

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Adopting)
an Ordinance Regulating the)
Location, Size, Duration and)
Removal of Political Signs)
_____)

ORDINANCE NO. 94-3

The Board of County Commissioners for Columbia County, Oregon ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. TITLE.

This ordinance shall be known as Ordinance No. 94-3.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY.

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority of ORS 203.035 and ORS Chapter 368.

SECTION 3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the location, size, duration and removal of political campaign signs.

SECTION 4. DEFINITIONS.

A. COMMERCIAL BILLBOARD. An outdoor signboard permanently attached to a building, structure or the ground upon which space is rented for the location of a sign.

B. POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGN. A temporary sign regarding a candidate or candidates seeking any elective office or regarding any issue to be voted on by the electorate. Commercial billboards shall not be considered political signs for purposes of this ordinance.

C. SIGN. Any letters, figures, symbols or designs which are intended to convey a message or to attract attention.

SECTION 5. PROHIBITED ACTIVITY.

No political candidate, political campaign committee, individual or other entity shall erect or maintain political campaign signs except as authorized by this ordinance.

SECTION 6. LOCATION.

No political campaign sign shall be located within the boundaries of any public right-of-way or on any public property or affixed to utility poles, trees, rocks or other natural features. No political campaign signs shall be located on private property without the consent of the person lawfully in possession of the property.

SECTION 7. SIZE.

No individual political campaign sign may exceed twenty (20) square feet in size.

SECTION 8. DURATION.

A. No political campaign sign may be erected earlier than forty-five (45) days prior to the election date at which the candidate or measure advocated by the political campaign sign is on the ballot.

B. No political campaign sign may remain later than fifteen (15) days after the election date at which the candidate or measure advocated by the political campaign sign is on the ballot.

SECTION 9. REMOVAL.

A. Any political campaign sign which is erected or maintained in violation of the provisions of this ordinance or is not removed as required by this ordinance may be removed by the County Roadmaster or the Roadmaster's designee and shall be stored for a period of thirty (30) days. If the sign is not retrieved within that time period, the signs may be destroyed and/or the materials otherwise used by the County.

B. A fee for the removal of each sign in violation of this ordinance shall be imposed in a sum equal to the costs incurred by the County, but not less than \$10.00 for each political campaign sign removed. The fee may be deducted from the deposit posted pursuant to Section 10 below. If the deposit is insufficient, the County may file an action in District or Circuit Court to recover its costs.

SECTION 10. DEPOSIT.

Any political candidate, political campaign committee, individual or other entity wishing to erect or maintain a political campaign sign or signs shall post a \$50.00 deposit with the Columbia County Clerk prior to placement of the sign or signs, or within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this ordinance, whichever is later. The purpose of the deposit is to ensure that the political campaign sign or signs will be erected, maintained and removed as provided by this ordinance. The deposit

shall be refunded within thirty (30) days of the date of the election unless there has been a violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance. If there has been a violation, only such portion of the deposit will be refunded that is left after the County deducts its costs for removal of the political campaign sign or signs.

SECTION 11. CONFORMANCE WITH STATE LAW.

This ordinance shall in no way be a substitute for, nor eliminate the necessity of conforming with any and all state, federal and other municipal laws, rules and regulations which are now or may in the future be in effect. This ordinance is in addition to state, federal and municipal laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 12. REPEAL.

Amended Ordinance No. 86-8 is repealed.

SECTION 13. PENALTY.

This ordinance may be enforced as provided by, and violators hereof are subject to the penalties provided in, the Columbia County Enforcement Ordinance. This ordinance may be enforced by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Oregon, the County Roadmaster, the County Counsel, the Columbia County Sheriff and any deputy sheriff, and the Columbia County Clerk.

SECTION 14. SEVERABILITY.

The provisions of this ordinance are severable. If any provision of this ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be considered a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 15. EMERGENCY CLAUSE.

This ordinance being immediately necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Columbia County, an emergency is declared to exist and this ordinance shall take effect on July 1, 1994.

ADOPTED this 11th day of April, 1994.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: Michael [Signature]
Chairman

By: [Signature]
Commissioner

By: [Signature]
Commissioner

Approved as to form

By: John K. Knight
Office of County Counsel

Attest:
By: Jane [Signature]
Recording Secretary

First Reading: 4-11-94
Second Reading: 4-11-94
Effective Date: 7-1-94