CAMPAIGN SIGNS

As most citizens are aware, there are numerous regulations and policies aimed at keeping North Carolina safe and beautiful.

Political candidates and committees will be doing their share if they instruct their campaign workers not to place signs on public property. And, they will be helping save and protect citizen's lives. Some of the signs can block a motorist's view of oncoming traffic which could result in a serious or even fatal accident.

The Division of Highway field employees are instructed to remove all signs illegally placed within state highway rights-of-way. Such signs are taken to local maintenance offices for storage until they are claimed.

Most counties and cities have ordinances regulating the placement and removal of signs within public rights-of-way. Some issue citations and assess a penalty for each sign as a separate offense.

You are urged to contact each local government to determine its exact laws. The cost of the signs and the bad publicity of signs in violation may be an unwelcome burden to your committee.

Sign Ordinances in packet:

- Littering Statutes for Political Candidates in North Carolina
- NC General Statute §136-32: Regulation of signs. (State Highway Rights-of-Way)
- Town of Belwood, NC Sign Memorandum
- Town of Boiling Springs, NC Code of Ordinance §151.124 Signs Permitted Without a Zoning Permit
- Cleveland County of NC Code of Ordinance Article XIV.-Signs
- City of Kings Mountain, NC Sign Memorandum
- City of Shelby, NC Code of Ordinances Article XII.-Signs

Updated Apr2012

Littering Statutes for Political Candidates in North Carolina

§ 14-156. Injuring fixtures and other property of electric-power companies.

It shall be unlawful for any person willfully and wantonly, and without the consent of the owner, to take down, remove, injure, obstruct, displace or destroy any line erected or constructed for the transmission of electrical current, or any poles, towers, wires, conduits, cables, insulators or any support upon which wires or cables may be suspended, or any part of any such line or appurtenances or apparatus connected therewith, or to sever any wire or cable thereof, or in any manner to interrupt the transmission of electrical current over and along any such line, or to take down, remove, injure or destroy any house, shop, building or other structure or machinery connected with or necessary to the use of any line erected or constructed for the transmission of electrical current, or to wantonly or willfully cause injury to any of the property mentioned in this section by means of fire. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. (1907, c. 919; C.S., s. 4328; 1993, c. 539, s. 94; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 136-32. Regulation of signs.

(a) Commercial Signs. – No unauthorized person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any warning or direction sign, marker, signal or light or imitation of any official sign, marker, signal or light erected under the provisions of G.S. 136-30, except in cases of emergency. No person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any traffic or highway sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial or political advertising, except as provided in subsections (b) through (e) of this section: Provided, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the erection or maintenance of signs, markers, or signals bearing thereon the name of an organization authorized to erect the same by the Department of Transportation or by any local authority referred to in G.S. 136-31. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The Department of Transportation may remove any signs erected without authority or allowed to remain beyond the deadline established in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Compliant Political Signs Permitted. – During the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting under G.S. 163-227.2 and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day, persons may place political signs in the right-of-way of the State highway system as provided in this section. Signs must be placed in compliance with subsection (d) of this section and must be removed by the end of the period prescribed in this subsection.

(c) Definition. – For purposes of this section, "political sign" means any sign that advocates for political action. The term does not include a commercial sign.

(d) Sign Placement. – The permittee must obtain the permission of any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected. Signs must be placed in accordance with the following:

(1) No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.

(2) No sign shall be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.

(3) No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection.

(4) No sign shall be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road.

(5) No sign shall be larger than 864 square inches.

(6) No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.

(e) Penalties for Unlawful Removal of Signs. – It is a Class 3 misdemeanor for a person to steal, deface, vandalize, or unlawfully remove a political sign that is lawfully placed under this section.

(f) Application Within Municipalities. – Pursuant to Article 8 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, a city may by ordinance prohibit or regulate the placement of political signs on rights-of-way of streets located within the corporate limits of a municipality and maintained by the municipality. In the absence of an ordinance prohibiting or regulating the placement of political signs on the rights-of-way of streets located within a municipality and maintained by the municipality, the provisions of subsections (b) through (e) of this section shall apply. (1921, c. 2, s. 9(b); C.S., s. 3846(r); 1927, c. 148, ss. 56, 58; 1933, c. 172, s. 17; 1957, c. 65, s. 11; 1973, c. 507, s. 5; 1977, c. 464, s. 7.1; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1030, s. 39; 1993, c. 539, s. 981; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 2011-408, s. 1.)

19A NCAC 02E .0415 Advertising signs within right of way

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to erect or place any advertising or other sign, except regulation traffic and warning signs approved by the Department of Transportation, on any highway or the right of way thereof, or so as to overhang the right of way, or to permit the erection or placing of any advertising or other sign, as herein prohibited, on a n y highway right of way which is situated over any land owned, rented, leased or claimed by such person, firm or corporation . It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or other corporation that has erected, or placed, or permitted to be erected or placed, any advertising or other sign, as herein prohibited, or for any person, firm or corporation owning, renting, leasing or claiming any land over which a highway or highway right of way is situated, and on which highway or highway right of way any advertising or other sign has been erected or placed, to allow such advertising or other signs to remain o n state highway or right of way thereof.
History Note: Authority G.S. 136-18(10); 136-30;
Eff. July 1, 1978.

NC General Statute - Ref. Highway "Right-of-way"

§ 136-32. Regulation of signs.

(a) Commercial Signs. – No unauthorized person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any warning or direction sign, marker, signal or light or imitation of any official sign, marker, signal or light erected under the provisions of G.S. 136-30, except in cases of emergency. No person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any traffic or highway sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial or political advertising, except as provided in subsections (b) through (e) of this section: Provided, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the erection or maintenance of signs, markers, or signals bearing thereon the name of an organization authorized to erect the same by the Department of Transportation or by any local authority referred to in G.S. 136-31. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The Department of Transportation may remove any signs erected without authority or allowed to remain beyond the deadline established in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Compliant Political Signs Permitted. – During the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting under G.S. 163-227.2 and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day, persons may place political signs in the right-of-way of the State highway system as provided in this section. Signs must be placed in compliance with subsection (d) of this section and must be removed by the end of the period prescribed in this subsection.

(c) Definition. – For purposes of this section, "political sign" means any sign that advocates for political action. The term does not include a commercial sign.

(d) Sign Placement. – The permittee must obtain the permission of any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected. Signs must be placed in accordance with the following:

(1) No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.
(2) No sign shall be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.
(3) No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection.
(4) No sign shall be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road.
(5) No sign shall be larger than 864 square inches.
(6) No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.

(e) Penalties for Unlawful Removal of Signs. – It is a Class 3 misdemeanor for a person to steal, deface, vandalize, or unlawfully remove a political sign that is lawfully placed under this section.

