

Dear Candidates:

As we are receiving daily calls and concerns with regards to political signs, City staff is working hard to provide an equal environment to accommodate "all" candidates in their campaign within the frame work of city policies and codes. At the same time we are trying to preserve the quality of life for the community members for their normal every day needs. Accordingly, the following policies with regards to political signs will be observed (This is consistent with what the City does at all times for signs/banners):

### **1. SIGNAGE WITHIN PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY:**

Candidates can have signs no taller than three feet (much like real estate signs) within parkways. These signs can not be in front of public places such as parks, libraries etc. ... as well as they can not be in street medians. The signs can be placed after 6 a.m. on Friday, and should be removed by 6 p.m. on Sunday.

No signs on light poles and power poles etc., are allowed. A City vendor (not city staff) will remove illegal signs as appropriate.

### **2. SIGNAGE WITHIN PRIVATE PROPERTIES:**

All political signs and banners will follow the general city sign ordinances:

#### I-Signs:

With permission from the private property owners, candidates can place signs no taller than 3' on buildings, fences or in ground. No signs can be allowed on light poles/power poles.

#### II-Banners:

With permission from the property owner, banners of up to 75 square feet, are allowed to be placed flat on side of the buildings. Banners are also allowed to be placed over existing free standing ground signs. Banners are not allowed on fences/block walls, or stick in ground banners.

In the case of signs or banners within private properties, City staff will not go out to specifically look for violations as we have many other things to attend to, and will take action only when we receive complaints, or if we happen to see violation(s) in the course of our every day field work. Staff action in case of a violation(s) will be as follows:

City staff is not allowed to enter private properties to remove any signs. However, staff will notify the respective candidate(s) of the violation(s), and will make telephone contact to request the candidate(s) to remove the sign(s).

If not removed within 7 days, a letter will be sent to the property owner and require that the property owner remove the sign(s) within 7 days. After 7 days of this letter, if the sign(s) has still not been removed, a citation will be issued to the private property owner for the violation(s). The private property owner will have 30 days to respond/request a hearing regarding this citation. The amount of citation is \$150 per sign/banners for the first violation and increases to \$300, and \$500 for the second and third violations respectively of the same sign/banner.

Please remember, this is not perfect, but is staff's effort to maintain a reasonable situation and protect the community from blight.

Please call me at (714) 754-5182 if I can assist in clarifying any issues.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping Costa Mesa beautiful.

PETER NAGHAVI, Deputy CEO  
Director of Economic and Development Services  
City of Costa Mesa