

POLITICAL SIGNS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Candidates Outreach

July 22, 2020



BACKGROUND

- A political sign is a type of noncommercial sign.
- In Tustin, noncommercial signs such as political signs may be placed on private property and within public parkway areas of the public right of way.
- Tustin is one of seven Orange County cities that allows non-commercial signs in the public parkway.

	Political Signs on Private Property	Political Signs in the Public Right of Way
Size	32 square feet	4 square feet
Height	10 feet high	4 feet high
Location	Sign must be outside visual clearance area (25' from intersection, 10' from driveway at property line)	Max of 1 of a certain sign abutting a property <u>and</u> the sign must be 25-300 feet from an intersection and outside visual clearance area
Duration	No limit	45 days per calendar quarter and removed 5 days after event
Copy	Sign content virtually unregulated	Sign content virtually unregulated
Maximum Number Citywide	No Citywide maximum	No Citywide maximum

POLITICAL SIGNS INFORMATION

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- The City provides sign information to all City Council candidates.
- The information is for signs placed on private property and in the public parkway.
- For the 2020 election, signs posted through election day may be posted in allowable areas of the public parkway **from August 16 to November 8.**
 - Note – August 16th is a correction



REGULATIONS FOR POLITICAL SIGNS

It is expected that candidates for City Council will want to use campaign signs to promote their candidacy. The City of Tustin asks that each candidate keep in mind the best interests of the community through compliance with the following requirements from the Tustin City Code for placing political signs. The City's desire is to maintain an aesthetically pleasing appearance, while providing sufficient opportunity for each of you to make the voters aware of your candidacy.

On April 3, 2018, the Tustin City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1483, which applies uniform standards to temporary off-premises commercial signs and temporary non-commercial signs in the public right-of-way. A Political Sign is a type of non-commercial sign. The information contained in this guide is intended to summarize the regulations and promote consistent and effective implementation of Political Signs during the election season.

The City Council determined that reasonable regulations are needed for the type, placement, and duration of Political Signs. The regulations are intended to protect free expression as guaranteed to individuals by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, while also protecting the welfare of the community as a whole from blight, decline in property values and sign clutter to preserve Tustin as a beautiful community.

SIGN TYPE

A Political Sign is a sign pertaining to a candidate for public office or a ballot issue pending before the electorate at a specific election.

PROHIBITED SIGN LOCATIONS & TYPES

No Political Sign shall be:

- Located within a visual clearance area at an intersection (25' x 25' corner clearance at intersections) or in any street median island.
- Affixed to any traffic signal, utility pole, traffic control device, tree or any other natural or man-made structure (e.g. fences and walls) located within the public parkway.
- Placed on any public property (except parkway/tree wells) including a park, street, median, island or sidewalk.
- Designed to simulate or imitate in size, shape, color, or lettering any traffic sign or signal, or which makes use of the words "Stop", "Look", "Danger", or any other words, phrases, symbols or characters in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic.
- Designed to include anything obscene.
- Designed to include any moving, illuminated, swinging, rotating, flashing, blinking, fluctuating or otherwise animated lights.

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LOCATION, SIZE, AND DURATION

A Political Sign may be located on private property or within the public right-of-way in accordance with the following standards:

	Private Property	Public Right-of-Way (Parkways and tree wells, but not on sidewalks)
Sign Area:	32 square feet max.	4 square feet max.
Sign Height:	10 feet max.	4 feet max.
Duration:	No limit	45 days max. per calendar quarter (see below for specific dates)
Notes:	Written permission of the property owner is required. No person shall affix a temporary non-commercial sign on any traffic signal, utility pole, traffic control device, or tree. The name, address and telephone number of the responsible party for posting the temporary non-commercial sign shall be included on the sign.	Maximum of one sign per sponsoring individual or organization is allowed to abut any one property. Signs may only be placed 25-300 feet from a street intersection (see exhibit). Cannot impede vehicles, parking adjacent to curb, pedestrian walkways or hinder disabled access. No person shall affix a temporary non-commercial sign on any traffic signal, utility pole, traffic control device, or tree. The date that the sign was posted and the name, address and telephone number of the responsible party for posting the temporary non-commercial sign shall be included on the back of the sign.

DURATION FOR POLITICAL SIGNS IN THE PUBLIC PARKWAYS AND TREE WELLS

Political Signs in public parkways and tree wells may be installed in accordance with these regulations for a maximum of 45 days per calendar quarter and shall be removed no later than 5 days after the election.

