

Village of Fontana's policy on political campaign signs in the right-of-way

Campaign signs are not allowed on the village's right-of-way

Fontana's regulations prohibit any signs, posts, storage of materials, or other obstructions, including political campaign signs, real estate, open house, garage sale and for rent signs are not allowed on the Village's road right-of-way, public easements, public property or utility poles — with a few exceptions. Traffic management and safety signs and mailboxes are allowed.

The Village may remove any other sign posted in the road right-of-way, or on publicly owned land.

Political campaign signs are allowed on private property

Political campaign signs may be displayed on private property with the expressed consent of the property owner, renter of the property, or their authorized representative. Any such signs must be removed after the election. Signs being placed on property owned by an association must have the consent of the association president. Political signs are not allowed on public property, or that property which is owned by the Village of Fontana.

When placing political signs on private property, the sign must be located outside the right-of-way area, on privately owned land only.

What is the road right-of-way?

The road right-of way includes the paved road and a strip of land, usually on either side of the road, that is reserved for shoulders, drainage ditches, sidewalks, traffic signs, electrical traffic signal control boxes, utility lines and future road expansion. Because the width of the right-of-way varies, the Village of Fontana often receives complaints about campaign signs inadvertently placed on public right-of-way. In some cases, the right-of-way extends only a short distance beyond the paved roadway — perhaps just past the shoulder. In other cases, the right-of-way may extend well into what appears to be someone's front yard.

The right-of-way boundary is an invisible line that may not be possible to identify without detailed legal maps and a formal survey. Property owners may not know the exact right-of-way boundary and may have inadvertently maintained, landscaped or fenced this area.

When in doubt about the location of the right-of-way boundary post the campaign sign on private property well past the point of uncertainty.

Illegally posted signs cost money

Illegally posted signs in the road right-of-way can reduce driver visibility, distract drivers' attention, or force pedestrians and bicyclists into traffic or difficult terrain alongside the road shoulder.

Illegally posted signs also waste taxpayer dollars. Money is spent when village employees spend time investigating sign complaints, removing signs and contacting sign owners.

Size restrictions for political signs

The maximum size restrictions of political signs depend on the zoning district the signs are located in. In residential zoning districts, political signs cannot be more than six square feet in area and cannot exceed six feet in height. In commercial zoning districts, political signs cannot be more than twenty-four square feet in area and cannot exceed six feet in height. It is the responsibility of the sign owner to ensure the proper size requirements are conforming to the district the signs are located in. When in doubt – ask.