

**CITY OF DANA POINT
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: MAY 21, 2024

TO: CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

FROM: BRENDA WISNESKI, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR PLACEMENT OF POLITICAL SIGNS

Campaigns for political office will soon be underway, so the City would like to summarize the regulations pertaining to political signs. Zoning Code Section 9.37.120 includes the provisions for placement of political signs (attached). Please consider the following when posting political signs:

- All political signs shall have the name and address of the candidate, the authorized person and/or committee name and ID number (if you have one) printed visibly on the sign.
- Signs shall not be placed on public property or public right-of-ways, including street lights, street signs, paved portion of a roadway, medians, freeway fencing and guard rails adjacent to roadways and sidewalks, City, County and State parks and portions of unpaved property adjacent to roadways and sidewalks.
- The public right-of-way typically extends beyond the “back” edge of a sidewalk and/or curb. To ensure the sign is on private property, a good rule of thumb is to place the sign about 5 feet from the back of sidewalk or curb (if there is no sidewalk). Signs shall not be placed in parkways, which is the area between the sidewalk and curb.
- Political signs are also prohibited in unimproved public open-space areas along Stonehill and Selva Road.

The City’s Code Enforcement Officers are assigned the task of removing illegally placed signs from public property and rights of way. When removed, signs are stored by City staff for a period of time. If the candidate or representative would like to obtain their signs, they can contact City staff to schedule a time for retrieval.

If you have any questions please contact Ray Oropeza, Code Enforcement Supervisor at (949) 248-3559 or roropeza@danapoint.org.

9.37.120 Political Signs.

Political signs, as defined in Section 9.37.020, including their supporting structures shall be permitted in all zones, provided that:

- (a) No sign shall be permitted on or to extend over any public property, public easement, or in the public right-of-way;
- (b) Political signs shall not be posted in a manner which obstructs traffic or street signs or devices. In addition, all political signs shall be posted in a manner which preserves the lines of sight as set forth in Section 9.05.090;
- (c) All political signs pertaining to a particular election shall be removed within ten (10) days after the date of the election;
- (d) The candidate, committee, or any other authorized person posting political signs shall insure that all signs include the name, address and the required committee identification number of the campaign or political organization, if any.
- (e) If the Director of Community Development finds that any political sign has been posted or is being maintained in violation of the provisions of this Section, the Director may cause said sign to be removed without prior notice. Any political sign that remains posted for more than fourteen (14) days after the election to which it pertains shall be deemed abandoned. The Director may also cause such abandoned signs and any signs which constitute an immediate peril to persons or property to be removed summarily and without prior notice.

(Added by Ord. 91-17, 11/26/91; amended by Ord. 94-03, 1/11/94; Ord. 94-09, 5/24/94)