

Voicing Your Opinion

CITY OF MADISON SIGN ORDINANCE

NO PERMIT OR FEE REQUIRED

Types of opinion signs



◀ **ELECTION CAMPAIGN SIGNS:** Temporary non-commercial sign displayed during an “*Election Campaign Period*” on private property. Cannot have any electrical, mechanical or any audio aspect. Mounted on a post in a yard or on a building if not blocking ventilation.



NONCOMMERCIAL SIGNS: Signs expressing a noncommercial message on private property. ▶

How many signs can I have?

DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIOD: The same number of noncommercial signs as the number of candidates + referenda on your ballot. The sign can be about a political candidate or any noncommercial topic. See “*Election Campaign Period*.” ▶

DURING ALL OTHER TIMES: One noncommercial sign per street frontage. This means a corner lot can have two. Waterfront lots can have one facing the waterfront and one facing the street for a maximum of two noncommercial signs per lot. See illustration map. ▶

How big can my signs be?

ELECTION CAMPAIGN SIGNS: 12 square feet (total for both sides).

NONCOMMERCIAL SIGNS:

- In Group 1 Zoning Districts: 12 square feet (total for both sides). ▶
- In Group 2 & 3 Zoning Districts: 32 square feet (total for both sides).

Where can I put my signs?

ELECTION CAMPAIGN SIGNS: (*on private property only*)

- Ground Signs (on stakes in the ground): Must be setback 10 feet from property line and maximum height of six feet.
- Wall Signs (on side of building): No required setback from property line, and maximum height of 15 feet.
- Tenants, apartments, condos: Same rules as above apply to tenants in areas occupied exclusively by the renter.

NONCOMMERCIAL SIGNS: (*on private property only*)

- Group 1 Zoning Districts: Ten feet setback from property line ▶ and maximum height of one story or 12 feet, whichever is lower.
- Group 2 & 3 Zoning Districts: No setback needed from property line and maximum height of 15 feet.



Department of Planning
& Community &
Economic Development

Building Inspection Division

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Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2984
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www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/bi/signs/106

▶ “*Election Campaign Period*” dates:

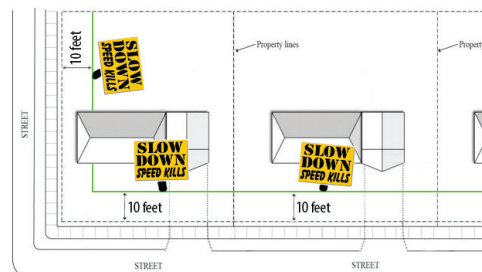
- For a Candidate: begins the first day for circulation of nomination papers by candidates and ends 11:59 pm on election day.
- For a Referendum: begins the day the question to be voted upon is submitted to the electorate and ends 11:59 pm the day referendum is voted on.

▶ How to find the number of candidates and referendums on my ballot:

- Go to <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/PreviewMyBallot>

▶ Am I in a Group 1 Zoning District?:

1. Look up your property address here: www.cityofmadison.com/assessor/property/
2. Go to “Property Details”, then “Property Information” to find your zoning.
3. Zoning Districts in Group 1 include all districts classified as Residential in [Sec. 28.021](#), plus DR1 and DR2, plus the Agricultural (A), Urban Agricultural (UA), Campus Institutional (CI) and Conservancy (CN) districts. All other Zoning Districts are in Group 2 or 3.



▶ GREEN LINE SHOWS 10 FOOT SETBACK