(f) Application Within Municipalities. – Pursuant to Article 8 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, a city may by ordinance prohibit or regulate the placement of political signs on rights-of-way of streets located within the corporate limits of a municipality and maintained by the municipality. In the absence of an ordinance prohibiting or regulating the placement of political signs on the rights-of-way of streets located within a municipality and maintained by the municipality, the provisions of subsections (b) through (e) of this section shall apply. (1921, c. 2, s. 9(b); C.S., s. 3846(r); 1927, c. 148, ss. 56, 58; 1933, c. 172, s. 17; 1957, c. 65, s. 11; 1973, c. 507, s. 5; 1977, c. 464, s. 7.1; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1030, s. 39; 1993, c. 539, s. 981; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 2011-408, s. 1.)

Sign Ordinance

TOWN OF BELWOOD
916 BELWOOD LAWNDALE RD.
LAWNDALE, NORTH CAROLINA 28090

May 11, 2007

MAY 14 2007

Ms. Debra Blanton
Cleveland County Board of Elections
PO box 1299
Shelby, NC 28151

Dear Debra:

The commissioners for the Town of Belwood voted unanimously to ask candidates not to post signs on town property at the intersection of Belwood Lawndale Road and Carpenter's Grove Church Road.

This is a very dangerous and busy intersection. The signs block the view with the traffic entering the intersection from the highway 18 traffic.

Signs may be placed beyond the 50' mark at the polling place. The signs should be removed the day after the election.

Sincerely,

Lorene Richards

Lorene Richards
Clerk

Code of Ordinances
Boiling Springs, NC

(L) *Off-premises signs.* A sign or structure, pictorial or otherwise, regardless of size of shape that draws attention to or communicates information about a business, profession, service, commodity, product, accommodation, event, attraction or other enterprise or activity that exists or is conducted, manufactured, sold, offered, maintained or provided at a location other than on the premises where the sign is located. This definition does not include governmental, traffic, directional, or regulatory signs or notices of the federal, state, county or town government or their public agencies or off premises signs specifically permitted by this subchapter.

(M) *Projecting signs.* Signs which project from and are supported by a building or other structure into the public right-of-way only when such projection is greater than 18 inches and where the building is built to the right-of-way line as a legally existing structure.

(N) *Roof signs (above roof line).* Signs erected in whole or in part on, upon or over the roof or parapet of a building or structure and which is wholly or partially dependent upon the roof of the building or structure for support.

(O) *Portable and movable signs.* Portable and movable signs which are not permanently affixed in accordance with the State Building Code for freestanding signs except as are permitted as temporary signs.

(P) *Unspecified temporary signs.* Temporary signs not expressly permitted by this subchapter.

(Q) *All other signs not specifically permitted.* Other signs not expressly allowed by this subchapter. (Ord. 011106.1, passed 11-6-01)

§ 151.124 SIGNS PERMITTED WITHOUT A ZONING PERMIT.

The following signs and devices shall be permitted without the issuance of a zoning permit.

(A) *Public (governmental, utility) signs.* Signs erected by, on behalf of, or pursuant to the authorization of a governmental body, including legal notices, identification and informational signs, and traffic warning, directional or regulatory signs. Official signs of a non-commercial nature erected by public utilities, including safety, warning and informational signs.

(B) *Warning (health, safety, hazard) signs.* Temporary or permanent signs erected by government agencies, public utility companies or construction companies to warn of danger or hazardous conditions, including signs indicating the presence of underground cables, gas lines and similar devices or signs providing directions around such conditions.

(C) *Signs not legible off-premises.* Signs which are not legible from the boundaries of the lot or parcel upon which they are located, or from any public thoroughfare or right-of-way.

(D) *Flags (non-advertising) (non-informational).* Flags except when such are used in connection with a commercial promotion or as an advertising device or as an integral part of a sign regulated under this subchapter; provided such flags are displayed on permanent pole structures. Failure to display such flags in a manner which meets congressional protocol will be a violation of this chapter. Plain flags with no advertising or information provided such flags are displayed on permanent pole structures and are properly maintained. Proper maintenance shall not permit flags which are torn, ripped, frayed, separated from their grommets or incompletely affixed to their pole structures. All flags used in connection with a commercial promotion as an advertising device or as an integral part of a commercial sign must comply with the regulations of this subchapter for area, height, number and location.

(E) *Incidental object or product signs.* Small decals consolidated and affixed to window or door panes, such as indicating membership in a business group or credit cards accepted at the establishment. Entrance and exit signs with small, incidental logos attached directing traffic into or out of a parking area or drive. Any sign, painted or affixed to an object or product, where the sign is clearly incidental and accessory to the primary use and purpose of the object or product including, but not limited to, product dispensers and point of purchase displays for newspapers, soft drinks, gasoline, ice, telephone, ATM or similar items which indicate the contents of the machine, the name or logo of the supplier, the price and/or operating instructions.

(F) *Signs required by law.* Legal notices and signs required by law, statute or regulation.

(G) *Transportation facilities signs.* Informational signs indicating bus stops, taxi stands, train stations and similar transportation facilities.

(H) *Campaign signs at polling places.* Political signs displayed at polling places provided they are displayed in compliance with general law only on the day of the election is held and must be removed within 72 hours of the close of voting.

(I) *Street numbers.* Display of street numbers on residential and non-residential buildings, structures and mailboxes.

(J) *Handicapped signs.* Handicapped signs as required by the Americans With Disabilities Act.

(K) *Window signs.* Signs placed on or attached to the interior side of a window or door glass of a building by means of adhesive, paint or manufacturing process intended for viewing from the exterior of such buildings; or a sign within a building, placed no more than 12 inches behind the window which is visible through the window.

(L) *Temporary signs.* Temporary signs subject to the following limitations:

Type (temporary)	**No.**	**Maximum copy area (sq. ft.)**	**Maximum height if freestanding (vert. ft.)**	**Maximum display time**
Grand opening	1	32	10	Once for 30 days
Going out of business	1	32	10	Once for 30 days
Special event of civic or non-profit organization	2	32	8	30 days prior to event
Remodeling/repair	1	4	6	Until work completed
Construction - one or two family dwelling	1	4	6	Until construction completed
Construction - other than one or two family dwelling	2	32	14	Until construction completed
Construction - announcement	2	32	14	Until construction completed

Type (temporary)	No.	Maximum copy area (sq. ft.)	Maximum height if freestanding (vert. ft.)	Maximum display time
Political		32	14	60 days prior to election
On-premises (real-estate sale/lease/rent/ of one or two family dwelling or lot)	1	6	6	Until sale closed or rent/lease transaction finalized
Off-premises (real-estate sale/lease/rent/ of one or two family dwelling or lot)	1	3	4	Until sale closed or rent/lease transaction finalized
On-premises (real-estate sale/lease/rent/ of other than one or two family dwelling or lot)	2	32	12	Until sale closed or rent/lease transaction finalized
Off-premises (real-estate sale/lease/rent/ of other than one or two family dwelling or lot)	4	6	6	Until sale closed or rent/lease transaction finalized
Non-residential (such as commercial, industrial)	2	32	10	Seven days in any consecutive 90 day period

Temporary signs which do not meet the provisions of this subsection shall be considered in violation of the chapter. Only Temporary (political), Temporary (real estate), and Temporary (special event of a civic or non-profit organization) signs shall be permitted off-premises. No temporary sign shall be illuminated. Temporary signs shall be removed within five days from the date the purpose for such sign ceased to exist.

