



2024 GUIDELINES FOR POLITICAL SIGNS

UPDATED BASED ON HOUSE BILL 2785

In its ongoing efforts to protect the safety and general welfare of all residents and visitors during this political campaign season, the City of San Luis is providing the following guidelines regarding the posting of political signs within the corporate limits of the city.

Political signs are allowed to be placed on private property as Temporary Signs under the City Code and in the public right-of-way under the Arizona Revised Statutes.

City of San Luis Zoning Regulations

Under the Zoning Regulations, Political Signs are included in the category of “Temporary Signs” and may be erected on a lot or property with permission from the legal property owner. The San Luis City Code, Title 18, Chapter 18.80, Section 18.80.050 contains information about Temporary Signs in the City of San Luis, and is available online on the City’s website.

Arizona Revised Statute

Political signs are governed by Arizona Revised Statute §16-1019. Political signs may be placed on the City’s right-of-way 71 days prior to the primary election until 15 days after the general election (or, if candidates do not advance to a general election, 15 days after the primary election).

71 Days prior to election	05-20-2024	First date to erect political signs
Primary Election	07-30-2024	Remove Signs by 08-14-2024
General Election	11-05-2024	Remove Signs by 11-20-2024

All candidates, their supporters, and supporters of ballot measures are subject to these regulations. Please ensure that all campaign workers are aware of these regulations, as they will govern the removal of signs in the right-of-way. This material serves only as a general guide to the placement and maintenance of political signs during election campaigns; it is not meant to be a full statement of the law.

If you have any specific questions, please contact the Development Services Department at (928) 341-8563.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Jose A. Guzman
Director of Development Services

POLITICAL SIGNS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Maximum Sign Sizes and Sign Locations

The following table below summarizes the maximum number and size of temporary signs allowed in the City, by zoning district category type:

Zoning District	Type of Installation	Max. Area of Any Sign Face	Max. Height		Maximum Number
			Within Setback	Outside of Setback	
Agricultural districts	Free-standing Wall-mounted	32 sq. ft.	6 ft.	12 ft.	As long as the sign contains a non-commercial message, there is no maximum number of political signs per lot (City Code § 18.80.050(A))
Residential districts	Free-standing Wall-mounted	10 sq. ft. (less than 1 ac.)	6 ft.	6 ft.	
		32 sq. ft. (1 ac. or more)	6 ft.	8 ft.	
Commercial / industrial districts	Free-standing	100 sq. ft.	6 ft.	12 ft.	
	Wall-mounted	32 sq. ft.	A distance below the uppermost line of the wall upon which mounted, equal to ½ the vertical dimension of sign		

Sign Registration and Sign Permit Requirements

The size of the sign dictates if the sign is required to be registered with the City or if the sign requires a building permit.

The following table summarizes City sign registration and permit requirements:

Sign Size	Requires sign location to be registered with the City of San Luis	Requires a sign permit from the City of San Luis
Less than 10 square feet	No	No
10-32 square feet	Yes	No
Over 32 square feet or taller than 6 feet in height (larger than 4 ft. x8 ft.– the size of a standard sheet of plywood)	Yes	Yes

Note: State law (A.R.S. §40-360.21-31) requires you to have underground utilities marked before installing signs, including campaign signs on public or private property. Please contact Arizona 811 at least two working days before installing signs. Learn more at www.arizona811.com

POLITICAL SIGNS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

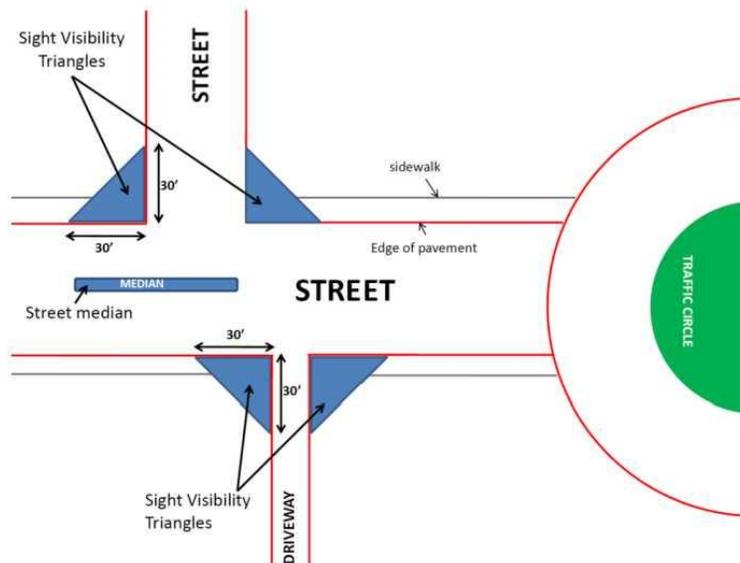
Maximum Sign Sizes and Sign Locations

The following table below summarizes the maximum number and size of political signs in the public right-of-way by zoning district category type. Please note that City ordinances do not allow political signs in the right-of-way. State law prevents the City from removing these signs during certain periods and under certain circumstances.