Earliest Date to Install Signs Posted Through Election Day – **August 16, 2020**

Election Day – **November 3, 2020**

Last Date to Remove Signs (5 days after the election) – **November 8, 2020**

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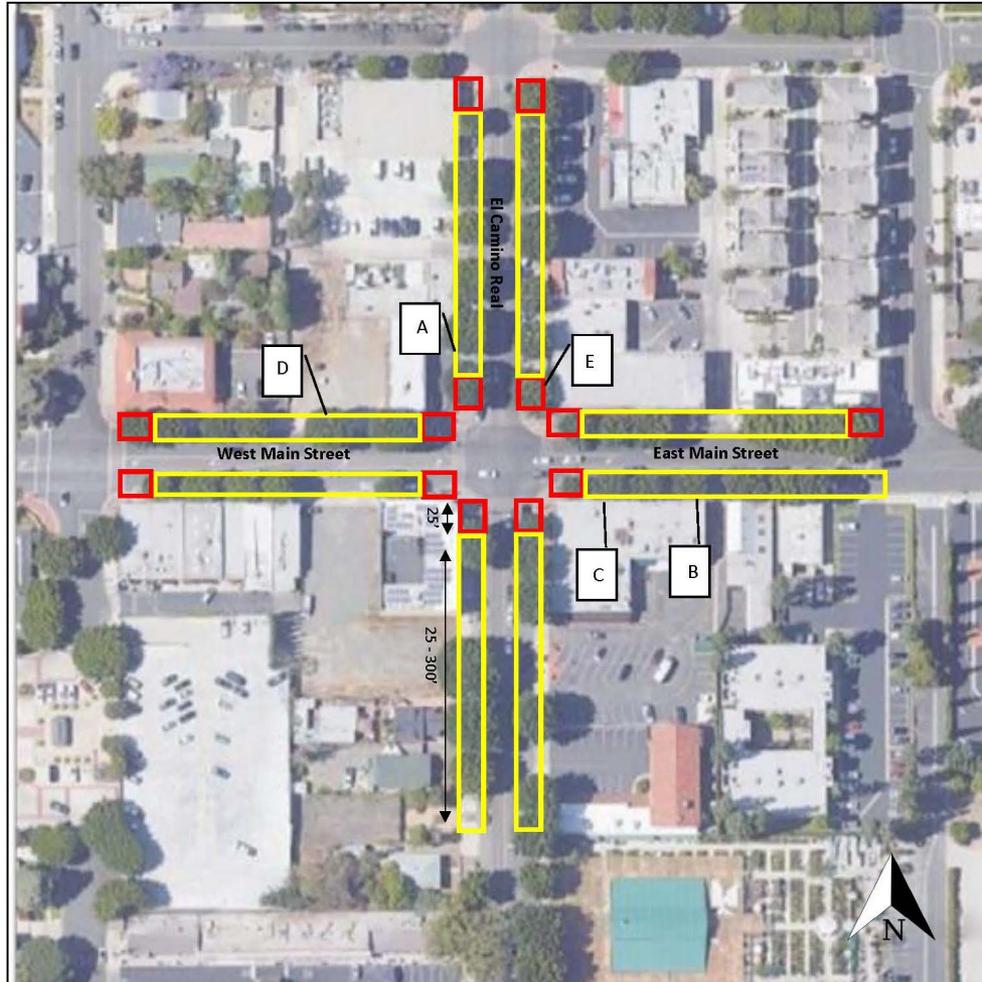
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OLD TOWN EXHIBITS

- Three exhibits use the Main Street and El Camino Real intersection as an illustrative example of the City's requirements for political signs placed in the public right-of-way.
 1. Overview showing general zones where political signs may be placed.
 2. Detail of the intersection showing locations where signs are allowed and not allowed.
 3. Photographs of some example locations.