(M) *Miscellaneous signs*. Miscellaneous signs subject to the following limitations:

Type:	Maximum number	Maximum copy area (sq. ft.)	Maximum height if freestanding (vert. ft.)
Public interest, security warning (No trespassing, soliciting, hunting or fishing/posted/private parking/danger/warning)		1	4
Home occupation	1	3	4
Open/closed hours	2	2	6
Permanent professional or business announcement (wall)	1	2	
Building memorial (wall)	1	2	
Philosophical, Religious, Educational or other Non-Commercial	2	2	4
Occupant/address (ground or wall)	2	2	6
Private drive	1	2	6
Informational/instructional (Traffic directions, restrictions or arrows, entrance, exit, location of restrooms, public telephones, parcel pick-up, freight or service entrances, parking/ loading areas and the like)		10	4

Miscellaneous signs which do not meet the provisions of this section shall be considered in violation of the chapter. Only Private Drive signs shall be permitted off premises. No miscellaneous signs shall be illuminated.
(Ord. 011106.1, passed 11-6-01)

§ 151.125 SIGNS PERMITTED WITH A ZONING PERMIT IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS.

The following signs are permitted in all zoning districts upon issuance of a zoning permit provided that stated specific requirements, conditions and stipulations are met:

(A) All signs permitted without a zoning permit and signs permitted by special permit;

(B) On-premises signs identifying a single-family residential subdivision; apartment, townhouse, condominium or other multi-family residential complex or recreational facility not exceeding 32 square feet in area. There shall be a limit of one double-faced sign or two single-faced signs for each road or driveway entrance to the development named on the sign. Such signs shall be limited to the name and the address of the premises and the on-site address and phone number of the resident agent and may be directly or indirectly illuminated. In addition one identifying sign for an accessory management or rental office not exceeding six square feet shall be permitted;

Cleveland County, NC

ARTICLE XIV. - SIGNS [28]

Sec. 12-281. - Permit required for signs.
Sec. 12-282. - Sign standards.
Sec. 12-283. - Unlawful cutting of trees or shrubs.
Sec. 12-284. - Nonconforming signs.
Sec. 12-285. - On-premise signs.
Secs. 12-286—12-300. - Reserved.

Sec. 12-281. - Permit required for signs.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) no off-premise sign may be constructed, erected, moved, enlarged, illuminated or substantially altered in the unincorporated areas of the county not subject to municipal zoning except in accordance with the provisions of this section. Mere repainting or changing the message of a sign shall not, in and of itself, be considered a substantial alteration.

(b) Off-premise signs not exempted under the provisions referenced in subsection (c) may be constructed, erected, moved, enlarged, illuminated, or substantially altered only in accordance with a sign permit issued by the administrator.

(1) Sign permit applications and sign permits shall be governed by the same provisions of this chapter which are applicable to zoning permits.

(c) The following signs are exempt from regulation under this section.

(1) Signs not exceeding three (3) square feet in area that are customarily associated with residential use and that are not of a commercial nature, such as signs giving property identification names or numbers or names of occupants, signs on mailboxes or newspaper tubes, and signs posted on private property relating to private parking or warning the public against trespassing or danger from animals.

(2) Signs erected by or on behalf of or pursuant to the authorization of a governmental body, including legal notices, identification, informational, traffic, directional, or regulatory signs.

(3) Official signs of a noncommercial nature and message erected by public utilities.

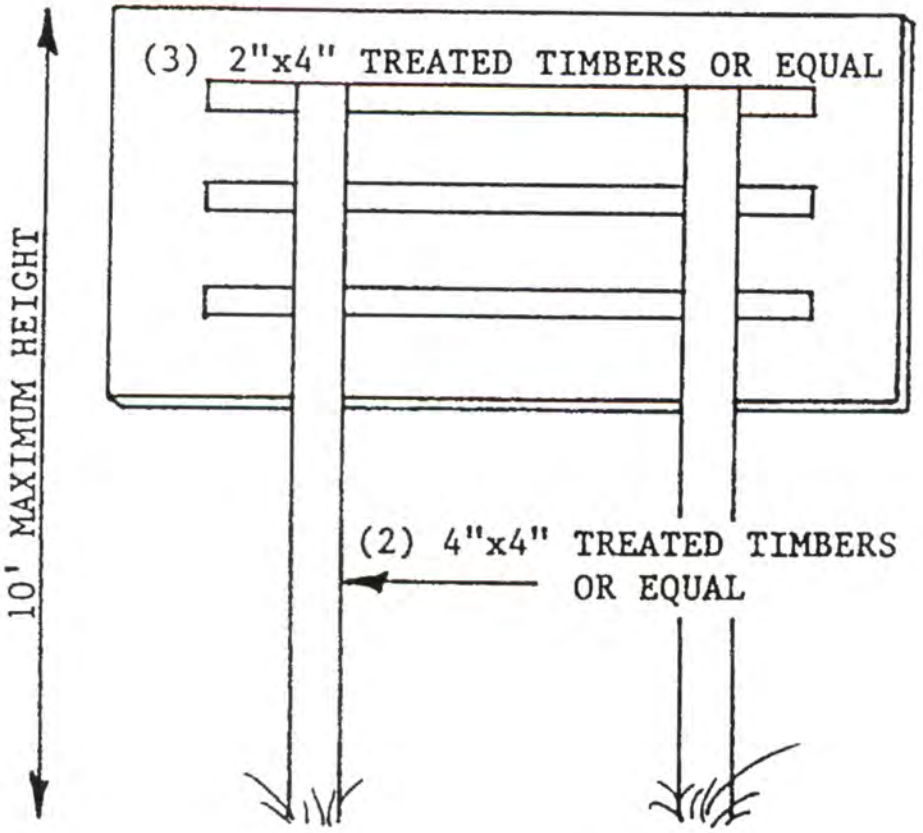
(4) Flags, pennants, or insignia of any governmental or nonprofit organization when not displayed in connection with a commercial promotion or as an advertising device, provided such signs, etc., shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in surface area.

(5) Signs erected in connection with elections or political campaigns. Such signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in surface area and shall be removed within three (3) days following the election or conclusion of the campaign.

(6) Existing conforming signs listed for taxation with the county tax assessor as of January, 1991.

(7)

Signs not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet shall be exempted if constructed in accordance with the following standards:



Standards for Exempted Signs

Sec. 12-282. - Sign standards.

All off-premises signs, not exempted under the provisions of section 12-281(c), shall conform to the following standards:

(1) Signs shall be spaced at least one thousand (1,000) feet apart from each other, whether on the same side or opposite sides of the road, such distance being measured along the centerline of said road perpendicular to each sign. Any sign located within four hundred (400) feet of the right-of-way of said road shall be deemed to be located along said road (regardless of the road upon which the sign fronts).

