

City of Salem
First Passage

In the year Two Thousand and Nineteen

An Ordinance to amend an ordinance relative to political signs.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Salem, as follows:

Section I. Chapter 4 is hereby amended by deleting Sec. 4-56. – Political Signs its entirety and replacing it with the following, effective January 1, 2020:

“Sec. 4-56. - Political signs.

- (a) Generally. All signs associated with a political campaign shall be exempted from this article, provided that they are of a temporary nature and placed and removed as set forth in this section.
- (b) Political sign defined. A political sign is a sign designed, used or intended to induce voters to vote for either the passage or defeat of a measure appearing on the ballot of any election, or for either the election or defeat of a candidate for nomination or election to any public office in any election, and includes without limitation banners and campaign signs.
- (c) Time limitation. Political signs may be displayed in connection with an election beginning no earlier than sixty days prior to the primary or preliminary election and continuing up to ten days after the date of the election. If election signs pertain not only to a primary or preliminary election but also to a succeeding general election, they may be displayed until the general election and shall be removed within ten days after the date of the general election.
- (d) Size Limitation. Political signs shall be no larger than 32 square feet in area or 4' X 8'.
- (e) Placement on private property - No person shall erect or display, or cause or authorize any person to erect or display, any election sign on any property not owned or controlled by such person, unless authorized to do so by the owner or other person in control of such property. Signs on private property within 150' of an entrance to a polling location may not be erected or displayed on election days.
- (f) Placement on berm and tree lawns. Signs may not be placed on the berm or grassy area in front of a property if such property is not privately owned. If placement of a political sign is challenged, the City Clerk shall consult with the Building Inspector and Assessor to determine if a challenged sign is properly placed on private property. Any unauthorized sign may be removed by the Building Inspector or Department of Public Services.
- (g) Prohibited on public property. No person shall erect or display, or cause or authorize any person to affix, erect, display, place or post any political sign on any public property or utility pole or within a public right-of-way, on traffic signs, signals, or devices including directional signs, advisory signs, regulation signs and traffic-signalized intersections, or where signs may be obstructed from the driver's view. Political signs on public property may be removed without notice by the Building Inspector or the Department of Public Services.
- (h) Traffic hazard. No political sign shall be placed in a manner that would obstruct visibility to pedestrian or vehicular traffic or which shall constitute a traffic hazard in the discretion of the Chief of Police or their subordinate officers, or the Building Inspector.
- (i) Political Sign Prohibition on Election Day. No signs, roof racks, banners, bumper stickers, and other campaign material may be displayed or placed within 150' of the entrance to a polling location on any election day. A Police Officer, Building Inspector or Director of Public Services may remove any political signs within the 150' foot zone.
- (j) Penalty for non-removal. If notified in writing by the City Clerk, the candidate or committee involved in the placement of political signs may be held responsible for the removal of signs necessary to fulfill requirements of this section. Failure to do so within the time allotted by the Clerk, which shall be no less than three days, shall result in a penalty of not more than \$10.00 per day per sign with a maximum penalty of not more than \$100.00 per sign.”

Section II. This Ordinance shall take effect as provided by City Charter.

In City Council September 12, 2019

Adopted for first passage and referred to the Committee on Government Services co-posted with the Committee of the Whole

ATTEST:

ILENE SIMONS
CITY CLERK

ADV: 9/18/19