along UDOT's right-of-way, as well as provide the Department with the authority and responsibility to remove illegally placed signs.

This page outlines the laws regarding the placement of campaign signs. UDOT hopes the following information will benefit political candidates by preventing the illegal placement of signs and the financial loss incurred when the signs are removed.

The following Utah Code articles are listed below but are not necessarily direct quotes.

U.C.A. 72-7-102

A person may not dig or excavate or place a billboard, advertising sign, of any kind shall be placed, constructed, or maintained within the right-of-way, except as permitted by and in accordance with, the regulations of the highway authorities having jurisdiction over such right-of-way.

U.C.A 72-7-104

UDOT, by state law, is given the authority and responsibility to remove, or require the removal of, any object which has been placed, constructed, or maintained within the departments right-of-way, without complying with the permitting process. UDOT has the authority to:

- (a) remove the sign from the right-of-way or require the person, firm, or corporation to remove the sign.
- (b) give written notice to the person, firm, or corporation to remove the sign.

If the sign is not removed within ten days after such notice is served, UDOT may remove the sign at the expense of the person, firm, or corporation. UDOT may recover the costs and expenses incurred in removing illegally placed signs; and \$10 for each day the sign remained within the right-of-way after the notice was served.

The Department, its agents, or employees, if acting in good faith, incur no liability for causing removal of a sign within the right-of-way.

Contact Info: Contact the Region Permits Office in your area.
Link: <http://www.udot.utah.gov/index.php/m=c/t>
Last Edited: 2005-09-29

TOOELE CITY ORDINANCE

Political Signs

Political sign – means a temporary sign used in connection with a local, state, or national election or referendum.

- Permit not required.
- Allowed in all zoning districts with property owner's approval.
- Signs in excess of 3 feet above curb grade or support poles larger than 12 inches in diameter may not be installed in clear view zones.
- No political signs may be located within the public right-of-way. Signs located within the public right-of-way are subject to immediate removal and confiscation without notice and may be disposed of after 5 business days from removal.

GRANTSVILLE CITY ORDINANCE

20. 5. Signs prohibited in all districts.

The following types of signs are prohibited in all districts:

- (1) Abandoned signs;
- (2) Banners, pennants, festoons, and search lights;
- (3) Signs imitating or resembling official traffic or government signs or signals;
- (4) Snipe signs or signs attached to trees, telephone poles, streetlights, or placed on any public property or public right-of-way;
- (5) Signs placed on vehicles or trailers which are parked or located for the primary purpose of displaying said sign (this does not apply to allowed portable signs or to signs or lettering on buses, taxis, or vehicles operating during the normal course of business);
- (6) "A" Frame signs unless allowed in Section 20-9(4)(f); and
- (7) Flashing signs.

20. 8. Signs not requiring permits.

The following sign types are allowed without a permit in Grantsville City. The applicable standards for the use of such signs are as follows:

(15) Political or campaign signs. Signs on behalf of candidates for public office or measures on election ballots are allowed as follows:

(a) Signs for all candidates or other referenda, regardless of participation in a primary election, may not be erected earlier than 30 days prior to a primary election and all signs shall be removed by the Monday following the primary election. For the general election, said signs for all candidates or other referenda, regardless of participation in a primary election, may not be erected earlier than 45 days prior to the general election and all signs shall be removed by the Monday following the general election. Signs relating to elections on special issues may be installed and must be removed on the same basis.

(b) Any one sign shall not exceed 64 square feet in aggregate area and, if freestanding, shall not exceed eight feet in height. Such signs shall not be erected in a manner as to constitute a roof sign. Signs may not be placed on public property, in a public right-of-way or in any place that would impede traffic visibility or safety except as stated in Section 20.4. Signs on roadways without curb and gutter may not be placed closer than ten feet to the edge of the paved surface.

(c) Campaign signs may not be placed closer than 150 feet to a building where any official voting station is located.

(d) Campaign signs may be placed within front facing residential parkstrip areas during the specified time period as described above. The maximum sign size is six square feet, and maximum height is three feet. Signs may not be placed in any location that creates a vehicular or pedestrian traffic visibility hazard. Such signs shall not be placed within parkstrip areas adjacent to back-facing or side-facing lots. Campaign signs may be placed in the parkstrip only with the approval of the person responsible for maintaining the landscaping of that parkstrip.

STOCKTON CITY ORDINANCE

11-2-2 (2) PURPOSE AND SCOPE

A sign shall not be erected in a manner that would confuse or obstruct the view of or interfere with official traffic signs, signals or devices.

11-2-5 (2) (b) PLACEMENT OF SIGNS

Campaign Signs will not be permitted on public property and must be on private property only with the property owner's approval. Campaign signs cannot be put up any sooner than 60 days before the election and must be removed within 30 days after the election.

TOOELE COUNTY ORDINANCE

24-5-1. General provisions.

(1) Any one sign on private property shall not exceed 24 square feet in aggregate area and, if freestanding, shall not exceed six feet in height unless provided for in this section. Such sign shall not be erected in a manner as to constitute a roof sign.

(2) There may be only one non-illuminated sign not to exceed twelve square feet in sign area. per lot or premises for sale of agricultural products grown or raised on site.

(3) Signs may not be placed within any public right-of-way, within the 40-foot clear view zone on corners, or in any place that would impede traffic visibility or safety. Signs may not be placed on public property unless otherwise provided for in

this section (Ord.2002-13. 6/18/02)

24-5-3. Political or campaign signs.

(1) Political or campaign signs on behalf of candidates for public office or measures on election ballots may be displayed, except:

(a) such signs may not be erected earlier than 60 days prior to a primary or general election and shall be removed no later than two weeks following the election. However when the general election falls within six weeks of the primary election, the winner of the primary election will be allowed to maintain the signs until two weeks after the general election. Signs relating to elections on special issues may be installed and must be removed on the same basis;

(b) campaign signs for candidates for public office or an issue on an upcoming election may not be placed on public property, within any public right-of-way, on public utility poles, or in any place which would impede traffic visibility or safety;

(c) campaign signs may not be placed closer than 150 feet to a building where an official voting station is located;

(d) campaign signs shall not exceed 12 square feet in residential zones and 32 square feet in all other zones; and

(e) written permission of the property **owner** must be obtained before such signs are erected. (Ord 2002-22 9/10/02)