(2) The total area of a single display shall not exceed three hundred twenty-five (325) square feet, including any border or trim used, or any advertising material which appears on the base or apron of a side of any sign. The total display area may be increased to four hundred (400) square feet along an interstate highway.

(3) Off-premises signs may have displays on two (2) sides if structurally attached to the same base, but not more than one (1) principal message board per side shall be allowed. The combined area of two (2) message boards on one (1) side shall not exceed three hundred twenty-five (325) square feet or four hundred (400) square feet along an interstate highway. Message boards on the same side shall be separated no more than three (3) feet vertically and two (2) feet horizontally.

V-shaped signs shall also be considered as one (1) sign only if the display boards are located no farther than fifteen (15) feet from each other.

(4) Maximum permitted height of thirty-five (35) feet as measured perpendicular from the centerline grade of the road. The maximum permitted height may be increased to fifty (50) feet along an interstate highway.

(5) Maximum permitted length of forty (40) feet per message board.

(6) Off-premises signs may either be lighted or luminous provided that no illumination or lighting is flashing, intermittent or moving.

(7) Lighting shall be effectively shielded as to prevent beams or rays of light from being directed at any portion of the traveled ways of the road or any residential dwellings and which are of such intensity or brilliance as to cause glare and to impair the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle, or which otherwise interferes with any drivers operation of a motor vehicle or the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, device, or signal.

(8) The following setback requirements shall be measured from any adjoining rights-of-way or property lines:

Residential district boundary	= 300′
Four lane limited access highway	= 50′
Other public roads	= 30′
Principal building	= 50′

(Amd. of 5-20-97; Amd. of 12-17-02)

Sec. 12-283. - Unlawful cutting of trees or shrubs.

No person may, for the purpose of increasing or enhancing the visibility of any sign, damage, trim, destroy, or remove any trees, shrubs, or other vegetation located:

(1) Within the right-of-way of any public street or road, unless the work is done pursuant to the express written authorization of the NCDOT or other agency having jurisdiction over the streets.

(2) On property that is not under the ownership or control of the person doing or responsible for such work, unless the work is done pursuant to the express written authorization of the person owning the property where such trees or shrubs are located;

(3) In any area where such trees or shrubs are required to remain under a permit issued under this chapter.

Sec. 12-284. - Nonconforming signs.

(a) No person may engage in any activity that causes an increase in the extent of nonconformity of a nonconforming sign. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, no nonconforming sign may be enlarged or altered in such a manner as to aggravate the nonconforming condition, nor may any illumination be added to any nonconforming sign.

(b) A nonconforming sign may not be moved or replaced except to bring the sign into complete conformity with this chapter.

(c)

If a nonconforming sign is destroyed by natural causes, it may not thereafter be repaired, reconstructed, or replaced except in conformity with all of the provisions of this chapter, and the remnants of the former sign structure shall be cleared from the land. For purposes of this section, a nonconforming sign is "destroyed" if damaged to an extent that the cost of repairing the sign to its former stature or replacing it with an equivalent sign equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the value (tax value if listed for tax purposes) of the sign so damaged.

(d) The message of a nonconforming sign may be changed so long as this does not create any new nonconformities (for example, by creating an off-premises sign under circumstances where such a sign would not be allowed).

(e) Subject to the other provisions of this section, nonconforming signs may be repaired and renovated so long as the cost of such work does not exceed, within any twelve-month period, fifty (50) percent of the value (tax value if listed for tax purposes) of such sign.

(f) If a nonconforming sign other than a billboard advertises a business, service, commodity, accommodation, attraction, or other enterprise or activity that is no longer operating or being offered or conducted, that sign shall be considered abandoned and shall be removed within thirty (30) days after such abandonment by the sign owner, owner of the property where the sign is located, or other party having control over such sign.

(g) A nonconforming billboard may not be moved or replaced except to replace as a monopole structure, if setback to the maximum extent possible and in complete conformity with other requirements of this section. If a nonconforming billboard remains blank for a continuous period of one hundred eighty (180) days, that billboard shall be deemed abandoned and shall, within thirty (30) days after such abandonment, be altered to comply with this article or be removed by the sign owner, owner of the property where the sign is located, or other person having control over such sign. For purposes of this section, a sign is "blank" if:

(1) It advertises a business, service, commodity, accommodation, attraction, or other enterprise or activity that is no longer operating or being offered or conducted;

(2) The advertising message it displays becomes illegible in whole or substantial part;

(3) The advertising copy paid for by a party other than the sign owner or promoting an interest other than the rental of the sign has been removed

Sec. 12-285. - On-premise signs.

(a) Business and/or identification signs shall be permitted in RA, NB, GB, LI and HI zoning districts subject to the following regulations:

(1) One (1) attached sign per street front, size not to exceed one (1) square foot of area per lineal foot of each building wall facing a public street.

(2) One (1) detached sign per development, except on lots having frontage on two (2) or more streets, in which case two (2) detached signs per establishment shall be permitted. Detached signs shall be limited to three (3) square feet per lineal foot of the front building wall facing a public street, or three hundred (300) square feet, whichever is less.

(3) Signs may be illuminated or lighted, but non-flashing.

(b) Business and /or identification signs shall be permitted in the Corridor Protection Overlay District (CP) subject to the following regulations:

(1) For a multiple tenant development: One (1) ground sign per street front not to exceed one hundred fifty (150) square feet in area. In addition, each establishment shall be permitted one (1) attached sign at the place of occupancy not to exceed one (1) square foot per lineal foot of each building wall facing a public street.

(2) Any other establishment: One (1) ground sign per street front not to exceed one hundred (100) square feet in area. In addition, each establishment shall be permitted one (1) attached sign at the place of occupancy not to exceed one (1) square foot per lineal foot of each building wall facing a public street.

(3) All signs shall be a maximum of twelve (12) feet in height, and shall be located no closer than ten (10) feet to the street right-of-way or fifteen (15) feet to the traveled portion of a street where the right-of-way does not exist or cannot be determined.

(4) Signs may be illuminated or lighted, but not flashing.

(Amd. of 6-17-03)

Secs. 12-286—12-300. - Reserved.

FOOTNOTE(S):

[28] ***Editor's note***— *Amd. of June 17, 2003 changed the title of Art. XIV from off-premise signs to signs.* (Back)

[28] ***Cross reference***— *Street signs, § 9-40 et seq.* (Back)

Kings Mtn., NC

MEMORANDUM

TO: Debra Blanton

FROM: Holly M. Black, Director of Building Codes and Zoning Enforcement

DATE: May 30, 2007

CC: Mrs. Marilyn Sellers, City Manager

RE: Campaign Signs

This memo is to inform you of the requirements in order to place signs within the City of Kings Mountain's Zoning Jurisdiction for the upcoming election. The following guidelines are from Section 10.7 of the City of Kings Mountain's Zoning Ordinance:

Section 10.7 Signs that require a zoning permit, No zoning permit fee assessed;

(d) Campaign and election signs provided:

i. Each sign shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area and be placed on private property outside of public and private right of ways.

ii. All such signs shall be removed within seven days after the election for which they were made.

iii. Candidates shall be held responsible for violations.

iv. Campaign and election signs shall neither be attached to utility poles nor placed in public or private right of ways.

