

Ventura County
Grand Jury

JUL 26 2018

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Ventura County
Grand Jury

EXHIBIT 1

FY 2017-2018 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

RESPONSES TO FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Report Number	Report Title	Respondents
(& Date)		(With FI, C and R #)

REPORT NO. 01 April 5, 2018

Title:

Campaign Signs

Required

Respondent: Board of Supervisors
(C-01 and R-01)

Response to 2017 - 2018 Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Campaign Signs

Report Date: April 5, 2018 Responding Agency/Dept. Board of Supervisors

Response Prepared by: Mike Pettit Title: Assistant County Executive Officer

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: _____
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: C-01
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 7/16/18 Signed: Mike Pettit

Number of pages attached: 1

CONCLUSIONS

C-01. The Grand Jury concluded the County's restrictions on campaign sign posting are vague in the candidate manual. A complete list of restrictions can only be found on the actual political sign registration form. (FA-01)

Response: Partially Disagree

The County disagrees that the campaign sign restrictions communicated in the candidate manual are vague. In order to eliminate any confusion between the candidate manual and the actual campaign sign restrictions, and for efficiency purposes, the details were purposefully omitted from the candidate manual and contained in detail on the political sign registration form. Some candidates may not choose to pursue campaign signs so it was deemed more appropriate to include sign restrictions and details on the political sign registration form.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R-01. The Grand Jury recommends that the County and the cities of Ventura, Oxnard, Camarillo, and Thousand Oaks rewrite their campaign sign placement regulations to provide more definitive direction to candidates. This is uniquely important for the City of Ventura, which is the only city to allow campaign signs on public property. The City of Simi Valley's policy is an example of clear and concise election sign rules and regulations. (C-01, C-02, C-03, C-04, C-05, C-06)

Response: Recommendation Implemented

To provide even more assistance to candidates regarding the placement and restrictions concerning campaign signs, the County of Ventura political sign registration form has been further enhanced to more clearly communicate the guidelines and restrictions for campaign signs. Additionally, the registration form has been modified such that it can be filled out online and now includes direct links to the coastal and non-coastal ordinances that provide all details regulating campaign signs in the unincorporated areas of the county. Lastly, guidelines concerning campaign signs have been added to the candidate manual with information on how to contact the Resource Management Agency for additional questions and assistance on regulations, should candidates have any.



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EXHIBIT 2



Political Sign Registration

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency • Planning Division

800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 • 805 654-2488 • www.vcrma.org/divisions/planning

CANDIDATE/MEASURE: _____

APPLICANT: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

The intent of this registration process is to promote the responsible placement of temporary political signs and to assure their removal after an election in order is to prevent damage to public property, protect the integrity of the electoral process, and prevent the erosion of aesthetic quality and historic values within the County.

To complete the registration process, please review the adopted standards and sign below.

1. The candidate or issue proponent has obtained the consent of all property owners to place political signs on their property.
2. All signs will be removed within ten calendar days after the election.
3. All signs will comply with Sec. 8110-4 (Prohibited Signs), Sec. 8110.6.8.2 and Sec. 8110-6.8 (Political Signs) of the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance¹ and Sec. 8175-5.13.3 (Prohibited Signs) and Sec. 8175-5.13.10.17 (Political Signs) of the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance².
4. No temporary political sign shall exceed 32 square feet in area. The aggregate area of all temporary signs placed or maintained on any lot in one ownership shall not exceed 96 square feet.
5. Prohibited Signs

The following signs and sign types are prohibited in all unincorporated areas:

- a. Sandwich-board, A-frame and portable freestanding signs;
- b. Bench signs, except at bus stops designated on a valid bus schedule;
- c. Signs which flash, scintillate, move or rotate, except for clocks and time and temperature signs;
- d. Banners, pennants, flags (except as permitted by Sec. 8110-3e; no other flags are permitted);
- e. Captive balloons or signs which change color or appear to change color or where the intensity of light changes or appears to change, except on a temporary basis in accordance with Sec. 8110-6.11;
- f. Portable or trailer-mounted off-site advertising or tract signs;
- g. Any sign which emits sound;
- h. Any sign erected in such a manner that any portion of the sign or its support is attached to or will interfere with the free use of any fire escape, exit or standpipe, or will obstruct any stairway, door, ventilator or window;
- i. Projecting signs, unless suspended from a canopy in accordance with Sec. 8110-6.2 or attached to a service station canopy roof in accordance with Sec. 8110-6.9.1;

¹ For inland areas in Ventura County, the adopted regulations regarding the placement of temporary political signs can be found in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance Section 8110-6.8 (Political Signs) and Section 8110-4 (Prohibited Signs) at the following link: https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/ordinances/VNCNCZO_Current.pdf

² For coastal areas in Ventura County, the adopted regulations regarding the placement of temporary political signs can be found in the Coastal Zoning Ordinance Section 8175-5.13.10.17 (Political Signs) and Section 8175-5.13.3 (Prohibited Signs) at the following link: https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/ordinances/coastal_zone_ord.pdf

- j. Roof signs;
- k. Any sign or sign structure which is structurally unsafe or constitutes a hazard to health or safety by reason of design, inadequate maintenance or dilapidation;
- l. Any sign erected or attached to any tree or utility pole within any public right-of-way, or any sign erected within the boundaries of the required right-of-way for any mapped road as shown on the Circulation Element of the Ventura County General Plan;
- m. Any sign erected in such a manner that it will or may reasonably be expected to interfere with, obstruct, confuse or mislead traffic;
- n. The use of any item of merchandise or other commodity related to the business as a sign, except as such commodity may be permanently incorporated into a sign structure as permitted by this Article; and
- o. Signs attached to the exterior surfaces of windows.

