



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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A Sign Placement Primer

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, October 6, 2009 – With the campaign season heating up, signs are popping up on roadsides across the island. The City’s Municipal Code (Chapter 15.08) regulates the placement of signs to protect public safety and preserve the natural character of the community.

“Signs are placed to attract maximum attention, so it’s not surprising that they appear at main intersections and along key thoroughfares,” said City Code Enforcement Officer Meghan McKnight. “The code helps guide the placement of signs to prevent visual distractions that might present a safety hazard for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.”

Residents should follow these requirements when placing political signs:

- Signs may be posted within the public right-of-way only with the permission of the abutting property owner.
- Signs should not be placed near crosswalks where they may distract drivers from the presence of pedestrians. Signs are not allowed on medians or in roundabouts to prevent impacts on sight lines and traffic safety.
- Signs may not be placed in such a way as to interfere with sight distances or create a vehicular or pedestrian traffic obstruction or hazard.
- Signs may not be placed on utility poles, traffic control lights, trees, shrubs, or any public building or structure.
- Signs may be no more than six feet square in area and no more than five feet above the ground.
- Political signs must be removed within ten days following the relevant election date.

If you are concerned about a sign which you believe presents a threat to public safety, or a sign which has been placed in the public right of way abutting your property without your permission, please contact the City’s Code Enforcement office at 780-3769. The City may remove and dispose of any sign that is a threat to public safety.

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