Please note that it is the City of Kings Mountain's Policy to not allow campaign and election signs on City property, unless it is on Election Day and the poling site is located on City property. In this case signs may be placed on Election Day prior to opening pole time and are to be removed within one hour of pole closing.

ZONING PERMIT
FOR ELECTION SIGNS

APPLICANT _____ PHONE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PROPOSED USE - CAMPAIGN SIGNS FOR UPCOMING ELECTION

ELECTION YEAR- _____

CANDIDATES NAME _____

REQUIREMENTS FOR PLACING SIGNS WITHIN THE CITY OF KINGS MOUNTAIN'S ZONING JURISDICTION. THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES ARE FROM SECTION 10-7 OF THE CITY'S ORDINANCE:

SECTION 10-7 SIGNS THAT REQUIRE A ZONING PERMIT ONLY - NO FEE ASSESSED

EACH SIGN SHALL NOT EXCEED SIXTEEN (16) SQUARE FEET IN COMMERCIAL AREAS AND THREE (3) SQUARE FEET IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS. THEY MUST ALSO BE PLACED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY OUTSIDE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RIGHT OF WAYS.

ALL SIGNS SHALL BE REMOVED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE ELECTION FOR WHICH THEY WERE MADE.

CANDIDATES SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS.

CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION SIGNS SHALL NEITHER BE ATTACHED TO UTILITY POLES NOR PLACED IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE RIGHT OF WAYS.

******NO CAMPAIGN SIGNS ARE ALLOWED TO BE PLACED ON AN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF KINGS MOUNTAIN - NO EXCEPTIONS******
ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 704-734-4599 - KM CODES DEPARTMENT

_____

APPLICANTS SIGNATURE DATE

Shelby, NC

ARTICLE XII. - SIGNS

Sec. 12-1. - Signs.

Sec. 12-1. - Signs.

The purpose and intent of this article is to recognize that signs serve a legitimate public service and that they complement and support trade, tourism and investment within Shelby. These regulations are intended to establish standards which maximize the effectiveness of permitted signs while limiting visual distraction to motorists and preserving the land values and natural attractiveness of the area.

All signs except those specifically listed in subsection 12-1.3 shall be erected, installed, or modified only in accordance with a duly-issued and valid sign permit issued by the UDO administrator. Sign permits shall be issued in accordance with the requirements and procedures of article IV, Permits and procedures, and the submission requirements of appendix B. If plans submitted for a zoning, special use, or conditional use permit include sign plans in sufficient detail, as determined by the UDO administrator, that the permit-issuing authority can determine whether the proposed sign(s) comply with the provisions of this section, then issuance of the requested zoning, special use, or conditional use permit shall constitute approval of the proposed sign(s).

12-1.1. *Definitions.* Unless otherwise specifically provided, or unless clearly required by the context, the words and phrases defined in this section should have the meaning indicated when used throughout this article.

(A) *Sign.* Any words, lettering, numerals, parts of letters or numerals, figures, phrases, sentences, emblems, devices, designs, or trade names or trademarks by which anything is known (including any surface, fabric or other material or structure designed to carry such devices such as are used to designate or attract attention to an individual, firm, an association, a corporation, a profession, a business, or a commodity or product) which are exposed to public view and used to attract attention.

(B) *Advertising signs (billboards).* A sign which publicizes and directs attention to a business, profession, commodity, activity, product, service or entertainment not conducted, sold or offered upon the premises where such sign is located. Billboards located within 660 feet of interstate or federally assisted primary highways are subject to the standards and permitting requirements of the Outdoor Advertising Control Act which is administered by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

(C) *Animated sign.* Any sign which flashes, revolves, rotates or swings by mechanical means, or which uses a change of lighting to depict action, or to create a special effect or scene.

(D)

Banner. A temporary sign of light weight fabric or similar material which is rigidly mounted to a pole or a building by a rigid frame at two or more edges. National, state or municipal flags, or the official flag of any institution or business shall not be considered banners.

(E) *Building marker.* A sign indicating the name of a building and date and incidental information about its construction, which sign is cut into a masonry surface, or made of bronze or other permanent material.

(F) *Canopy sign.* Any sign which is a part of or attached to an awning, canopy or other fabric-like or plastic protective structure which is extended over a door, window, or entranceway. A marquee is not a canopy.

(G) *Changeable copy sign.* Any sign on which copy is changed manually and copy is shown on the same sign face such as reader boards with changeable letters or changeable pictorial panels but not limited to the above. Poster panels and painted boards are not changeable copy signs.

(H) *Commercial message.* Any sign wording, logo, or other representation that directly or indirectly, names, advertises, or calls attention to a business, product, service, or other commercial activity. This definition does not include company nameplates or logos on instructional signs.

(I) *Construction sign.* A sign on a construction site during the period of construction on which is printed or written the name of the owner, developer, contractor, architect, planner, engineer, or development title.

(J) *Electronically controlled message sign.* A sign on which the copy changes automatically on a lampbank, such that the message or display does not run continuously in the travel mode, and any message or display remains stationary for a minimum of two seconds. Any sign on which the message or display runs continuously in the travel mode and/or on which any message or display does not remain stationary for a minimum two seconds shall be considered a flashing sign.

(K) *Flashing sign.* A type of animated sign which contains an intermittent, blinking, scintillating, or flashing light source, or which includes the illusion of intermittent or flashing light, or an externally mounted intermittent light source. An electronically controlled message sign is not a flashing sign.

(L) *Freestanding sign.* Any sign which is supported by structures or supports which are placed on, or anchored in the ground, and which structures or supports are independent from any building or other structure.

(M) *Governmental sign.* Any sign erected by or on behalf of a governmental body to post a legal notice, identify public property, convey public information, and direct or regulate pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

(N) *Identification sign.* A permanent sign announcing the name of a subdivision, manufactured home park, campground/RV park, multifamily or townhouse development, planned unit development, church, school, park or quasi-public structure or facility, and uses permitted in residential zoning districts.

(O) *Incidental sign.* A sign which provides only information for the convenience and necessity of the public. Company logos may be displayed on such signs but must not occupy more than 25 percent of the sign area. Incidental signs include directories, entrance, exit and other necessary directional signs.

(P) *Menu sign.* A permanent on-premises sign located at businesses which provide drive-up or drive-through services such as fast food restaurants, banks, laundries, etc. Menu signs shall be located so as not to create vehicle stacking problems which will interfere with the flow of traffic.

(Q) *Nonconforming sign.* Any sign which does not conform to size, height, location, design, construction, or other requirements of this ordinance. The nonconformity may result from adoption of this ordinance or any subsequent amendment.

