

Political Signs Guidelines:

1. Display Period.

Political signs may only be placed during the period commencing sixty (60) days before a primary election and ending fifteen (15) days after the general election; except that for a sign for a candidate in a primary election who does not advance to the general election, the period ends fifteen (15) days after the primary election (A.R.S. 16-1019).

2. Sign Size.

- a. Political signs on property zoned for residential use or in right-of-way adjacent to property zoned for residential use shall not exceed a maximum sign area of sixteen (16) square feet (A.R.S. 16-1019).
- b. Political signs on property zoned for non-residential use or in right-of-way adjacent to property zoned for non-residential use shall not exceed a maximum sign area of thirty-two (32) square feet (A.R.S. 16-1019).
- c. Political signs shall not exceed six (6) feet in height (COGZO Art. 7-9 B.1.c.).

3. Sign Placement.

- a. Political signs may be placed on private property or within the adjacent public right-of-way, provided such placement is done in accordance with the provisions of Arizona State Statutes, Goodyear City Code and City of Goodyear Zoning Ordinance (A.R.S. 16-1019, GCC Chapter 11 & COGZO Art. 7-9 B.1.).
- b. Placement of a political sign on or attachment of a political sign to any sign, traffic signal, street light pole or any other structure or facility within the public right-of-way is strictly prohibited (GCC 11-1-14 & COGZO Art. 7-11 3.).
- c. A political sign may be placed in the public right-of-way, provided placement of such sign:
 - i. does not block visibility to any roadway, driveway or access to property (GCC 11-1-19 & A.R.S. 16-1019);
 - ii. is not placed in any roadway median (COGZO Art. 7-9 B.1.e.);
 - iii. is not placed in a hazardous location (A.R.S. 16-1019);
 - iv. is not in violation with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not block or obstruct a public sidewalk (A.R.S. 16-1019);
 - v. is not closer than five (5) feet from the curb; and,
 - vi. is not closer than seven (7) feet from the edge of the roadway pavement.
- d. Prior to installation on private property, approval shall be obtained from the owner of the property on which a political sign will be placed (COGZO Art. 7-9 B.1.f.);
- e. Prior to installation in the public right-of-way, approval should be obtained from the owner of the property adjacent to the right-of-way on which a political sign will be placed.

****New Legislation Enacted in 2012:**

Signs in Public Rights-of-Way in the City - Political Signs ¹

In addition to the Political Signs Guidelines noted above, State law now prohibits a city, town or county from removing, altering, defacing or covering any political sign if the following conditions are met:

1. The sign is placed in a public right-of-way that is owned or controlled by that jurisdiction.
2. The sign supports or opposes a candidate for public office or it supports or opposes a ballot measure.
3. The sign is not placed in a location that is hazardous to public safety, obstructs clear vision in the area or interferes with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 United States Code sections 12101 through 12213 and 47 United States Code sections 225 and 611).
4. The sign has a maximum area of sixteen square feet, if the sign is located in an area zoned for residential use, or a maximum area of thirty-two square feet if the sign is located in any other area.
5. The sign contains the name and telephone number of the candidate or campaign committee contact person.¹ A.R.S. § 16-1019 (B) - (I).

If the city, town or county deems that the placement of a political sign constitutes an emergency, the city, town or county may immediately relocate the sign. The city, town or county must notify the candidate or campaign committee that placed the sign within twenty-four hours after the relocation. If a sign does not meet the criteria listed above and the placement is not deemed to constitute an emergency, the city, town or county may notify the candidate or campaign committee that placed the sign of the violation. If the sign remains in violation at least twenty-four hours after the notification to the candidate or campaign committee, the city, town or county may remove the sign. The city, town or county shall contact the candidate or campaign committee and shall retain the sign for at least ten business days to allow the candidate or campaign committee to retrieve the sign without penalty. A city, town or county may prohibit the installation of a sign on any structure owned by the jurisdiction.

A city, town or county employee acting within the scope of the employee's employment is not liable for an injury caused by the failure to remove a sign unless the employee intended to cause injury or was grossly negligent.