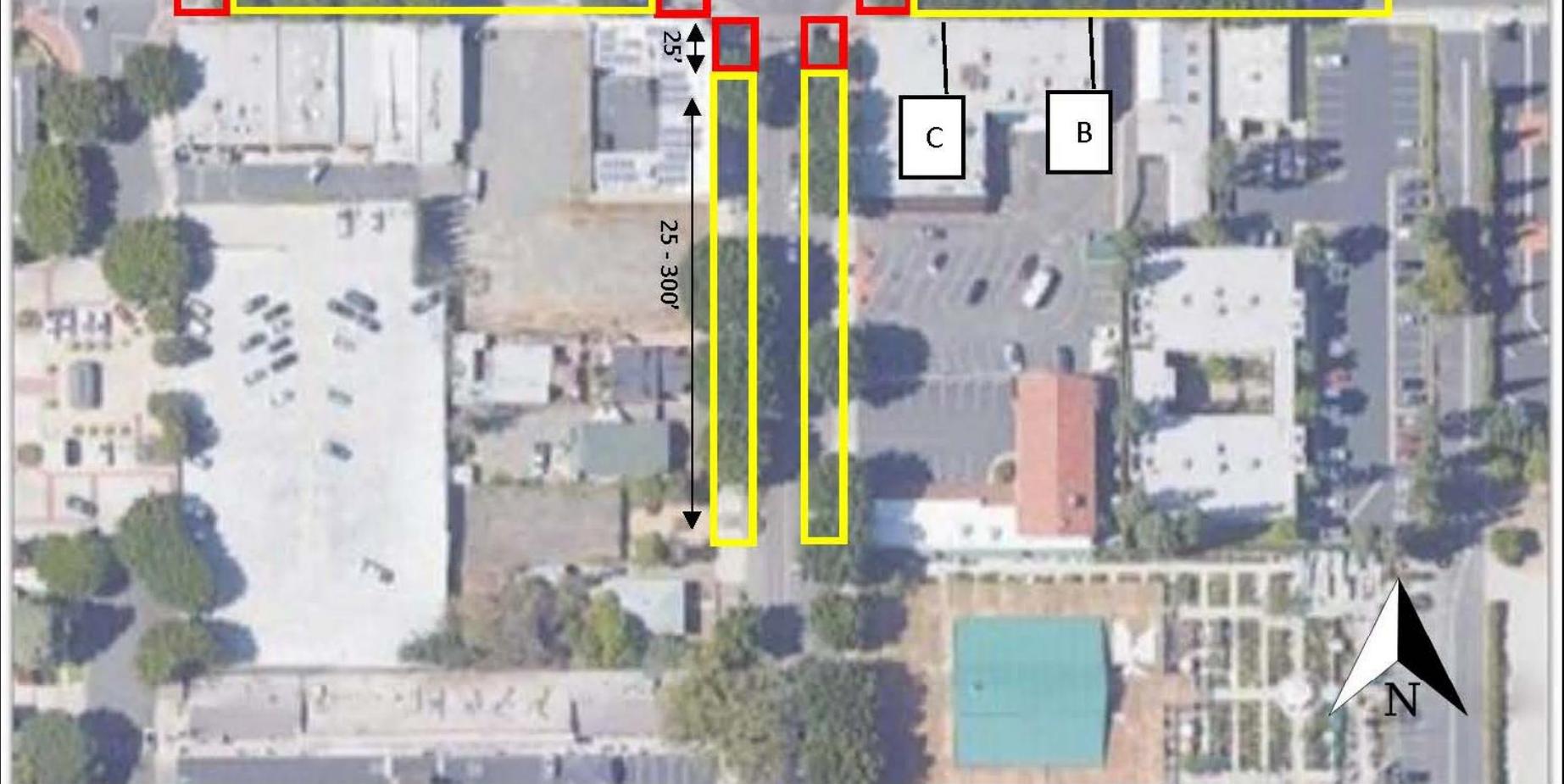
**Non-Commercial Signs in the Public Right-of-Way:
Acceptable and Unacceptable Locations in the Old Town Commercial Core**



Legend:

- 25' from Intersection Not Allowed
- Acceptable Signs on Parkway between 25' and 300' from Intersection (Except within 10' from Driveway) *
- A \ See Example Photographs on Page 3

