



City of Lafayette
3675 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Suite 210
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POLITICAL SIGNS

The Lafayette Municipal Code regulates signage within Lafayette. The Code classifies political signs as temporary noncommercial signs. Temporary noncommercial signs are exempt from permit requirements provided they comply with the following provisions:

1. Temporary noncommercial signs include, but are not limited to, a sign announcing a community-oriented event or charitable cause, and a sign designed for the purpose of advertising support of, or opposition to, a political party, candidate, proposition or cause.
2. Temporary noncommercial signs are permitted for a period of less than 90 days.
3. Temporary noncommercial signs are restricted to six square feet in area or less.
4. Exempt signs, such as noncommercial signs, are included in calculating the aggregate sign area allowance.
5. Signs may not be placed across or in the public right-of-way,* utility easement, or on public or publicly maintained property without an encroachment permit approved by the City Council, except for notices of public hearing placed on utility poles and city-owner banner signs placed on City-owned lampposts within the Redevelopment Project Area along Mount Diablo Boulevard.
6. Signs may not be placed on a tree, shrub or other natural object.
7. Signs may not extend higher than the upper roof line, ridge line or parapet of the building to which it is attached.
8. Portable, mobile, or A-board signs are not permitted.
9. Temporary noncommercial signs shall not be illuminated.
10. Temporary noncommercial signs shall not utilize fluorescent or iridescent colors.
11. A parcel that contains a residential use or is located in a residentially zoned district may contain up to 80 square feet of signage, only 32 of which may be permanent.
12. A parcel that contains a residential use or is located in a residentially zoned district may contain an additional 180 square feet of temporary noncommercial signage for a cumulative total of 45-days in any calendar year. For those 45-days, each individual sign may be as large as twelve square feet in area and six feet in height. The 45-days are in addition to the 90-day period otherwise allowed for noncommercial signs.

If you have a complaint about a specific sign that you believe violates the City's Sign Ordinance, please contact the City's Code Enforcement Officer, Tom Gill at (925) 299-3280.

The Code Enforcement Officer acts on a complaint basis.

* The public right-of-way usually extends well beyond the paved road, and it is not uncommon to find private fences, front yard hedges, mailboxes and landscaping within this right-of-way. Therefore, if you do plan to install noncommercial signs, including political signs, on property consistent with the rules set forth above, please ensure that they are set back far enough from the street to avoid being in the public right-of-way.