In addition to the above, the following signs and sign types are prohibited in the Coastal zone:

- a. Any sign located within and environmentally sensitive habitat area;
- b. Any sign that obstructs or degrades public views to scenic resources; and
- c. Any sign that is intended to deter public access to or along tidelands, shorelines, beaches and public waterways, public trails, public parks, public open space, or public easements to any of the foregoing locations.

6. Location

Political signs may not be affixed, installed, or erected within 100 feet of a polling place or historic site, nor within the right of way of any highway, nor within 660 feet of the edge of a "Scenic Highway" or landscaped freeway, nor in any location where the sign will impair sight distance or create a hazard to traffic or pedestrians, nor on any telephone pole, lamppost, tree, wall, fence, bridge, bench, hydrant, curbstone, sidewalk or other structure in or upon any public right-of-way, nor upon any other public property.

7. Time Frames

Temporary political signs shall not be posted sooner than 90 days prior to a scheduled election administered by the County Elections Department. Said signs shall be removed within 10 days after the election.

8. Enforcement

Except for signs remaining posted after the post-election deadline, any political sign not posted in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall be deemed to be a public nuisance and shall be subject to removal by the candidate, property owner, or, when a ballot proposition is involved, the authorized agent of the group or organization sponsoring the sign or, upon their failure to do so after reasonable attempt at notice by the County, by County officers or zoning inspectors. Any political sign which is not removed within the specified period following an election shall be subject to summary removal and confiscation by the County.

I am a candidate running for political office, or I am an authorized agent for a group or organization sponsoring temporary political signs for a candidate or a measure on the ballot, this election cycle and I agree to the standards related to the placement of temporary political signs detailed above.

 APPLICANT SIGNATURE

 DATE

 APPROVAL SIGNATURE

 DATE



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Ventura County
Grand Jury

**BOARD MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**SUPERVISORS STEVE BENNETT, LINDA PARKS,
KELLY LONG, PETER C. FOY AND JOHN C. ZARAGOZA
July 17, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE - Approval of Response to 2017-18 Ventura County
Grand Jury Report, Entitled Campaign Signs for Submittal to the Presiding Judge
of the Superior Court.**

- (X) All Board members are present.
- (X) The following person is heard: Mike Pettit.
- (X) The following documents are submitted to the Board for consideration:
 - (X) Board Letter
 - (X) Exhibit 1 – Campaign Signs
 - (X) Exhibit 2 – Political Signs Registration Form
 - (X) Grand Jury Report
- (X) Upon motion of Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Zaragoza, and duly carried, the Board hereby approves recommendations as stated in the Board letter.

I hereby certify that the annexed instrument is a true and correct copy of the document which is on file in this office.

Dated: 7/23/18 MICHAEL POWERS
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura, State of California

By: Lori Gaines
Deputy Clerk of the Board

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Lori Gaines
Deputy Clerk of the Board



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JUL 26 2018 COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MICHAEL POWERS

County Executive Officer

Ventura County
Grand Jury

Mike Pettit

Assistant County Executive Officer

Catherine Rodriguez

County Chief Financial Officer

Shawn Atin

Assistant County Executive Officer/
Human Resources Director

Labor Relations

July 17, 2018

County of Ventura
Board of Supervisors
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Approval of Response to 2017-2018 Ventura County Grand Jury Report, Entitled "Campaign Signs" for Submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in Accordance with State Statute

Recommendations:

It is recommended that your Board approve the response to the Grand Jury Report entitled "Campaign Signs" (Exhibit 1) pertaining to County government under your Board's control for submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in accordance with State Statute.

Discussion:

Penal Code §933.05 requires that your Board comment on the Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury pertaining to County government under your authority. The 2017-18 Ventura County Grand Jury issued a report on April 5, 2018 entitled, "Campaign Signs." The Grand Jury required a response from your Board, which was prepared on your behalf by the County Executive Office for your approval and which is attached as **Exhibit 1**.

The response pertaining to County government under your control will serve as your Board's response to the subject 2017-2018 Grand Jury Report to be filed as indicated in the recommended action along with any additional comments your Board may wish to make.

If your Board elects to amend the response prepared on your behalf to the subject report before you for approval, then CEO staff, at your direction, will make such changes or additions prior to submitting the response to the Presiding Judge.

This letter was reviewed by County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mike Pettit at 654-2864 or Kathleen Van Norman at 654-2566.

Sincerely,

Michael Powers
County Executive Officer

M.P.

Attachment:

- Exhibit 1 – "Campaign Signs"
- Exhibit 2 – Political Signs Registration Form