(R) *On-premises sign.* A sign which publicizes and directs attention to a profession, commodity, activity, product, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered upon the premises where such sign is located. On-premises signs include pole and ground mounted signs.

(S) *Portable sign.* A sign not permanently attached to any surface.

(T) *Professional or occupational sign or name plate.* A sign which publicizes and directs attention to a home occupation or to a profession.

(U) *Projecting sign.* Any sign which is end mounted or otherwise attached to an exterior wall of a building which forms an angle with said wall.

(V) *Real estate sign.* A sign which advertises the sale, rent, or lease of property.

(W) *Sign area.* The area of a sign shall be measured in conformance with the following:

(1) The area of the face of a sign shall be calculated to include the outermost part which forms the shape or display. Necessary supports and trim moldings shall not be included when calculating the area of the sign. Aprons below advertising signs shall not exceed three feet in height. Aprons serve an aesthetic function and shall not be used for any purposes other than to identify, by name, the sign company responsible for the sign.

(2) In computing the area of a sign, standard mathematical formulas for common regular geometric shapes (triangle, parallelogram, circle and ellipse, or combinations thereof) shall be used. Only one side of a double-faced sign shall be considered in calculating sign area. Posts supporting elevated signs shall not be included in the sign area calculation.

(3) In the case of an irregularly shaped sign or a sign with letters and/or symbols affixed to or painted, displayed or incorporated into or upon a wall, canopy, awning or decorative facade of a building, the area of the sign shall be the area within the singular continuous perimeter, outlining the limits of the writing, representation, emblem, or any figure of similar character.

(4) Back-to-back and V-type signs mounted so as to be connected and not spread more than 15 feet will be considered as one sign location when calculating horizontal separation between signs. Advertising signs (billboards) shall not be stacked, horizontally or vertically.

(X) *Sign height.* The vertical distance measured from the ground elevation where the sign is located, to the highest point of the sign except as follows: When the ground elevation is different from the elevation of an

adjacent street, the height of a sign shall be measured from the street elevation of the adjacent street at the edge of the pavement.

(Y) *Temporary signs.* Temporary signs are those signs which relate to such events as elections, farm auctions, yard sales, agricultural production sales, annual charitable, civic or fraternal events, horse shows, festivals, and home show openings.

(Z) *Wall sign.* A sign which is attached to a wall or facade of a building or canopy.

(AA) *Warning sign.* Any sign with no commercial message that displays information pertinent to the safety or legal responsibilities of the public such as signs warning of "high voltage", "no trespassing", and similar directives.

(BB) *Projecting signs.* Wall signs attached flat against a wall may extend not more than 24 inches from the wall. Signs projecting from a wall may extend outward from the wall of a building not more than six and one-half feet and may be located not closer than 18 inches to a vertical plane at the street curb line. A projecting sign shall not extend above the roof line a distance greater than the height of the roof above the ground level. In no case shall signs project beyond property lines, except that signs may project over public sidewalks in central business districts provided that the minimum height above grade or sidewalk level of such signs shall be no less than ten feet.

12-1.2. *Sign standards.*

(A) All pole signs shall be constructed to withstand minimum wind loads as specified by the North Carolina State Building Code. Sufficient documentation shall be submitted to the UDO administrator for review to assure that wind and stress requirements have been met prior to any permit being issued. Such documentation shall be signed and sealed by a registered North Carolina Architect or Engineer.

(B) All signs shall be installed and maintained in compliance with the North Carolina State Building Code and the National Electrical Code and shall have appropriate permits and inspections. Electrical signs and fixtures shall bear labels of a nationally accepted testing laboratory.

(C) All signs shall be maintained in a state of good repair, in compliance with all building and electrical codes and this ordinance, and shall present a neat, well-kept appearance.

(D) All lights used for the illumination of a sign shall be shielded so that the light will not shine directly on surrounding areas or create a traffic hazard or distraction to operators of motor vehicles on the public thoroughfares. The UDO administrator shall have the authority to order a change in the illumination of any sign that becomes a hazard or a nuisance.

(E) No illuminated sign, other than professional or occupational signs or nameplates, on-premises signs, incidental signs, back-lit awnings or identification signs shall be permitted within 100 feet of any residential zone. Illuminated signs other than those listed above which are located within 300 feet of a residence or residentially zoned district shall not be illuminated between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m.

(F)

The UDO administrator or his authorized representative shall have the authority to order the painting, repair, alteration or removal of a sign, at the expense of the owner of such sign, which shall constitute a hazard to safety, health or public welfare by reasons of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation or obsolescence. The existence of a sign (excluding billboards) or its support structure with no message display for a period of 90 days, shall be justification to declare the sign abandoned and require its removal.

(G) Any sign erected without proper permits or in violation of this ordinance shall be brought into compliance within seven days of notification by the UDO administrator or said sign shall be removed immediately.

(H) Any permitted sign projection over a public sidewalk shall be no lower than 8 feet above the level of the sidewalk nor lower than 14 feet above the level of a vehicular driveway. An encroachment agreement must be obtained from the City of Shelby or the NCDOT, as applicable.

(I) No sign or sign structure shall be erected, constructed, or maintained so as to interfere with vision clearance along any street or highway or at any intersection of two or more streets or highways. No sign or sign structure may be located within a street or street right-of-way except as allowed over sidewalks in subsection (H).

(J) Any sign located with a corridor protection (CPD) zoning district shall comply with the requirements of subsection 10-8.3.

12-1.3. *Exempt signs.* The following listed signs are subject to all placement and dimensional requirements of this section and shall comply with the North Carolina Department of Transportation sight distance and street rights-of-way clearances. The following listed signs shall, however, be exempt from permit and fee requirements, except that any illuminated sign shall require an electrical permit. Exempt signs shall be maintained in good condition and shall not constitute a hazard to safety, health or public welfare. Exempt signs which are found to be in violation shall be ordered corrected or removed.

(A) Any directional, instructional or warning signs; utility signs; signs for public use; and no trespassing, no hunting, or neighborhood watch signs provided such signs contain no commercial message except for a business logo or name.

(B) Any sign that is required by law or erected at the direction of a governmental agency.

(C) Signs erected to regulate traffic.

(D) Mailboxes, house numbers, nameplates, and building markers not exceeding four square feet in area.

(E) Religious symbols at a place of worship or at a church-owned or operated facility. Such symbols must meet all setbacks and lighting requirements for signs.

(F) In residential zoning districts, construction signs having a maximum area of 16 square feet and a maximum height of six feet and limited to one sign per construction site per street frontage. In nonresidential zoning districts, construction signs having a maximum area of 64 square feet and a maximum height of ten feet and limited to one sign per construction site

per street frontage. Exempt construction signs must be removed within 30 days following the completion of the project.

(G) Real estate signs having a maximum area of six square feet in residential districts and 32 square feet in other districts. Real estate signs are limited to one per site or one per 300 feet of street frontage.

