

## CHULA VISTA SIGN REGULATIONS

The following are general guidelines regarding signs in Chula Vista. The full text of the regulations, including specific requirements and other information is below.

- ★ **Signs on Public Property:** Only attended or permitted signs meeting certain qualifications are allowed on public property.
- ★ **Signs on Private Property:** Signs meeting certain requirements are allowed four calendar months before the election and up to and including 10 calendar days following the election.

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### SIGNS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

Signs on public property are regulated by the following sections of [City Council Policy 465-02](#). This policy prohibits unattended political signs on public property.

*Excerpts from Council Policy 465-02:*

#### III. Signs Must Be Permitted or Exempted

Any sign posted on Public Property within the City, without a permit, without a decal showing evidence of a permit, and/or contrary to the policies stated herein, may be summarily removed as a trespass and a nuisance by the City. All issued Public Property sign permits must be consistent with the policies stated herein.

#### VI. Temporary Political, Religious, Labor Protest and Other Noncommercial Signs in Traditional Public Forum Areas

In areas qualifying as traditional public forums, such as streets, parks and sidewalks, persons may display noncommercial message signs thereon without first obtaining a Public Property sign permit, provided that their sign displayed on Public Property conforms to all of the following:

- A. The signs must be personally held by a person, or personally attended by one or more persons. "Personally attended" means that a person is physically present within five feet of the sign at all times.
- B. The signs may be displayed only during the time period of sunrise to sunset.
- C. The maximum aggregate size of all signs held by a single person is 10 square feet.
- D. The maximum size of any one sign which is personally attended by two or more persons is 50 square feet.
- E. The displayed signs may not be inflatable or air-activated.
- F. In order to serve the City's interests in traffic flow and safety, persons displaying signs under this section may not stand in any vehicular traffic lane when a roadway is open for use by vehicles, and persons displaying signs on public sidewalks must give at least five feet width clearance for pedestrians to pass by.

If a person's noncommercial sign does not conform to A.-F. of this paragraph, the sign shall not be allowed anywhere on Public Property. *Council Policy 465-02, as amended by Resolution No. 2006-331*

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## SIGNS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

### [Chula Vista Municipal Code § 19.60.600.K](#)

K. Temporary Noncommercial Signs During Certain Periods. In addition to signage otherwise allowed in any zone, during the period of four calendar months preceding any scheduled election and up to and including 10 calendar days following such election, temporary signs bearing noncommercial messages (including but not limited to messages on the topics of politics, religion, science, arts, philosophy, etc.) may be displayed on private property (not including private property which is also public right-of-way), without permit, subject to the owner's consent, and also subject to:

1. In agricultural and residential zones:
  - a. No sign may exceed five square feet in area.
  - b. Double-faced signs as defined in this chapter are permitted.
  - c. No sign shall be posted in such a manner that any portion of said sign is within five feet of the house side of the sidewalk and, if there is no sidewalk within 15 feet of said sign, then 15 feet from the house side of the street curb. Said signs must be placed at least five feet from the house side of intersecting sidewalks or if there are no sidewalks, then 15 feet from the house or back sides of intersecting curbs. Unless a further setback is required by the foregoing rules (as in the case of corner lots adjacent to intersecting streets), said signs shall be located at least five feet from side property lines except for lots located at intersections.
  - d. No sign shall exceed three and one-half feet in height in the front setback area, and such signs shall not exceed six feet in height in any area unless said sign is attached flush to any building. The measurement shall be taken from the ground level to the top of said sign.
  - e. No sign may be affixed to an already existing sign.
  - f. Nothing in this section shall be construed to render a property owner liable for the posting of a sign on his or her property.
2. In commercial and industrial zones:
  - a. No sign may exceed 12 square feet in area. Double-faced signs as defined in this chapter may be permitted.
  - b. No sign may be affixed to an already existing sign.
3. Removal. The procedure for the removal of temporary noncommercial signs is as follows:
  - a. Notice. The director shall give 24 hours' notice to the owner of the sign (if known), of the city's intent to remove any unauthorized temporary sign bearing a noncommercial message. The notice shall specify the provision of the sign ordinance being violated, and shall inform the owner that removal charges will be assessed. The owner may, within 24 hours of receiving notice, request a hearing before the director to appeal the decision to remove the sign. If the owner so requests, the sign shall not be removed until the hearing has been held and a final decision rendered. If the owner cannot be identified or located after reasonable effort, the sign may be treated as abandoned property and removed.
  - b. Appeal and Removal. In the absence of an appeal of the removal decision, the sign may be removed by the city and the reasonable cost thereof charged to the sign owner and/or persons responsible for placing the illegal sign. Such cost shall be set by resolution of city council. (*Ord. 3083 § 1, 2007; Ord. 2924 § 2, 2003*)

*Questions regarding sign regulations? Want to report a violation? Contact the Chula Vista Development Services Department, Code Enforcement Division at [www.chulavistaca.gov](http://www.chulavistaca.gov) or (619) 691-5280.*