

Political Signage

Updated 8/17/18

Jackson Land Development Regulations:

5.6.1. Town Sign Standards (1/1/15, Ord. 1074)

B. Applicability

4. Exempt Signs. The following signs shall be exempt from the provisions of this Section, provided that they satisfy the requirements set forth below.

a. Traffic Signs. All signs erected in a public right-of-way by a public agency or on a private road right-of-way for controlling or directing traffic.

b. Political Signs. Political signs pertaining to a specific election, which are displayed not earlier than 30 days prior to the primary election and are then removed by the candidate or property owner who placed the sign within 5 days after the general election; if there is no primary election, the sign shall be erected not earlier than 30 days prior to the general election, and the sign shall be removed 5 days after the general election. All signs shall be located on private property and shall not impede the public right-of-way.

LDR Section 5.6.1.B.4. exempts the following signs from the provisions of this section, provided that they satisfy the requirements set forth below.

b. Political signs. Political signs pertaining to a specific election, which are displayed not earlier than 30 days prior to the primary election and are then removed by the candidate or property owner who placed the sign within five (5) days after the general election; if there is no primary election, the sign shall be erected not earlier than 30 days prior to the general election, and the sign shall be removed five (5) days after the general election. All signs shall be located on private property and shall not impede the public right-of-way.

Teton County Land Development Regulations:

5.6.2. County Sign Standards (1/1/17)

B. Applicability

3. Exempted Signs. The following signs are not regulated by this Section and do not require a Sign Permit:
 - b. Political Signs.

WYDOT

WYDOT WARNS AGAINST SIGNS IN RIGHT-OF-WAY

Date: 07/02/2014

The Wyoming Department of Transportation would like to remind political candidates, real estate representatives and residents advertising garage sales that posting signage along roadways is illegal within the right-of-way of interstate and rural highways.

However, campaign signs can be placed within WYDOT's right-of-way only in incorporated cities and towns where permitted. Wyoming Statute 22-25-115 states that campaign advertising may only be placed in the state's right-of-way within a municipality, and then only if the municipality has passed an ordinance allowing such placement.

Wyoming Statute 24-10-104 states that outdoor advertising must also meet certain conditions for placement. One of those conditions refers to the placement of signs advertising the sale or lease of the property upon which they are located. However any signage, such as garage sales or advertising, is illegal within the WYDOT right-of-way. Fines and even jail time can be inflicted on those who don't comply with the law.

Otherwise, signage is prohibited from the right of way on the interstate and on rural highways. Likewise, it's illegal to put political or advertising signs on state property.

According to WYDOT, the purpose of sign restrictions is to keep the road ways clear so that drivers are not distracted and have a clear line of sight.

Since the department views signs on the state's right of way as a safety hazard, they will remove the signs immediately without notifying the candidate, agent, resident or political campaign. Those whose signs have been removed can retrieve them by calling the Department of Transportation district maintenance offices at 352-3000 to schedule a time to pick them up.

If the campaign doesn't contact the department within a week, WYDOT crews will dispose of the signs.

"Our concern is always for the safety of the traveling public," District 3 Engineer John Eddins said.

Wyoming State Statutes

22-25-110. Campaign advertising in communications media.

(a) It is unlawful for a candidate, political action committee, organization, including organizations making expenditures pursuant to W.S. 22-25-102(k), candidate's campaign committee, or any political party central committee to pay for campaign literature or campaign advertising in any communication medium without printing or announcing the candidate, organization or committee sponsoring the campaign advertising or campaign literature. The communications media in using the campaign advertising shall print or announce the name of the candidate, organization or committee paying for the advertising.

(b) For purposes of this section, "campaign literature" does not include small campaign items such as tickets, bumper stickers, pens, pencils, buttons, rulers, nail files, balloons and yard signs displaying the name of the candidate or office sought.

22-25-115. Written campaign advertising; prohibiting placement on public property; exception.

Except as provided herein, written campaign advertising shall not be placed on or attached to any real or personal property of the state or its political subdivisions. This prohibition shall not apply to fairgrounds of the Wyoming state fair or of any county fair organized under the laws of this state. The University of Wyoming, any community college and school district may permit such advertising subject to regulation by their governing board as to time, place and manner. Any rules and regulations adopted shall provide for equal access to opposing political views. Subject to the approval of the landowner and any rules and regulations adopted by a municipality, campaign materials may be placed on municipal street rights-of-way. The department of transportation shall allow campaign materials to be placed on a state right-of-way within a municipality to the same extent which the municipality allows campaign materials to be placed on municipal street rights-of-way. Nothing in this section shall apply to any interstate highway.

22-26-113. Electioneering too close to a polling place.

(a) Electioneering too close to a polling place or absentee polling place under W.S. 22-9-125 when voting is being conducted, consists of any form of campaigning, including the display of campaign signs or distribution of campaign literature, the soliciting of signatures to any petition or the canvassing or polling of voters, except exit polling by news media, within one hundred (100) yards on the day of a primary, general or special election and within one hundred (100) feet on all other days, of any public entrance to the building in which the polling place is located. This section shall not apply to bumper stickers affixed to a vehicle while parked within or passing through the distance specified in this subsection, provided that:

- (i) There is only one (1) bumper sticker per candidate affixed to the vehicle;
- (ii) Bumper stickers are no larger than four (4) inches high by sixteen (16) inches long; and
- (iii) The vehicle is parked within the distance specified in this subsection only during the time the elector is voting.

Town of Jackson and Teton County Interpretation of 22-25-115: During fair time (and only during fair time) candidates may place signs in designated areas. They may also purchase large banner ads around the rodeo grounds to be seen during events. Otherwise, signage is not permitted on the fairgrounds.