Temporary real estate signs associated with the marketing of a subdivision shall be limited to one sign per subdivision entrance and 32 square feet in area and six feet in height. This type of sign must be set back a minimum of two feet from all exterior property lines of the subdivision and shall remain clear of the roadway sight distance easement. An additional directory-type sign of the same dimension, height and setback requirements may be located within the interior of a subdivision. Real estate signs must be removed within 30 days following completion of the project or transaction.

(H) Temporary political signs shall be removed within 30 days following the event or election. Such signs are limited to 16 square feet in area and shall not be illuminated. In residential districts, no more than one sign shall be permitted per lot for each candidate or issue. No sign shall be attached to utility poles, traffic regulatory signs, or other publicly maintained structures.

(I) Works of art with no commercial message.

(J) Lights and decorations with no commercial message temporarily displayed on traditionally adopted civic, patriotic or religious holidays.

(K) Hand-carried signs.

(L) Signs located on the interior of buildings, courts, lobbies, stadiums, or other structures that are not intended to be seen from the exterior of such structures.

(M) Flags of the United States, State of North Carolina, local governmental jurisdictions, foreign nations, and any other flags adopted or sanctioned by the city.

(N) Signs affixed to vehicles and trailers used in the normal transport of goods or persons where the sign is incidental and accessory to the primary use of the vehicle or trailer.

(O) Flags, emblems or insignia of corporate, political, professional, fraternal, civic, religious, or educational organizations.

(P) Historical or memorial plaques, tablets, or markers.

(Q) Signs painted or attached to vending machines, gas pumps, ice machines, or similar devices which indicate the contents of the machine, name or logo of supplier, the price or operating instructions.

(R) Window signs painted on the inside of a window.

(S) Changing copy of existing sign(s) without enlarging; however, a drawing of the new sign face must be submitted to the planning services department prior to changing the sign face.

(T) Banners on or across public streets upon the approval of the city manager.

(U) Temporary signs meeting the requirements of subsection 12-1.5(I).

12-1.4. *Prohibited signs.* The following signs shall not be permitted, erected or maintained within the Shelby planning and zoning jurisdiction.

(A) Signs with moving, revolving or rotating parts, optical illusions or movement or mechanical movements by any description or other apparent movement achieved by electrical, electronic or mechanical means, except for time, temperature, date signs; traditional barber poles; three message displays on billboards, and electronically controlled message signs.

(B) Signs with lights or illuminations which flash, move, rotate, scintillate, blink, flicker, vary in intensity, vary in color or use intermittent electrical pulsations, except for: time, temperature, date signs; traditional barber poles; and electronically controlled message signs.

(C) Strings of light bulbs used in connection with commercial premises for commercial purposes other than traditional holiday decorations, during the appropriate holiday period.

(D) Signs painted on or displayed on vehicles or trailers used to serve primarily as a sign in residential districts.

(E) Signs erected, maintained, painted or drawn on any tree, rock or other natural feature.

(F) Signs attached to a building which extend vertically above the highest portion of the roof of any structure.

(G) Signs which obstruct any fire escape, required exit, window, door opening, or wall opening intended as a means of ingress or egress or signs which interfere with any opening required for ventilation.

(H) Signs which imitate traffic control devices or interfere with any warning or instructional sign.

(I) Signs which project over a public right-of-way, except that; (i) projecting signs shall comply with subsection 12-1.1 (BB) of this ordinance; and (ii) signs suspended underneath a canopy or awning may be located over a public sidewalk provided that they are at least eight feet above the sidewalk.

12-1.5. *Sign placement, size, height, setback, separation, clearances and construction by sign type.*

(A) *Advertising signs (billboards).*

(1) Maximum height: 35 feet. (In the event that unique conditions exist on a site which render the 35-foot maximum height requirement impracticable, the Zoning Administrator may authorize a height not to exceed a maximum height of 45 feet.)

(2) Minimum separation from another billboard: 500 feet measured along the same side of the street and 100 feet radius along an intersecting or adjacent street.

(3) Billboards shall maintain a minimum separation of 50 feet from any residence as measured along the street beginning at a point projected perpendicular from the near side of an existing residence to the street right-of-way and 100 feet from any residential zoning district boundary.

(4) Maximum sign size:

(a) Three hundred twenty-five square feet in area.

(b) Top outs and side outs are permitted in addition to the above sign area dimensions. Top outs and side outs shall be confined to the immediate plane of the sign and may extend above and/or to the side of the sign face a maximum of two feet. Top outs and side outs shall not exceed a total of 32 square feet in area.

(5) Minimum setback: No billboard shall be located within a street right -of-way. However, in any area in which a curb or the edge of the street pavement lies less than five feet from a street right-of-way, no billboard shall be located closer than five feet to such right-of-way.

(6) Minimum separation from utility lines shall be in compliance with the requirements of the utility provider having jurisdiction.

(7) All structures, blank surfaces, backs and supports shall be uniformly painted in a neutral finish when exposed to any street and shall be maintained in good repair.

(8) Minimum requirements contained within the North Carolina Outdoor Advertising Control Act (G.S. 136-126 et seq.) which are more stringent or in addition to those contained in this section shall apply.

(B) *On-premises signs (freestanding pole or ground mounted on-premises signs).*

(1) Maximum height:

(a) In RO and NB zoning districts: No maximum height requirement.

(b) In CB zoning districts: Eight feet.

(c) In CPD zoning districts: 12 feet.

(d) In GB, GB2, LI, and GI zoning districts: No maximum height requirement.

(2) Maximum sign area:

(a) In RO zoning districts: 20 percent of the maximum allowable wall sign area (one square foot of wall sign area per LF of building wall adjoining a street) or 100 square feet, whichever is less. However, the minimum guaranteed freestanding sign area at any individual premises is 24 square feet.

(b) In NB zoning districts: two square feet of sign area per LF of building wall adjoining a street or 100 square feet, whichever is less. This is a maximum sign area for all on-premises and wall signs. Thus, the maximum allowable amount of on-premises sign area is also dependent upon the amount of sign area devoted to any existing or proposed wall sign.

(c) In CB zoning districts: 25 percent of the maximum allowable wall sign area (three square feet of wall sign area per LF of building wall adjoining a street) or 150 square feet, whichever is less.

(d) In CPD zoning districts: See subsection 10-8.3.

(e) In GB, GB2, LI, and GI zoning districts: Three square feet of sign area per LF of building wall adjoining a street or 300 square feet maximum. This is a maximum sign area for all on-premises and wall signs. Thus, the maximum allowable amount of on-premises sign area is also dependent upon the amount of sign area devoted to any existing or proposed wall sign.

(3) Maximum number of freestanding or ground mounted on-premises signs per parcel: One sign per adjoining public street frontage.

(4) Minimum setback: No on-premises sign shall be located within a street right-of-way. However, in any area in which a curb or the edge of the street pavement lies less than five feet from a street right-of-way, no on-premises sign shall be located closer than five feet to such right-of-way.

(5) Minimum separation from utility lines shall be in compliance with the requirements of the utility provider having jurisdiction.

(6) No unfinished surfaces or structures shall be exposed on on-premises signs.

