



Ordinance Amending Chapter 17.54 of the Municipal Code Regulating Campaign Signs on City Property

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Background

- Following the 2022 election cycle the City Council discussed the need for review and updating of city regulations related to campaign signs.
- In January and February of 2023, the Municipal Code Update Subcommittee discussed adopting an ordinance to clarify rules on placement of campaign signs on public property with a focus on Chapter 17.



Background

- Section 17.54.030 generally prohibits private parties from affixing signs to City property unless specifically authorized by Chapter 17.54.
- Campaign signs and other political materials are not included on the list of signs expressly permitted on City property. But there is no explicit prohibition on campaign signs either.



Proposed Ordinance

- Expressly identifies political and campaign signs, or any other sign designed to influence voters to support or oppose any candidate or ballot measure, as prohibited signage on public property.
- Preserves right to temporary display non-commercial message signs (handheld) with limited restrictions.



Revised

Chapter 17.54.030

“Unless specifically authorized by this chapter, no signs may be affixed to city property by private parties. Prohibited signs include, but are not limited to, political and campaign signs, or any other sign designed to influence voters to support or oppose any candidate or ballot measure. Any sign posted on city property in violation of this chapter may be summarily removed by the city as a trespass and a public nuisance.”



Effect of Proposed Ordinance

- Clearly and expressly identifies prohibition on placement of political and campaign signs on public property.
- Creates ability for code enforcement to cite for violations of the Municipal Code for placement of campaign signs on public property.



Zoning Code Update

- Amendment to Title 17 of the Zoning Code is subject to review by the Planning Commission.
- On September 25, 2023, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing and unanimously approved the ordinance and adopted Resolution 23-08 recommending that the City Council adopt the proposed Ordinance.



Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council waive the first reading and introduce an Ordinance amending Chapter 17.54.030 of the Pinole Municipal Code to include campaign signs and other political material among generally prohibited signage on public property.