

Local Rules for Political Signs

The City of Carlsbad allows political and other noncommercial signs under various conditions, depending on whether the sign is on private property or in a traditional public forum area, such as a public park or outside City Hall. Signs may not be placed along streets in the "public right-of-way," on public property, or on any public building or publicly owned facility. Please review Carlsbad Municipal Code Chapter 11.44 (Private Party Signs on City Property) and Chapter 21.41 (Sign Ordinance) for full details.

Private property

CMC Section 21.41.040

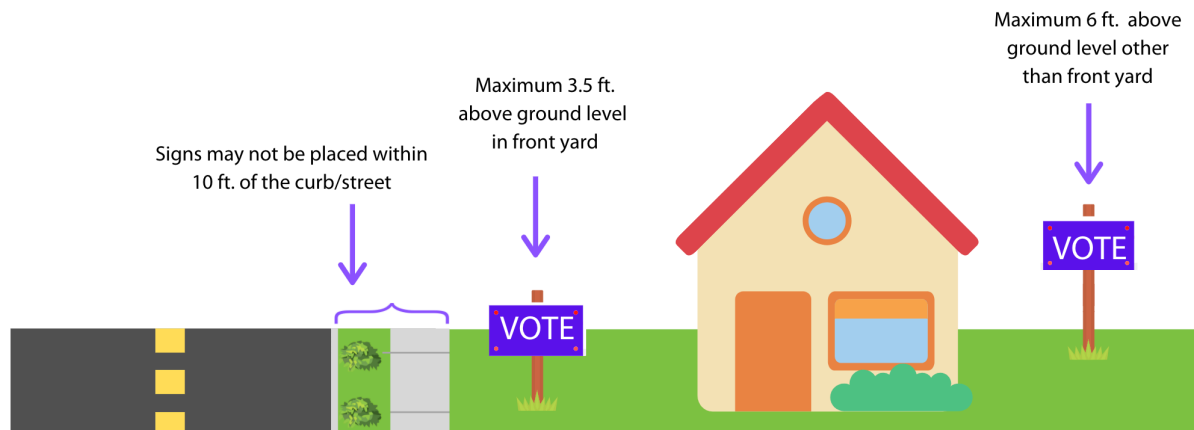
You may put political signs or any other noncommercial* signs on residential and non-residential property year-round with the permission of the property owner. The maximum allowable size increases during campaign periods.

	Year-round <i>Except campaign periods</i>	During a campaign period <i>30 days prior and 5 days following an election</i>
Permit required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. Need property owner permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same
Type and max size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 sq. ft. total signage per residential unit or nonresidential establishment Wall, freestanding or window sign** Sign may not be illuminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 sq. ft. total signage per residential unit or nonresidential establishment The additional 2 sq. ft. must be a freestanding sign
Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 feet in from the curb*** Signs may not be placed on streets in the "public right-of way," on public property or on any public building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same
Height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Front yard - not more than 3.5 ft. above ground level measured to the top of the sign Elsewhere - not more than 6 ft. above ground level measured to the top of the sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same

*See CMC Section 21.41.020(A)(53) for definition of "noncommercial message"

**Flags are also permitted on residential and nonresidential property, see CMC Section 21.41.040 Table A for rules *

*** Signs may not be in the public right-of-way on streets (usually about 10 feet from curb or street edge)



Traditional public forum areas

CMC Section 11.44.030

Political or other noncommercial signs may be displayed at any time of year in areas considered traditional public forums, as long as a person is holding the signs or within 5 feet of the signs, among other rules. Traditional public forum areas include locations such as public parks, city streets, public sidewalks and the exterior areas around City Hall. Signs may not be placed along streets in the "public right-of-way," on public property, or on any public building or publicly owned facility.

Permit required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunrise to sunset*
Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each sign must be personally held or a person must be physically within 5 ft. of the sign at all times• No inflatable signs
Max size	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 sq. ft. total for all signs held by a single person• Max size of any one sign personally attended by two or more persons is 50 sq. ft.
Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traditional public forums, such as public parks, city streets, public sidewalks and exterior areas around City Hall• People displaying signs may not stand in any vehicular traffic lane that is in use• People displaying signs on public sidewalks must give 5 ft. clearance for pedestrians
Height	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not regulated

**Some exceptions apply, see CMC Sections 11.44.030(B) and 11.44.030(G)*



Common Sign Sizes

The city's sign rules specify the total square footage of signs allowed and in some cases the maximum allowable size of a single sign. Below are the square footage calculations for common sign sizes.