These provisions do not apply to commercial tourism, commercial resort, and hotel sign free zones as those zones are designated by municipalities. The total area of those zones shall not be larger than three square miles, and each zone shall be identified as a specific contiguous area where, by resolution of the municipal governing body, the municipality has determined that based on a predominance of commercial tourism, resort and hotel uses within the zone the placement of political signs within the rights-of-way in the zone will detract from the scenic and

¹ A.R.S. § 16-1019 (B) - (I).

aesthetic appeal of the area within the zone and deter its appeal to tourists. Not more than two zones may be identified within a municipality. **(The City of Goodyear has no commercial tourism, commercial resort, or hotel sign free zones and does not anticipate designating any in the near future.)**

These new rules apply only during the period commencing sixty days before a primary election and ending fifteen days after the general election, except that for a sign for a candidate in a primary election who does not advance to the general election, the period ends fifteen days after the primary election. State highways or routes, or overpasses over those state highways or routes, are not included in the areas where signs are allowed.

Per City of Goodyear General Plan:

Right-of-way widths vary depending on the type of street. There are generally five types of street classifications:

1. Scenic Arterials (150' ROW), such as PebbleCreek Parkway, Goodyear Boulevard; Estrella Parkway from I-10 south to Vineyard, and Yuma Road from 175th Drive on the west to Bullard Wash on the east;
2. Major Arterials (130' ROW), such as McDowell Road from Cotton Lane east to Litchfield Road, Dysart Road from I-10 north to Thomas Road, and Litchfield Road from McDowell Road north to Thomas Road;
3. Arterials (110' ROW), such as Thomas Road from Dysart Road west to Litchfield Road, Sarival Road from McDowell Road south to W. Lower Buckeye Road, Van Buren Street from Cotton Lane east to Bullard Avenue, and W. Encanto Blvd./W. Virginia Avenue from Bullard Avenue west to PebbleCreek Parkway;
4. Collectors (60 to 84' ROW), such as Palm Valley Boulevard east of Litchfield Road (60' ROW), Palm Valley Boulevard west of Litchfield Road (84' ROW), Thomas Road from Litchfield Road west to 144th Ave. (80' ROW), 144th Ave. from Bullard Avenue north to Wigwam Blvd. (84' ROW), San Miguel Drive (60' ROW), and Westar Drive (60' ROW);
5. Local Streets (50' ROW), which include most residential streets.

The right-of-way width for an arterial is typically 110 feet, 130 feet, or 150 feet depending on its classification. The street width with curb and gutter varies from 54 to 78 feet. The right-of-way for a collector road is usually 60 feet, 80 feet, or 84 feet with a roadway width of either 41 feet or 50 feet. In locations where the land adjacent to the arterial roadway has not yet been developed, the existing right-of-way may only be 33 feet to 40 feet from the center of the roadway which is typical for farm roads that had been constructed in the county. A typical residential street from back of curb to back of curb is 33 feet within a 50-foot right-of-way.

Public rights-of-way usually have regulatory signage, transformer boxes, sidewalks/bike paths, water meter boxes, and utility poles. It is not legal to attach a political sign to any of these public facilities. To determine the right-way line, you can measure from the center of a street one-half the right-of-way distance. Streets may not be exactly located within the center of a right-of-way, but for purposes of estimating sign locations this generally will work. On most residential streets, you should measure 8 feet behind the back of curb to determine the right-of-way line.

Please note that the right-of-way widths provided above are examples of typical roadways, but can vary where additional right-of-way has been provided for turn lanes or bus bays. It is recommended that whenever there is a question as to the location of the right-of-way, it is best to check maps available on the Maricopa County Assessor's website at the following web address: <http://maps.mccassessor.maricopa.gov/maps/default.aspx> The City's Engineering Department has the maps to determine the exact right-of-way for individual streets within the city.

Political signs may be placed on private property with the permission of the property owner. If someone is unsure of whether the sign is located on private property, it is always advisable to ask permission of the adjacent property owner.

HOA Political Signs - HB 2471 (2012) Amends § 33-1261 and 33-1808:

Extends the time period before an election during which Home Owners' Associations are required to allow residents to display political signs to seventy-one days before and three days after the election; and expands the area in which Home Owners' Associations are required to allow residents to display political signs to nine square feet.