(C) *Wall signs (including canopy, awning and building facade signs).*

(1) Maximum area:

(a) In RO zoning districts: One square foot of wall sign area per LF of building wall adjoining a street, less the amount of any existing or proposed on-premises sign area.

(b) In NB zoning districts: Two square feet of sign area per LF of building wall adjoining a street, less the amount of any existing or proposed on-premises sign area.

(c) In CB zoning districts: Three square feet of wall sign area per LF of building wall adjoining a street, less the amount of any existing or proposed on-premises sign area.

(d) In CPD zoning districts: See subsection 10-8.3.

(e) In GB, GB2, LI, and GI zoning districts: Three square feet of sign area per LF of building wall adjoining a street or 300 square feet maximum, less the amount of any existing or proposed on-premises sign area.

(f) In all districts: Sign footage permitted per building side may not be used on other than that building side (no transfers or cumulative totals).

(2) The maximum projection of a wall sign shall not exceed 12 inches.

(3) The height of a wall sign shall not exceed the height of the building or canopy facade.

(D) *Professional or occupational name plates and incidental signs.*

(1) Maximum sign area: Three square feet.

(2) Maximum height: 30 inches if ground mounted, signs in this category may also be mounted against the structure.

(3) Minimum setback: No sign shall be located within a street right-of-way. However, in any area in which a curb or the edge of the street

pavement lies less than five feet from a street right-of-way, no on-premises sign shall be located closer than five feet to such right-of-way.

(4) Maximum number of signs per establishment: One.

(E) *Identification signs.*

(1) Maximum sign area:

(a) Twelve square feet for signs identifying multifamily and townhouse developments under two acres in size, boarding and rooming houses, manufactured home parks, and bed and breakfast in nonresidential districts,

(b) One hundred twenty square feet for signs identifying subdivisions and multifamily and townhouse developments over two acres in size.

(c) Sixty square feet for signs identifying clubs and other recreational facilities, schools, church bulletin boards, and nonresidential uses allowed in residential districts.

(2) Maximum height:

(a) Eight feet for signs identifying subdivisions and multifamily and townhouse developments over two acres in size.

(b) Six feet for all other types of identification signs.

(3) Minimum setback:

(a) Subdivision median identification signs: All median sign layouts for existing or proposed city-maintained streets must be approved by the city engineer. Median signs located within existing or proposed state-maintained streets must by approved by the NCDOT.

(b) All other types of identification signs: no sign shall be located within a street right-of-way. However, in any area in which a curb or the edge of the street pavement lies less than five feet from a street right-of-way, no on-premises sign shall be located closer than five feet to such right-of-way.

(4) Maximum number of signs per adjoining street frontage:

(a) Signs identifying subdivisions and multifamily and townhouse developments over two acres in size: one per street entrance.

(b) All other types of identification signs: One.

(F) *Menu signs.*

(1) Maximum sign area: 45 square feet.

(2) Maximum height if ground mounted: Eight feet.

(3) Minimum setback from all property lines: Five feet.

(4) Maximum number of signs per business establishment: One.

(G) *Portable signs.* In districts permitting portable signs, one temporary portable sign having a maximum display area of 60 square feet and a maximum height of eight feet may be allowed per premises for a period not to exceed 90 consecutive days. A period of 30 days must elapse between the expiration of such 90-day period and the renewal of a permit

for any subsequent 90-day period. Temporary portable signs are not subject to the aggregate sign area limitations of this section. Portable signs shall not be used as permanent signs.

(H) *Shopping center identification signs.* In GB and GB2 districts, one shopping center identification sign is permitted for each shopping center. The maximum sign area shall be 300 square feet for centers containing 15 or fewer stores or businesses and 400 square feet for centers containing more than 15 stores or businesses. Shopping center identification signs are not subject to the aggregate sign area limitations of this section. See subsection 10-8.3 for multitenant developments located within CPD zoning districts.

(I) *Temporary signs.*

(1) Maximum sign area: 32 square feet.

(2) Maximum height: Eight feet.

(3) Temporary signs, including banners, shall not be placed on the premises more than 30 days prior to the temporary event and must be removed within ten days following the temporary event.

(4) Banners shall not be used as permanent signs.

Table 12-1-1. Table of Permitted Signs By Type of Sign

Sign Type	Residential Districts	RO	NB	CB	GB	GB2	CPD	LI	GI
Advertising (billboards)*					X			X	X
On-premises		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wall sign		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Professional or occupational nameplate, incidental	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Portable		X	X		X	X		X	X
Identification	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Menu		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Construction	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Real estate	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Temporary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Exempt	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Notes:

X = Indicates permitted with sign permit.

Blank = Indicates not permitted.

* Advertising signs in this category shall also comply with the permit procedures contained in the current edition of the North Carolina Department of Transportation outdoor advertising manual.

12-1.6. *Nonconforming signs.* It is the intent of this ordinance to permit signs which were lawful before the effective date of this ordinance to remain in service. Specific provisions regarding nonconforming signs are delineated in section 6-7

12-1.7. *Noncommercial messages.* Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, any sign, display or device allowed under this article may contain, in lieu of any

other copy, an otherwise lawful noncommercial message that does not direct attention to a business operated for profit or to a commodity or service for sale. Such sign, display, or device shall, however, comply with the area, lighting, height and other requirements of this article.

Table 12-1-2. Summary Table of Sign Standards By Sign Type

Sign Type	Maximum Sign Area	Maximum Sign Height
Billboards	325 square feet	35 feet
Professional Occupational Incidental	3 square feet	2.5 feet
Identification	12 square feet multifamily/townhouses, mobile home parks, etc.	6 feet
	120 square feet S/D and multifamily over 2 acres	8 feet
	60 square feet all other uses	6 feet
Portable	60 square feet	8 feet
Temporary	32 square feet	8 feet
Menu	45 square feet	8 feet
Shopping center	GB, GB2: 300 square feet w/15 or less stores	No maximum
	400 square feet w/more than 15 stores	No maximum
	CPD: 150 square feet	12 feet
Wall	RO: 1 square foot per LF of wall area NB: 2 square feet per LF wall area* CB: 3 square feet per LF wall area GB, GB2, LI, and GI: 3 square feet per LF wall area* CPD: 1.5 square feet per LF wall area	
Freestanding	RO: 20% of wall sign area or 100 square feet.**	No maximum
	NB: 2 square feet per LF wall area or 100 square feet***	No maximum
	CB: 25% of wall sign area or 150 square feet	8 feet
	GB, GB2, LI, and GI: 3 square feet per LF wall area*** or 300 square feet	No maximum
	CPD:	
	48 square feet w/multiple tenants	12 feet
	36 square feet w/o multiple tenants	12 feet

* Less the amount of any existing or proposed freestanding sign area.

** The minimum guaranteed freestanding sign area at any individual premises in RO is 24 square feet.

*** Less the amount of any existing or proposed wall sign area.

(Ord. No. 1-2006, § 1, 1-9-2006; Ord. No. 4-2008, § 1, 1-22-2008)