

## City of Los Banos Municipal Code Sections Referring to Political Signs

### **Sec. 9-3.2822 Exempt signs.**

The following signs shall be exempt from the sign review permit requirements of this article but shall be limited by Section 9-3.2823 and other requirements of this article:

(a) Addresses. Street numbers and/or names not exceeding two (2) square feet per sign for single-family or duplex structures and four (4) square feet per sign for all other uses. One sign per street frontage shall be allowed. The provisions of this subsection shall include signs which identify the location of the office of the manager of property;

(b) Bulletin boards. Bulletin boards not over twenty-four (24) square feet in area for public, charitable, or religious institutions where the bulletin boards are located on the premises of such institutions;

(c) Commemorative plaques. Memorial signs and tablets approved under site plan review. Building names and/or erection dates when cut into a permanent surface or constructed on noncombustible materials, or religious symbols and similar emblems when submitted with the design of the building and approved pursuant to the provisions of this chapter;

(d) Community activity signs (temporary). Signs associated with religious, charitable, cultural, civic, or educational organizations which signs do not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in size. Such signs shall be temporary and non-illuminated, located on private property only, and shall not create a site visibility hazard;

(e) Construction announcement signs. Signs placed on real property on which construction is to take place which signs contain information regarding the individuals and firms directly connected with the construction project, including the name of the contractor, the subcontractors, the real estate licensee, and future tenants. Signs for sites less than two (2) acres shall be limited to a maximum size of thirty-two (32) square feet. Signs for sites of (2) acres or greater shall not exceed ninety-six (96) square feet. Such signs shall not be displayed more than six (6) months prior to the construction of the project. Time extensions may be granted by the Planning Director. Construction announcement signs shall be removed within thirty (30) days after the issuance of the certificate of occupancy for a majority of the development;

(f) Credit cards accepted: Trading stamps given: Association membership. Signs displaying credit cards accepted, trading stamps given, or association membership when not exceeding one-half ( 1/2) square foot per window sign and one and one-half (1 1/2) square feet per hanging sign and a total of four (4) in number;

(g) Directional signs. Signs bearing no advertising message and located on the site may be erected when necessary to facilitate circulation within the site and facilitate egress and ingress. Such signs shall not be counted against the site's allowed sign area. The size, number, and placement of informational signs may be limited by the Planning Director;

(h) Informational signs for the safety and convenience of the public. Signs such as "rest rooms", "telephone", "danger", "impaired clearance", "no smoking", and other signs of a similar nature ("parking in rear", "drive-in window", parking, and facility signs) may be allowed up to five (5) square feet in area pursuant to this subsection;

(i) Interior signs. Signs located in the interior of any building or within an enclosed lobby or court of any building or group of buildings, and which are not visible from any public right-of-way, shall not be subject to the size and location criteria of this article. However, permits shall be required for signs which require electrical connections or engineered supports;

(j) Nonprofit, cultural, and promotion posters. Temporary display posters in connection with nonprofit civic and cultural events and with noncommercial health, welfare, and safety campaigns (such as Red Cross, United Crusade, TB Seals, Heart Fund, performing arts, and the like). Such posters shall be removed within fourteen (14) days after the termination of the event;

(k) Official signs. Official signs posted pursuant to and in the discharge of any governmental function by public officials in the performance of their duties (including traffic and street name signs, as well as notices, emblems, or other forms of identification and signs required by law);

(l) Political signs. Signs associated with a candidate for elected office, political party, ballot measure, or which make a political statement, not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in area per candidate or issue per site, subject to the following:

(1) Any such sign shall be erected not earlier than the closing date of the filing candidacy and shall be removed within fourteen (14) days after such election. However, those candidates who continue as such after the primary election may continue to display their signs until fourteen (14) days after the next general election.

- (2) No political or campaign sign shall be attached to trees, fence posts, or utility poles, except on private property where signs may be attached to trees and fence posts with the permission of the property owner.
- (3) No political or campaign sign shall be attached and erected on public property or within the public right-of-way.
- (4) Political or campaign signs placed upon private property shall not be erected in a manner which, in whole or in part, would create a hazardous condition to pedestrian or traffic alike, either by obstructing the free use of exits, buildings, or sites, or by creating visual distractions, whether by color, glare, or representing a traffic control device.
- (5) In cases where political or campaign signs are not removed within the specific time period, the City shall cause to be removed those signs which remain, and the cost and expense of such activity shall be paid by the candidate;
- (m) Public signs. Traffic and other municipal signs, legal notices, railroad crossing signs, public utility signs, and civic, community, or non-advertising signs as may be approved by the Council;
- (n) Real estate signs. Real estate signs, subject to the following:
- (1) For sale or lease on-site or structure signs not exceeding six (6) square feet for single-family or duplex, sixteen (16) square feet for multiple-family, business, and industrial sites of two (2) acres or less in area, thirty-two (32) square feet for multiple-family, business, and industrial sites of two (2) acres or larger, and one in number per street frontage. Real estate signs shall be limited to a continuous display of one year;
- (2) Open house, on-site or structure signs not exceeding six (6) square feet in area per sign and one in number per site or structure during the time of an open house; and
- (3) Open house, off-site ground-mounted signs not exceeding six (6) square feet per sign and one in number in the neighborhood of sales during the time of an open house; not to be located in any center median of a public road or in a sidewalk right-of-way; and directional arrows with addresses, not exceeding two (2) in number in the neighborhood of sales;
- (o) Replacing sign copy. The removing and replacing of only sign copy without increasing or decreasing the area in conforming signs. The sign container, including the structural and electrical connections, shall remain unchanged. Any change to the sign container shall be reviewed and approved;
- (p) Residential nameplates. Residential nameplates not exceeding two (2) square feet in area and one in number and displaying only the name of the premises upon which it is displayed; the name of the owner or lessee of such premises; and the address of such premises;
- (q) Seasonal decorations. Holiday greetings, decorations, and displays, such as those which relate to Christmas, Thanksgiving, the Fourth the July, and the like, excluding advertising signs disguised as seasonal decorations;
- (r) Signs required by law. Signs displayed by private individuals when required by law or the regulations of any governmental agency or law; and
- (s) Window signs. Temporary window signs (non-internally illuminated) announcing special sales, a change in management, individual product and/or price signs, or similar information and designed to be viewed from adjacent streets, sidewalks, public rights-of-way, or parking lots within a business center. This subsection is not intended to allow additional permanent signs.

