

## ARTICLE II. SIGNS

### Sections Related to Election/Political Signs

#### Sec. 25-20. Definitions.

**Election sign:** A temporary sign displayed for the purpose of expressing support for or opposition to a candidate seeking elected office, or pertaining to any issue upon which voters shall vote, in a scheduled public election.

**Temporary sign:** Any sign intended for use not permanent in nature. For the purpose of this article, any sign with an intended use of twelve (12) months or less shall be deemed a temporary sign.

**Vehicle sign:** A sign painted or affixed to a transportation vehicle, including automobiles, trucks, boats, trailers and campers, for the purpose of identification which shall include, but is not limited to magnetic signs, vehicle "wraps," decals, signs painted upon or otherwise affixed or physically attached to a vehicle or trailer.

#### Sec. 25-21. Exempt Signs.

**(a) Vehicle signs.** All vehicle signs shall be exempt from all provisions of this article when such signs are attached or affixed to a vehicle which is usually on the road during the normal course of business. Vehicle signs shall not be utilized at a specific location or site in addition to or in lieu of a permanent or temporary sign as permitted under this article.

#### Sec. 25-24. Temporary Signs.

##### **(g) Election signs.**

(1) Within any zoning district in which residential use is permitted, an election sign shall be limited to a maximum of four (4) square feet in area. Within any other zoning district, the sign area of an election sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet (i.e., four (4) feet by eight (8) feet).

(2) Temporary election signs shall be limited on private property to one (1) sign per candidate or issue and shall not be erected prior to 90 days before any election, or prior to the date of qualification for the election, whichever is a shorter period of display.<sup>1</sup>

(3) All election signs of candidates defeated in primary elections must be removed within seven (7) days after the date of such primary election, and all election signs of candidates running in a general election, or relating to an issue on a general election ballot, must be removed within seven (7) days after the date of such general election.

##### **(l) Temporary signs; requirements.**

(1) Registration and bond.

a. The person or organization that shall erect a temporary sign within any nonresidential zoning district shall first file with the building department a written statement, guaranteeing the removal of the temporary sign(s) within seven (7) days after the required removal date for the signs, and shall post a cash bond in the amount of \$250.00. The written statement accompanying the bond shall

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<sup>1</sup> Based on this rule, posting of Election Signs may begin on August 10, 2016 for the November 8, 2016 Election.

contain language that authorizes the city to use all or part of the bond to cover the cost of removal of the signs, if the person or organization posting the signs does not remove the signs within seven (7) days after the required removal date for the signs. The written statement shall also contain the proposed location of the signs. Candidates for political office who have qualified by means of the petition method pursuant to Section 99.095, F.S. or Section 99.0955, F.S., seeking to post election signs, shall be exempt from this bond requirement.

b. For all temporary signs to be placed on vacant property, the person or organization erecting the signs shall file with the building department a written statement, signed by the owner or lessee, on a form provided by the building department, stating that the owner or lessee of the property has given permission for the temporary sign to be placed on their property.

(2) Location; limitation; removal.

a. No temporary sign of any type or size whatsoever shall be erected or maintained within any public right-of-way except as authorized by this article, or upon any property owned or leased by the City of Cooper City.

b. No temporary sign may be erected on any property in such a manner to preclude or limit the sight distance visibility of drivers of motor vehicles.

c. Any person or organization who constructs, erects or causes to be erected a temporary sign and/or the owner and/or lessee of the property where a temporary sign is located, shall be responsible for any hazard to the general public which is caused by, created by reason of the construction and/or maintenance of temporary signs.

***(m) Temporary signs; violations.***

(1) The erection and removal of all temporary signs shall be the joint responsibility of the owner of the property upon which such signs are placed and of the owner of such signs. Each such person shall be jointly and severally liable for a violation of the terms and conditions of this section.

(2) Any temporary sign not constructed or erected in accordance with the provisions of this section and any such sign which exists in violation of this section shall be deemed to be a public nuisance and shall be subject to removal by the city. Unless otherwise provided by resolution of the city commission, the cost of removal shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00) per sign.

(3) Any temporary signs which are in violation of this section shall be immediately removed by the city and the person or persons responsible for erecting said signs in violation of this section shall be subject to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00), in addition to the charge for removal of the sign(s) in accordance with subsection (b.).

(4) Any temporary signs not removed within seven (7) days from the date of required removal pursuant to this section, shall be removed by the city, and the costs of removal shall be billed to the person or persons responsible for the sign(s). Signs which are removed shall be held by the city for a period of fifteen (15) days following removal, and the person or persons responsible for erecting said signs shall be authorized to pick up the signs from the city during this time. Following this fifteen (15) day period, the City may dispose of such signs. The city shall bear no liability for damage to or return of such signs.

(5) A violation(s) of this section shall be prosecuted in accordance with Chapter 13, Article VI, of this Code or through any other supplemental municipal code or ordinance enforcement procedures available to the City under the Florida Statutes, this Code, or both.

**Sec. 25-26. Window signs.**

***(a) Generally***

(1) Window signs shall be allowed on nonresidential property in accordance with the requirements of this section. All window signs shall be limited to two (2) colors per location on a clear background, provided, however, that registered, copyrighted trademarks and/or corporate logos are not subject to the color limitations provided herein and may be permitted in their standard color(s). Additionally, standard "Credit Cards Accepted" signs, with images of the various credit cards shall not be limited to the color restrictions of this section.

(2) Window signs, whether permanent or temporary, shall not constitute in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) of the window area, provided, however, that no single permanent window sign shall exceed sixty (60) square feet in sign area and no single temporary window sign shall exceed thirty two (32) square feet in sign area.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the term "window area" shall mean the total area of glass on the front and/or side of a business, exclusive of glass doors.

(4) Window decorations for the holiday season (October 15 through January 5), attached to any window shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

(5) Window signs shall be exempt from the annual inspection requirements set forth in section 25-30 of this chapter.

(6) Measurement.

a. For window signs enclosed within a border or encased within a background other than the clear glass, the measurements shall be taken from top to bottom and outside edge to outside edge of the border or background.

b. For signs which are comprised of individual letters and/or graphics affixed directly to the window glass with no border or background, measurements shall be accomplished by measuring each line of type or graphic from top to bottom and from outside edge to outside edge of the farthest most letters, including all spacing between letters and/or words and including the clear spaces within the letters themselves.

c. For signs comprised of individual letters which are affixed directly to the window glass with no border or background and which have anomalous spacing between the letters, the area of each individual letter shall be measured as described in subsection b, above.

***(b) Temporary Signs.***

(1) Signs announcing sales or other temporary events shall be permitted for not more than thirty (30) consecutive days, per each calendar year quarter.

(2) All temporary signs shall be lettered in a professional manner and maintained in good condition.

(3) Any owner or person entitled to possession of any vacant store is hereby prohibited from displaying upon the windows of the vacant store any sign, lettering or printed matter except one (1) sign, consisting of a maximum of six (6) square feet, advertising the availability of the premises.

(4) To the extent that a temporary window sign with commercial content is allowed by this subsection, an identical temporary window sign with noncommercial content is also allowed, provided that such sign otherwise conforms with the requirements of this article.