

August 30, 2019

SUBJECT: Regulations Governing Placement of Political Signs

This letter is written in an effort to inform candidates, political parties and others within the City of Dubuque about the regulations that govern the placement of political signs within the city. A political sign is defined as a sign that identifies and urges support for a particular election issue, political party or candidate for public office or expresses the personal noncommercial views of the property owner or tenant.

Your sign is on City of Dubuque Right-of-Way (ROW) in violation of City Ordinance 7-5A-5. It has been moved to your property to bring it into compliance. If subsequently found back on City ROW, it will be removed without further notice. Your compliance with the noted regulation is anticipated and appreciated.

Dubuque
Public Works Department
(589-4250)

Date _____

Address _____

The City of Dubuque Unified Development Code (UDC) regulates all exterior signage, including political signage, within the community. Section 15-9 of the UDC specifically exempts political signage from government regulation except that political signs cannot be placed in any public right-of-way or in visibility triangles as defined in Section 2-3 of the UDC. Please see the enclosed diagram of general guidelines for placement of political signs.

In residential districts, the property line is generally 10 feet back from the curb. The property line location in commercial districts varies. If you inadvertently place a sign on the public right-of-way, the City Public Works Department may move the sign back on to your property and attach a green slip noting the violation. If the City receives a complaint about a sign location, City staff might need to do further research to determine the actual right of way location, which might be more than 10 feet from the edge of the street or curb. Also, political signs cannot be placed on objects in the right-of-way such as trees, guard rails, street sign posts, utility poles and medians.

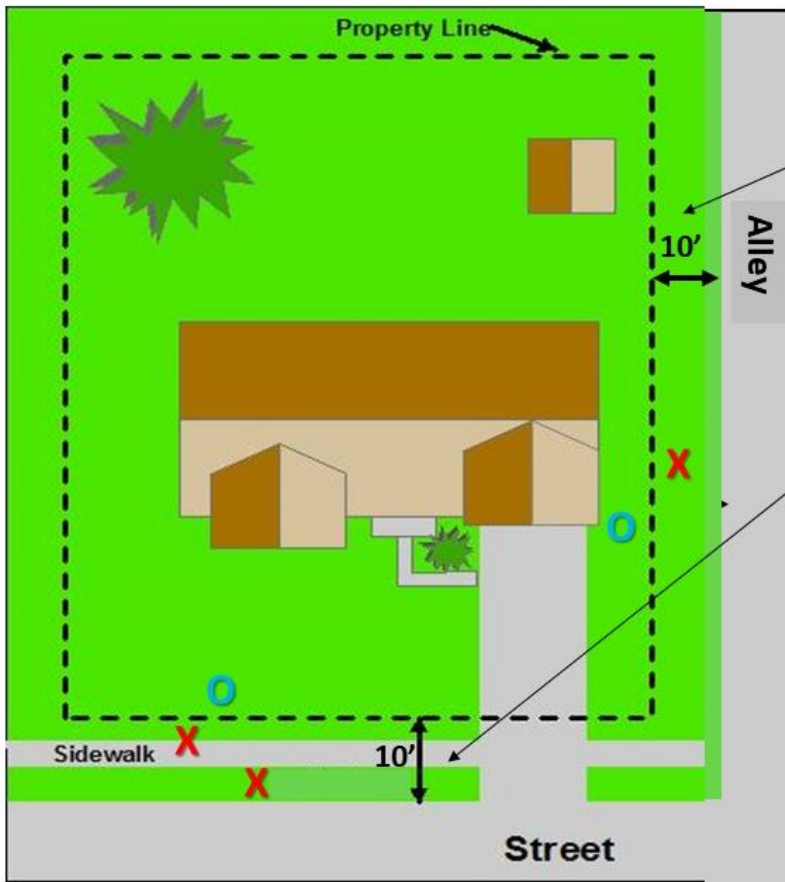
If you have any questions regarding the property line location for a specific address, please feel free to contact the Planning Services Department at 563-589-4210. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Guy Hemenway
Assistant Planner

Enclosure: Diagrams for placement of political signs



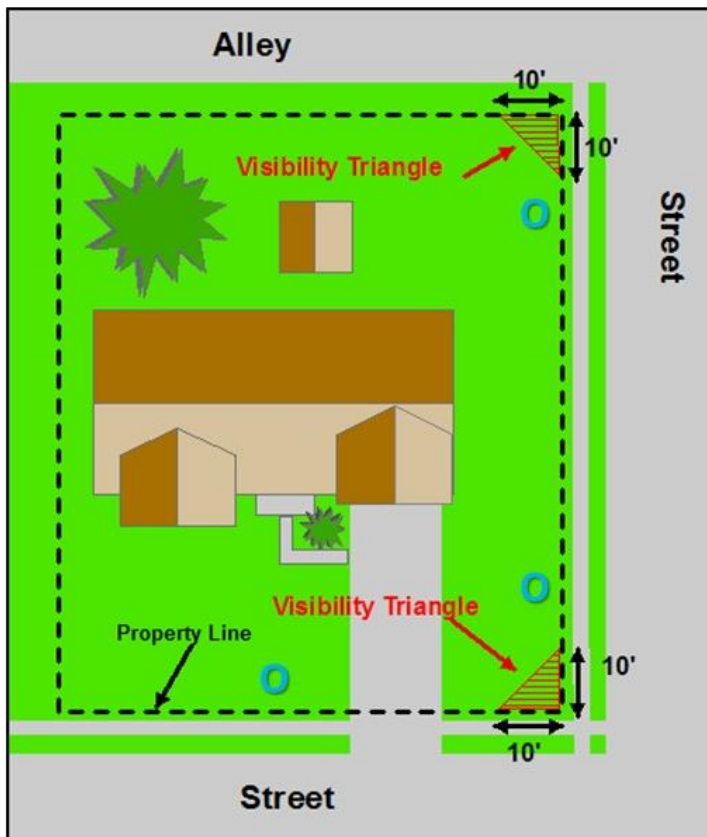
Placement of Political Signs along Streets and Alleys

Where there is no sidewalk, measure back 10 feet (10') from the edge of the street or curb. Put the sign behind this point.

Where there is a sidewalk, measure back 10 feet (10') from the edge of the street or curb. Put the sign behind this point.

○ Place signs here

✗ Don't place signs here



Placement of Political Signs at Corners of Streets and Alleys

Political signs can't be placed in the Visibility Triangle at corners of streets and alleys.

This is a triangular shaped portion of a lot at a street or alley intersection. The triangle is formed by lines that join points placed 10 feet (10') from the property corner along the street or alley as shown. Nothing should be placed in this area because it might impede a driver's vision from within a vehicle.

○ Place signs here, outside the Visibility Triangle