*Distance is measured from property line rather than curb

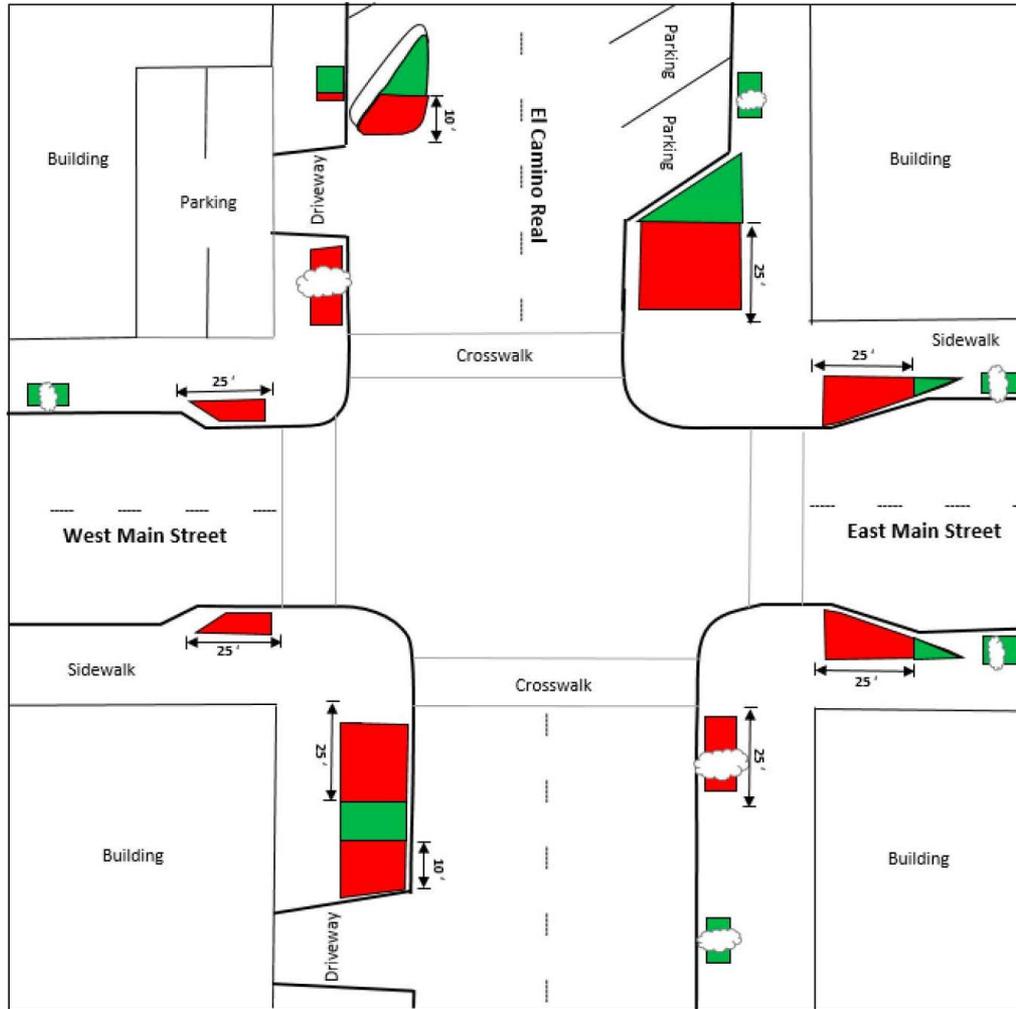


Legend:

-  25' from Intersection Not Allowed
-  Acceptable Signs on Parkway between 25' and 300' from Intersection (Except within 10' from Driveway)
-  See Example Photographs on Page 3

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**Non-Commercial Signs in the Public Right-of-Way:
Acceptable and Unacceptable Locations in the El Camino Real and Main Street Intersection**



Legend:

- Signs Allowed in Tree Wells & Parkways 25'-300' from Intersection
(Except within 10' from Driveway)
- Signs Not Allowed 10' from Driveway or 25' from Intersection



Examples of Acceptable & Unacceptable Locations

Example A



Example B



Example C



Example D



Example E



Legend:

-  Example of 10' from Driveway or 25' from Intersection Not Allowed *
-  Example of Acceptable Locations for Signs between 25' and 300' from Intersection *

* Distance is measured from property line rather than curb

Summary/Recommended Next Steps

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- Before you place any of your signs, pre-insert the name, address and phone number of the responsible person to the back of all the signs.
 - Don't insert the date of posting of each sign until that sign is actually posted.
 - That information must be included in an area of 10 square inches on the back of each sign.
 - The responsible person is the person the City will notify in the event of a violation of the sign code.
 - If the person can't be located in a reasonable time, the sign is deemed abandoned.
 - And if the information is missing, the sign will be in violation of the sign ordinance.

Summary/Recommended Next Steps

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- If you don't plan to take down your signs before election day, post them *on or after August 16th*
- Make sure *anyone* posting your signs is aware of the City's sign rules, and have them watch this presentation online.
 - ▣ This will save you and City staff a lot of time dealing with violations.

Questions?

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