

CoHo Approved Guidelines for Political Sign Usage

Consented in Plenary Meeting 10-17-2021

The CoHo Values were consulted when crafting this guidance. Following is a selection of CoHo Values with which this guidance strives to align, with Susie's interpretation of how there is alignment. The full list of CoHo Values and their definitions is found at <https://www.cohocovillage.org/our-village/vision-values/>.

A Diverse Community - At CoHo we honor a diversity of opinions, beliefs and philosophies.

Safety and Trust - We honor the legal right of each adult person to vote for their preferred candidates and issues without receiving judgment, coercion or undue influence.

Balancing Community and Privacy - We honor individual freedom of expression, and harmony among our community members.

What constitutes a political sign?

This is a good question, and one upon which it is not necessarily easy to gain agreement. There are signs about causes (ex. "Support Planned Parenthood,"), religious signs, signs supporting local businesses (ex. "Library Champion") and social-justice and/or human-rights signs (ex. "Black Lives Matter"). This guidance attempts to cover all of the above.

What constitutes an election sign?

Signs that advertise the names of state/local/federal candidates who are running for office, referenda/propositions/measures, any other election-related information that is only timely for the next scheduled election.

Guidance for Election Signs

We recognize that a sign advertising political candidates and referenda is a strategy for informing our friends and expressing our views. However, this is an imperfect strategy; a sign lacks the nuance of an engaged conversation, it can cause upset feelings in those who feel differently about the issues, and some CoHoots find signs distracting and unpleasant to look at as they walk on the path.

Therefore, we encourage those who would like to display election signs to follow these recommendations:

- Place the sign no sooner than a month before the election to which it pertains.
- Place the sign as closely as you can to your own front door, to reduce confusion about whose views are being expressed.

- If you live in an upstairs flat, check in with your lower-flat neighbors to find an agreed-upon sign placement.
- Remove the sign as soon as possible after the election so that it does not become worn out, blow away, or create an ongoing visual disturbance for others.
- Do not place election signs in public common areas or on the grassy street-side strip of Crystal Lake Drive or Alexander Street, because a sign in any of those locations may be presumed to represent the views of every member in the community.
- Do not place more than one sign per household per election.

Guidance for all other signs

For any sign that is not directed at the upcoming election (advertising, human-rights, elected officials currently in office, etc) and therefore has no easily identifiable date of expiration, please consider placing the sign inside the window of your home, facing out. This meets the need for freedom of expression without the downsides of decomposing in the elements, creating sign fatigue in passersby on the path, or causing any confusion about who is in support of which sign/cause/issue.

If there is a sign that you feel strongly does represent the whole community (for example, the “Oregonians Crossing” sign), and you want to place it in a public common area, please announce to the community that you are interested in placing the sign in a public location to give others an opportunity to let you know if they do not agree to be represented by the sign.

If any sign in a public common area receives an objection after placement, it should be removed immediately.