



CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION SIGNS

Planning Department | City of Savage | 6000 McColl Drive, Savage, MN 55378 | Office: 952-882-2650

[Minnesota State Statutes](#) and the [Savage City Code](#) regulate the placement of campaign signs. The following information is a summary of the regulations:

- Signs may be posted starting 46 days before the state primary until 10 days following the general election.
- There is no limit to the number of signs that may be posted.
- All signs must be removed within 10 days following the election.
- Signs cannot be attached to fences, trees, street or traffic signs, and utility poles or like items.
- Signs can only be placed on private property with the owner's permission. Signs cannot be placed on any public property, including but not limited to, city parkland or other city properties or buildings, along trails, sidewalks, or public school and county properties.
- Signs are NOT ALLOWED in public road right-of-way/boulevard area. Road right-of-way can vary from one property to the next and typically does not end at the edge of street or curb. In some cases, the public right-of-way line of major roadways (i.e. County Road 42) could be 60 - 80 feet beyond the edge of the road. Please verify right-of-way location before placing campaign signs are not located within right-of-way to avoid removal.
- You can locate right-of-way boundaries using [Scott County's GIS mapping application](#) or by contacting the Savage Planning Department at 952-882-2650.
- On Election Day campaign signs cannot be located within 100 feet of a polling place.

Minnesota Department of Transportation provides additional information regarding placement of signs within state road right-of-way at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/2347/mndot-letter-on-advertising-near-highways.pdf>

Scott County provides additional information at <https://www.scottcountymn.gov/1947/Candidate-Filing-Information>

If you need additional information on zoning requirements for campaign signs, please contact the Savage Planning Department at 952-882-2650.

Savage Sign Ordinance

(1) The signs shall be professionally designed and painted on all sides, including support posts. Freestanding signs shall be properly anchored into the ground.

(2) The signs shall be limited to one per street frontage of the property.

(3) The content of the commercial message on these signs shall include an offer of the property for sale or lease, the company name, the phone number and other information related to the sale.

(4) The signs shall not measure more than 12 square feet in R-1, R-2, R-3, PRD and PMD districts and shall not measure more than 40 square feet in all other districts. The 40 square feet limitation may be increased to 64 square feet, provided a permit is issued and the following standards are met:

(a) The sign shall be a maximum height of 12 feet;

(b) The sign shall be set back from the property line no less than ten feet;

(c) The sign shall be non-illuminated;

(d) The signs shall be wall or freestanding on premises signs; and

(e) The sign shall be removed ten days after the closing of the sale or leasing of the property.

(O) *Temporary signs for organized showcase events.* Temporary signs for organized showcase events promoting new construction model homes are allowed as off-premise signs provided that the signs do not exceed five square feet and are removed within 30 days from beginning date of event.

(P) Up to three flags containing non-commercial speech only may be displayed upon a lot. Each flag may not exceed 100 square feet in size. Flag pole height must comply with height regulations of the applicable zoning district.

(Q) Signs which are located on the interior of a building and are not visible from outside of the building shall be exempt from the provisions of this section, and shall not require permits or payment of fees.

(R) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, all signs of any size containing non-commercial speech may be posted from 46 days before the state primary in any general election year until ten days following the general election and 13 weeks prior to any special election until ten days following the special election.

(S) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, signs containing non-commercial speech are permitted in all districts and are subject to only the provisions of

§ 152.470. Non-commercial signs are also subject to individual district setback and height regulations. The owner of any sign which is otherwise allowed by this code may substitute non-commercial copy in lieu of any other commercial or non-commercial copy. This substitution of copy may be made without any additional approval or permitting. The purpose of this provision is to prevent any inadvertent favoring of commercial speech over non-commercial speech, or favoring of any particular non-commercial message over any other non-commercial message. This provision prevails over any more specific provision to the contrary. (Prior Code, § 9-23-3) (Ord. 535, passed 9-4-2001; Ord. 667, passed 6-7-2010; Ord. 692, passed 10-17-11) Penalty, see § 152.999

§ 152.463 PROHIBITED SIGNS.

The following signs or advertising structures are prohibited in all zoning districts:

(A) *Offensive signs.* Signs which bear or contain statements, words or pictures of an obscene, indecent or immoral character, that as is likely to offend public morals or decency;

(B) *Exterior building surface signs.* Painting signs directly on any exterior building surface;

(C) *Vehicle signs.* Signs placed on vehicles, trailers or other equipment being used in a manner that advertising is a principal use of the equipment;

(D) *Dynamic display signs.* Dynamic displays except as permitted in §§ 152.471 and 152.472;

(E) *Banners.* Banners except as permitted in § 152.468(E);

(F) *Signs near intersections.* Signs which are erected at the intersection of any street in a manner as to substantially obstruct free and clear vision of the traveling public; or at any location where, by reason of the position, shape, color or animation, it may interfere with, obstruct or be confused with any authorized traffic sign or highway identification sign; or which makes use of the words: "STOP," "LOOK," "DANGER" or any other words, phrase, symbol, character or animation in a manner as is reasonably likely to interfere with, mislead or confuse vehicle operators;

(G) *Rooftop signs.* Rooftop signs;

(H) *Identification signs.* Signs and their structures which identify, advertise or provide direction to a use, business, industry or service which has ceased existence for 90 days or more. The signs shall be removed within 30 days after written notice from the Zoning Administrator or his or her designee;

(I) *Off-premise signs.* Off-premise signs, except as specifically permitted in other sections of this title;

May 7, 2020

RE: Placement of Signs along Trunk Highways

To All Candidates for Public Office:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation reminds the public that placing signs, including campaign signs, along trunk highways is prohibited. State law ([Minn. Stat. 160.2715](#)) prohibits the placement, painting, printing or affixing of advertisements on any object within the limits of a trunk highway. This restriction includes driving lanes, inside and outside shoulders, ditches and sight corners at intersections. The trunk highway system includes state, U.S., and interstate highways in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Outdoor Advertising Control Act ([Minn. Stat. 173.15](#)), which applies to land next to trunk highway right of way, prohibits placing advertising devices on private land without consent of the owner or occupant; on trees, shrubs, or public utility poles; or by painting on rocks or other natural features.

These laws protect the safety of the traveling public and those who might place signs. They ensure Minnesota complies with federal highway beautification laws. Right of way is used for a variety of purposes, including providing a safe place for vehicles that leave travel lanes, snow storage, location for public utilities, draining excess water away from roads, vegetation growth for aesthetics and erosion control and even pollinator habitat. Unauthorized signs and people stopping to place signs within the limits of the highway can compromise these functions.

County, city and township employees administer applicable laws on roads under their jurisdiction. MnDOT is responsible for the trunk highway system. Please contact local MnDOT offices for assistance when placing signs where trunk highway right of way cannot be clearly identified. Make sure those who place signs on your behalf know the law. Illegally placed signs will be removed by MnDOT employees and temporarily stored. Please contact [local MnDOT offices](#) promptly to retrieve signs that have been removed.

Thank you for participating in the democratic process and thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Commissioner

211B.045 NONCOMMERCIAL SIGNS EXEMPTION.

All noncommercial signs of any size may be posted in any number beginning 46 days before the state primary in a state general election year until ten days following the state general election. Municipal ordinances may regulate the size and number of noncommercial signs at other times.

History: *1990 c 585 s 30; 2004 c 142 s 1; 2010 c 184 s 42; 2013 c 131 art 2 s 74*