

## WHAT A CANDIDATE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT POLITICAL SIGNS IN SANGER

A candidate running for office is faced with many issues, including meeting requirements for proper posting of political signs.

In Sanger, the candidate or campaign committee identified on a political sign, or an agent of the candidate or campaign committee, or any other person engaged in installing the political sign is held responsible for the placement of the sign, the proper maintenance of the sign, and the timely and proper removal of the sign. All such persons are expected to comply with applicable law to ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians, and to respect the wishes of the owners of the lands where the political signs are posted. Generally, the relevant law is found at City Code Section 90-891(Chapter 90 – Sanger City Code, effective March 4, 2012) in accordance with California Business and Professions Code Section 5405.3.

### HERE ARE THE PRINCIPAL FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN POSTING POLITICAL SIGNS IN SANGER:

Sign placement. In Sanger, placement of political signs must comply with the following:

- **Private property.** Placement of a political sign on private property requires the permission of the property owner. The owner or the owner's authorized agent may remove the political sign placed on the owner's private property. The City does not restrict the placement of a political signs on private property so long as the sign is not in an unsafe location (see below).
- **Public property.** Placement of any private sign, including a political sign, is prohibited within the public right-of-way (including any utility structure within the public right-of-way) and upon any other City-owned property or structure.
- **Unsafe locations.** In all cases, a political sign is prohibited from being placed in an "unsafe location", i.e., a location, private or public, which is hazardous to public safety, obstructs clear vision in the area or interferes with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A sign located in a public roadway median; in, on or over a public sidewalk; or in, on or over a handicap curb ramp is generally considered to create an unsafe or hazardous condition. However, unsafe locations are not limited solely to the above.

A sign placed so as to violate the City's public right-of-way may be considered to be in an unsafe location. The following attached file entitled "Street Patterns for the City of Sanger" should be used as a guide identifying public right-of-way. This document is composed of five columns. The last column on the right, noted as "S.W.", indicates the width of the public right-of-way measured in feet outwards from the street. For example, the first row is Acacia Street from Canal to O Street. Its public right-of-way is 10 feet measured out from the street. (If there are two numbers separated by a slash mark, use the larger of the two; if there is no number, than the width of the public right-of-way is zero.)

Sign removal. A political sign is subject to relocation or removal by the City as follows:

- ***Private property.*** Any sign, including any political sign, located within an unsafe location is subject to removal by the City. However, the City generally seeks the cooperation of the owner of the private property before doing so.
- ***Public property – not right-of-way.*** The City will remove private signs, including political signs, placed on City-owned property or structures.
- ***Public property – right-of-way.*** The City will remove private signs, including political signs, placed on public right-of-way.

Removal by the City will occur upon at least 24 hours' notice to the candidate or the campaign committee contact, except that, in an emergency, the City will immediately remove the sign and provide notice of the action within 24 hours. The City will retain the sign for at least 10 business days so the candidate or campaign committee may retrieve the sign.

If you have any questions regarding the posting of political signs, please contact **Code Enforcement** at (559) 876-6300 ext. 4001.