

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Campaign Signs
Report Date: April 5, 2018
Response By: Robert O. Huber Title: Mayor, City of Simi Valley

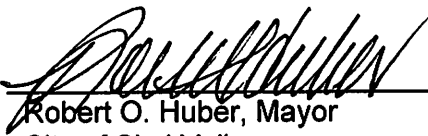
FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

- I (we) agree with the findings / conclusions numbered: FA-07, C-06
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: _____
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions and date completed.)
- 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.
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

Date: 5/17/2018

Signed: 
Robert O. Huber, Mayor
City of Simi Valley

Number of pages attached: 2

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)

Proposed Response to R-01:

The City agrees with this recommendation, and thanks the Grand Jury for its in-depth review of the City of Simi Valley's campaign sign rules and regulations. It should be noted that in 2012, Simi Valley adopted revisions to its Municipal Code regarding Temporary Sign Standards (SVMC 9-37.070), to simplify the requirements associated with campaign signs which are classified as temporary non-commercial signs under the Code. Changes included the elimination of the requirement to affix property owner or property management/leaseholder permission to the sign, instead allowing the property owner/manager permission to be maintained on file with the City.

In 2013, a further revision to the Municipal Code was adopted which reduced the permitted posting period from 120 days to 60 days prior to an election, and included the requirement to remove signs within seven days after the election. These revisions were developed and adopted in order to refine and clarify the requirements associated with the posting of campaign signs. Additionally, in 2016 the City developed an illustrative flyer for distribution to candidates in order that the Municipal Code requirements are clearly depicted and more readily understood.

Combined, the modifications to the Municipal Code and the increased communication and explanation of the campaign sign posting requirements to candidates has resulted in improved compliance and reduced complaints to the Code Enforcement Division.