



Bingham County Public Works

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PUBLIC NOTICE

During past election seasons the county public works department has received citizen reports and complaints regarding political and/or campaign signs being illegally placed in the road right of way or causing a road hazard by limiting visibility at an intersection. Much time is unnecessarily wasted by the county public works department because each and every complaint or report must be checked to determine whether or not there is a violation of law or a legitimate public safety concern.

In the event a sign is illegally placed in a road right of way, causing a traffic hazard or blocking the view of the motoring public at an intersection the county is required to remove the offending sign in order to protect the public and prevent a possible civil liability issue against the County.

Bingham County Code 10-7-31A.1. States; *“Except for highway signs, no sign shall be located within any road right-of-way nor located to impede visibility at an intersection.”* In order to eliminate or reduce the chances of your campaign sign being in violation of the county ordinance and removed we recommend the following; Usually, aligning placement of a sign out of the county right of way can be determined by looking at the distance of a power pole or a utility pedestal from the shoulder of the road. If your sign is no closer to the road than the pole or pedestal then there is a good chance that your sign will be ok. Remember, you legally must have permission for placement of the sign from the property owner.

Requirements for placement of signs on private property within an intersection can be found in Idaho Code 49-221 (1) *“It shall be the responsibility of the owner of real property to remove from his property any hedge, shrubbery, fence, wall or other sight obstructions of any nature, except public traffic or highway signs, buildings and trees, where these sight obstructions constitute a potential traffic hazard. The above sight obstructions shall not extend more than three (3) feet, or less than ten (10) feet, in height above the existing center line highway elevation within the vision triangle of vehicle operators. The boundaries of the vision triangle are defined by measuring from the intersection of the edges of two (2) adjacent highways forty (40) feet along each highway and connecting the two (2) points with a straight line. The sight distance obstruction restriction is also applicable to railroad-highway grade crossings with vision triangle defined by measuring forty (40) feet along the railroad property line when intersecting with a highway.”*

With that in mind we recommend that you try to avoid placement of a campaign sign in the area of the intersection to minimize the chance of having your sign removed. In the event that you decide to place a sign at an intersection, in a county road right of way, there is a strong possibility that it will be removed. The county public works department must lean towards the side of caution when it comes to public safety and civil liability so if there is any chance of a problem it will be removed.

Our efforts in providing this notification is to inform of sign placement limitations in the hope of avoiding any hurt feelings or beliefs that someone is being singled out. If you have any questions contact Bingham County Public Works Department at (208) 782-3173.