



Reminders for Political Campaigning

As we enter an active political campaign period, we would like to remind everyone of the guidelines concerning campaigning activities within Ellensburg City limits to ensure compliance with City codes.

Campaigning Inside City Facilities:

- Campaigning or distributing campaign materials inside City facilities is not permitted. Meetings, rallies, or any campaign-related activities are not permitted inside City facilities.
- If you attend a City meeting and provide public comment, do not identify yourself as a candidate for public office.

Campaigning Outside City Facilities:

- You may campaign outside of City facilities (on public property), provided it aligns with applicable state laws and City codes (such as RCW 42.17A.555) and does not impede access or operations.
- Some events may require a Special Events Permit. Learn more: www.ellensburgwa.gov/specialeventpermit

Political Signs:

- Political signs are not allowed on City property, including parks, Downtown nodes, and planter boxes, and are only allowed to be displayed on private property. Please contact the City Attorney if you have a question about a campaign sign placement.
- City staff will make a reasonable attempt to alert campaigns if political signs are placed on City property and, when possible, provide an opportunity for the campaign to remove the sign. However, the City retains the right to remove and dispose of political signs placed on City property.
- Political signs are prohibited in most portions of the right-of-way, including medians, traffic circles, the roadway itself, sidewalks, and other areas that would cause safety concerns.

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Political Signs Continued:

- Political signs may be placed in the areas between the street and sidewalk (also referred to as the “parking strip” or “planting strip”) if the underlying property is private property and the property owner consents to placement of the sign. *Please note:* the City itself owns multiple “parking strips” or “planting strips” outright as deeded property, and political signs are prohibited on these right-of-way strips. Additionally, political signs are prohibited in parking strips adjacent to public property.
- Political signs on private property must conform to the sign area requirements for the zoning district and for the type of signs used. Such signs shall be displayed on private property only with the consent of the property owners, and shall be removed within seven days after the election, except that a candidate who wins a primary election and advances to a general election may continue to display such signs until seven days after the general election. The campaign manager or candidate for office is responsible for removing political signs within the allowed timeline. Please contact the Community Development Department for specific sign area and sign type requirements, at (509) 962-7231. Read more at chapter 3.12.340 of the Ellensburg City Code.
- Political banners, sidewalk flags, or other political decorative material are prohibited over or on specific streets, streetlights or other poles, and sidewalk locations in the City’s public rights-of way, and are subject to regulation under state law and Ellensburg Ordinance No 4947 and chapter 3.44 of the Ellensburg City Code.

Use of City Resources:

- Using City resources, funds, or devices in support of campaign activities is strictly prohibited. This includes using City email accounts or other City-managed communication channels for campaign purposes.
- Do not campaign on the City’s social media channels. Per the City of Ellensburg Social Media Policy 3.b.xii: “Comments in support or opposition to political campaigns or ballot measures” shall not be permitted and are subject to removal and/or restriction by the City’s Public Information Officer or designee.

Maintaining these protocols ensures a respectful and impartial environment during the electoral process. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact City Attorney Christopher Horner at hornerc@ellensburgwa.gov or (509) 962-7241. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.