

Campaign Signs

What Residents Need to Know...

As election season approaches, residents may observe an increase in campaign signage at various street corners and high-traffic areas throughout the city.

Political signs may be displayed on private property with the owner's consent, in addition to being placed in the public right-of-way.

State law (ARS 16-1019) outlines specific guidelines for the placement and criteria of election signage. Below are essential points for residents to consider:

- 1. Public Safety Regulations:** Election signs must not be positioned in locations that could pose a risk to public safety, obstruct visibility, or violate Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations.
- 2. Signage Requirements:** Each political sign must clearly display the name, contact number, and website of the candidate or campaign committee. Residents may also contact candidates directly to report any hazardous signage.
- 3. Legal Considerations:** It is classified as a Class 2 misdemeanor for any individual to knowingly remove, alter, deface, or cover the political sign of any candidate for public office. Residents are advised against attempting to remove signs independently.
- 4. Enforcement Limitations:** Mesa, along with other local jurisdictions, can enforce temporary sign ordinances solely based on placement factors (location, manner, or size), not on the content of the signs. This policy is a result of the 2015 United States Supreme Court ruling (Reed vs. Town of Gilbert). Therefore, Code Enforcement staff will not remove temporary signs until November, except for those presenting a clear and imminent danger to public safety.
- 5. Reporting Violations:** Residents are encouraged to contact Code Compliance if they believe a political sign's placement constitutes an emergency or presents a hazard. In such cases, Code Compliance staff will notify the responsible candidate or campaign of the violation. Should the sign remain in violation for 24 hours after notification, Code Compliance may proceed with its removal.

Residents can reach Mesa's Code Compliance team through the following methods:

- Phone: 480-644-2061 / After Hours Complaint Line: 480-644-3399
- Email: codecomp.info@mesaaz.gov
- File a Complaint: <https://mesaaz.citysourced.com/>

When reporting, please provide specific details regarding the location of the sign, including identifiable landmarks. An officer will address the issue and inform the candidate regarding sign retrieval.

As a reminder, campaign signs are allowed in the public right-of-way until 15 days after the general election on November 5, 2024, which is November 20, 2024. Code Compliance will carry out a thorough removal of all temporary signage, including any remaining campaign signs, at the end of November, following the established procedures from previous election years.

For further inquiries regarding political signage, residents may contact the City Clerk's Office at 480-644-2099. If you have questions about the placement of political signs along state highways, which is not permitted, please reach out to ADOT at 602-712-6664.

Lastly, we encourage all eligible residents to participate in the upcoming election and make their voices heard. For more information about Mesa City Council candidates and other election details, please visit the Mesa Elections website at <https://mesaaz.gov/elections>.