Location	Max. Area of Any Sign Face	Maximum Number
Public right-of-way in an area zoned for residential use	16 sq. ft.	A.R.S. 16-1019 does not limit the number of signs allowed in public right-of-way
Public right-of-way in an area zoned anything other than residential use	32 sq. ft.	

Although A.R.S. §16-1019 allows campaign signs to be placed within the right-of-way, it does not permit placement in locations that are hazardous to the public safety, obstructs clear vision in the area or interferes with the requirements of the American Disabilities Act.

Due to the potential of public safety hazards and visual obstructions, and to meet ADA requirements, political signs are not allowed in medians or traffic circles within roadways, within 30 feet of the curbs at an intersection (sight visibility triangle), and on City-owned structures such as traffic signals, light poles, and municipal buildings. The City will remove hazardous signs.



Sign Registration and Sign Permit Requirements

Political signs within the public right-of-way do not require a sign permit from the City of San Luis. Removal of political signs within the public right-of-way is controlled by the Arizona Revised Statutes.

Note: State law (A.R.S. §40-360.21-31) requires you to have underground utilities marked before installing signs, including campaign signs on public or private property. Please contact Arizona 811 at least two working days before installing signs. Learn more at www.arizona811.com

16-1019. Political signs; printed materials; tampering; violation; classification

A. It is a class 2 misdemeanor for any person to knowingly remove, alter, deface or cover any political sign of any candidate for public office or in support of or opposition to any ballot measure, question or issue or knowingly remove, alter or deface any political mailers, handouts, flyers or other printed materials of a candidate or in support of or opposition to any ballot measure, question or issue that are delivered by hand to a residence for the period commencing forty-five 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.

B. This section does not apply to the removal, alteration, defacing or covering of a political sign or other printed materials by the candidate or the authorized agent of the candidate in support of whose election the sign or materials were placed, by a person authorized by the committee in support of or opposition to a ballot measure, question or issue that provided the sign or printed materials, by the owner or authorized agent of the owner of private property on which such signs or printed materials are placed with or without permission of the owner or placed in violation of state law or county, city or town ordinance or regulation.

C. Notwithstanding any other statute, ordinance or regulation, a city, town or county of this state shall not remove, alter, deface or cover any political sign if the following conditions are met:

1. The sign is placed in a public right-of-way that is owned or controlled by that jurisdiction.
2. The sign supports or opposes a candidate for public office or it supports or opposes a ballot measure.
3. 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 (42 United States Code sections 12101 through 12213 and 47 United States Code sections 225 and 611).
4. 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.
5. The sign contains the name and telephone number or website address of the candidate or campaign committee contact person.

D. If the city, town or county deems that the placement of a political sign constitutes an emergency, the jurisdiction may immediately relocate the sign. The jurisdiction shall 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 subsection C of this section and the placement is not deemed to constitute an emergency, the city, town or county 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 the jurisdiction notified the candidate or campaign committee, the jurisdiction may remove the sign. The jurisdiction shall contact the candidate or campaign committee contact and shall retain the sign for at least ten business days to allow the candidate or campaign committee to retrieve the sign without penalty.

E. A city, town or county employee acting within the scope of the employee's employment is not liable for an injury caused by the failure to remove a sign pursuant to subsection D of this section unless the employee intended to cause injury or was grossly negligent.

F. Subsection C of this section does not apply to commercial tourism, commercial resort and hotel sign free zones as those zones are designated by municipalities. The total area of those zones shall not be larger than three square miles, and each zone shall be identified as a specific contiguous area where, by resolution of the municipal governing body, the municipality has determined that based on a predominance of commercial tourism, resort and hotel uses within the zone the placement of political signs within the rights-of-way in the zone will detract from the scenic and aesthetic appeal of the area within the zone and deter its appeal to tourists. Not more than two zones may be identified within a municipality.

G. A city, town or county may prohibit the installation of a sign on any structure owned by the jurisdiction.

H. Subsection C of this section applies only during the period commencing seventy-one 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.

I. This section does not apply to state highways or routes, or overpasses over those state highways or routes.