



GUILFORD COUNTY
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

TO: Guilford County Political Candidates
FROM: Guilford County Planning and Development
DATE: July 14, 2011
SUBJECT: Temporary Political Campaign Sign Safety

These signs are typically those which are placed or affixed on private properties adjacent to County streets for high visibility purposes. According to the Guilford County Development Ordinance, this type of temporary political campaign sign is a sign that does not require a permit. They are, however, required to conform to specifications of Table 6-1-1 (Specifications for Signs Not Requiring a Permit) as listed below:

1. These signs are permitted in all zoning districts.
2. Refer to Table 6-1- for limitations as to number of signs permitted per lot.
3. These signs must be located outside public right-of-way and outside any sight distance easement**
4. Maximum sign size is six (6) square feet except that one 32 s.f. sign per lot frontage may be erected.
5. Maximum sign height is six (6) feet except that a permitted 32 s.f. sign be may be eight (8) feet tall.
6. Illumination is not permitted.
7. Signs placed on private property must be removed within seven (7) days after the election date.

The Guilford County Development Ordinance does permit a second type of temporary sign used for political campaigning purposes. These larger freestanding or wall mounted signs shall conform to Tables 6-1-2 and 6-1-3 of the County Development Ordinance which describes height, size, setback, and electrical permit requirements. These signs also are required to be removed within seven (7) days following the election date.

Signs provide us with a good tool to get our message to the population of Guilford County. Since placement and other possible orientation factors can create a visual impairment, that could have devastating results, it is recommended that every attempt be made to ensure proper placement of campaign signs.

Should you have any questions or need help to determine right of-way setbacks, please call the Guilford County Planning and Development Office at 336-641-3334.

**General Right-of Way of public streets can be determined by measuring from pavement centerline. Local Street normally 30', higher level thoroughfare range between 50' and 100'

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GUILFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

TABLE 6-1-1

Specifications for Signs Not Requiring a Permit

Type	Number Permitted	Area (sq. ft.)	Setback (ft.)	Height (ft.)	Illumination ^b
Directional Signs (All Districts)	NA	4	R/W ^a	6	indirect
Instructional and Warning Signs (All Districts)	NA	6	NA	8	direct
Window Signs (Non-residential Districts)	maximum 25% of window area	NA	NA	NA	direct
Historical, Memorial Markers (All Districts)	1 per lot	4	R/W ^a	6	indirect
Flags, Emblems, Insignia (All Districts)	1 per lot frontage	60	R/W ^a	40	indirect
Temporary Real Estate, Yard Sale and Construction Signs (All Districts)	1 per lot frontage	6	R/W ^a	6	none
Temporary Real Estate Signs (RM and Non-residential Districts and Major Subdivisions in RS Districts)	1 per lot frontage	100	R/W ^a	12	none
Off-site directional real-estate lead-in sign	N/A	6	R/W ^a	3.5	none
Temporary Political Signs (All Districts) ^d	1 per lot frontage	32	R/W ^a	8	none
Temporary Political Signs (All Districts)	NA	6	R/W ^a	6	none
Identification Signs	1 per building	4 per unit	R/W ^a	6	indirect
Vending Machine Signs	NA	18	NA	6	direct

Information Boards (All Districts)	1 per building	50	15	8	indirect
Philosophical, Religious, Personal, Educational, or Other Noncommercial Signs (All Districts)	1 per lot frontage ^c	6	R/W ^a	6	direct
Philosophical, Religious, Personal, Educational, or Other Noncommercial Signs (RM and Non-Residential Districts and Major Subdivisions in RS Districts)	1 per lot frontage ^c	100	R/W ^a	12	direct

Footnotes:

a Signs must be located outside public street right of way and outside any sight distance area.

b Electrical permit required if sign is illuminated.

c 1 per 200 linear feet of lot frontage or portion thereof.

d Permitted from the start of an election cycle until seven days following the election.

(Case No. 2-10, 11-18-10; Case No. 3-10, 11-18-10)