### **Sec. 9-3.2823 Prohibited signs.**

In addition to any sign not specifically in accordance with this article, the following signs shall be prohibited:

- (a) Signs having one or a combination of the following characteristics:
- (1) Obscene or offensive to morals. Containing statements, words, or pictures of an obscene, indecent, or immoral character which, taken as a whole, appeal to the prurient interest in sex, and which signs are patently offensive and, when taken as a whole, do not have serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value;
- (2) Imitative of official signs. Signs (other than when used for traffic direction) which contain or are an imitation of an official traffic sign or signal, or contain the words stop, go, slow, caution, danger, warning, or similar words, or signs which imitate or may be construed as other public notices, such as zoning violations, building permits, business licenses, and the like;
- (3) Fluorescent colors. Permanent signs containing fluorescent colors as all or part of their copy;
- (4) Privilege signs. Signs containing the manufacturer's name and/or emblem which exceeds one-fourth ( 1/4) of the face of the sign;
- (5) Natural despoliation. Signs which are cut, burnt, limed, painted, or otherwise marked on a field, tree, rock, or other natural item; and

- (6) Portable changeable copy signs. Signs designed to have changeable copy as a part or all of their copy and which are portable and not an integral part of a permanent sign;
- (b) Moving signs having one or a combination of the following characteristics:
- (1) Flashing of lights, changing of color intensity, except seasonal decorations permitted by subsection (q) of Section 9-3.2822 of this article;
  - (2) Animation (such as by mechanical movement of parts of the sign, projections on or within the sign, or changes on the shape or content of the sign face), except that this subsection shall not exclude "time and temperature" devices approved in accordance with this article. This subsection includes, but is not limited to, flashing, blinking, flickering, and moving textural messages and moving, rotating signs and frames which appear to rotate, except seasonal decorations or barber poles;
  - (3) Windblown devices and signs whose movement is designed to attract attention, such as pennants, flags, balloons, or other inflated objects, or reflective attachments to sign faces, with the exception of those which specifically are permitted (as temporary signs) by subsection (f) of Section 9-3.2838 of this article and subsection (d) of said Section 9-3.2838, or flags which are specifically exempt by subsection (g) of said Section 9-3.2838;
  - (4) Banners, with the exception of those which are specifically permitted by subsection (f) of Section 9-3.2838 of this article and subsection (d) of said Section 9-3.2838; and
  - (5) Where there is any production of smoke, sound, or other substances;
- (c) Signs which are portable, "A" frame and "I" frame signs and reader board signs;
- (d) Obstructive to use or visibility or in hazardous locations. No sign shall be erected in any manner which sign, in whole or in part, would create a hazardous condition to pedestrian or traffic alike, either by obstructing the free use of exits, buildings, or sites, or by creating visual distractions, whether by color, sound, glare, or representing a traffic control device. This is in addition to other provisions of this Code; and
- (e) Signs in one or more of the following locations:
- (1) Roof signs. Roof signs located above the roof ridge line;
  - (2) Signs on vehicles.
    - (i) No vehicle may be used as a platform or substitute for a billboard, freestanding sign, or movable sign, whether parked on private property or the public right-of-way. This subsection is specifically intended to include the use of vehicles as freestanding or off-premises signs,
    - (ii) No vehicle, trailer, camper, boat, or other mobile equipment displaying any sign, advertisement or device for the purpose of advertising that said vehicle, trailer, camper, boat, or other mobile equipment is for sale shall be parked on any private property, except duly licensed sales lots. Exception: The display of one vehicle, trailer, camper, boat, or other mobile equipment for sale on private property of the owner of such vehicle, trailer, camper, boat, or other mobile equipment which property is residentially-zoned and improved with a dwelling, shall be permitted provided any advertising sign is not more than ten (10") inches by twelve (12") inches in size, is placed on or within such vehicle, trailer, camper, boat, or other mobile equipment and such display complies with all other sections of this code;
  - (3) Bus bench signs. Signs located on benches or on other similar structures provided for the use of passengers along the route of a bus shall be prohibited;
  - (4) In storage. Signs may not be located on premises so as to be visible from beyond the property line after removal, prior to erection, or while in storage; and
  - (5) Miscellaneous temporary signs and posters. The tacking, posting, or otherwise affixing of signs of a miscellaneous character, visible from a public way, located on the walls of buildings, barns, and sheds, or on trees, poles, posts, fences, or other structures shall be prohibited, unless specifically permitted by this article.
- (f) Strings of lights not permanently mounted to a rigid background except those exempt by Section 9-3.2822(q).