



City of Fairhope

Sign FAQ

1. What is the sign jurisdiction for the City of Fairhope Sign Ordinance? The sign jurisdiction in the City of Fairhope is the Police Jurisdiction.

The City of Fairhope has a "Map Viewer" on line for your convenience:

https://maps.kcsgis.com/al.baldwin_fairhope_public/

2. Where can I find a copy of the City of Fairhope Sign Ordinance?

City of Fairhope website www.fairhopeal.gov/home/showdocument?id=7002

3. Do signs in the Fairhope Police Jurisdiction require a permit? Some signs do require a permit from the City of Fairhope:

- a. Permanent signs: building/wall signs and free-standing signs, including copy change, require a sign permit prior to placement. Minimum permit fee is \$25.
- b. A-frame/sandwich board signs require a no-cost a-frame permit and may require insurance verification if within the CBD *and* the a-frame will be used within the right of way/sidewalk. 3' ADA compliance is required.
- c. Banners require a no-cost banner permit. Other "temporary" signs such as political signage, yard sale signs, and real estate signs do not require a permit but must adhere to procedures outlined in the City of Fairhope Sign Ordinance.
- d. Temporary signs such as political, yard sale, estate sale and real estate signs do not require a permit. Banners do require a no-cost permit as stated above.

4. How do I apply for a sign permit? Submit a sign permit application for review to the Planning and Zoning Department. After zoning review and upon zoning approval, the Building Dept. will conduct a structural review (for permanent signs) and issue a permit accordingly. To obtain a sign permit application, contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 251 990-2877 or visit the City website: www.fairhopeal.gov/departments/planning-and-zoning/publications-and-forms

Permits are not required for temporary signs such as yard sale signs, estate sale signs, political signs and real estate signs.

5. What are the rules for temporary signs such as yard sale signs, estate sale signs, political signs or real estate signs? *Signs must be placed on private property* and only on the property represented by the advertisement. Off-site signs (or signs on the right of way) are not allowed except as stated in Section 12 of the Sign Ordinance:

Temporary Off-Site Directional Signs are allowed on the right of way with these limitations:

- a. Only (2) temporary off-site directional signs may be placed per residential or non-profit activity, for the purpose of directing the public (e.g. real estate open house, garage/yard sale, estate sale).
- b. Placement of temporary off-site directional signs is only allowed between 5 p.m. Friday to 5 p.m. Sunday.
- c. Temporary off-site directional signs may not exceed 3 square feet and must be constructed of sufficient weight and durability to withstand wind gusts, storms and other weather elements.
- d. Temporary off-site directional signs must be placed in such a manner that they do not interfere with the line of sight of the traveling public. Any sign that interferes with the line of sight of the traveling public is subject to removal and disposal by the City.
- e. Temporary off-site directional signs shall not be attached to any trees, fences, utility poles, light poles, street signs, or any public facility located within the City right of way.
- f. Temporary off-site directional signs shall not be placed in any City flower bed or beautification areas, as defined:

Beautification areas:

1. City maintained flower beds
2. Central Business District
3. City parks and roads abutting City parks
4. Fairhope Avenue at U. S. Highway 98
5. Fairhope Avenue at State Highway 181
6. Morphy Avenue at U. S. Highway 98
7. Roundabouts and medians

g. The City may at its discretion remove and discard signs not in compliance.

f. The "Limitations" section of the Sign Ordinance prohibits balloons and inflatables on any signs.

6. Can signs be placed at intersections, on public right of ways, and/or off site? Signs cannot be placed on public property or right of ways except as stated above, as per Section 12 of the Sign Ordinance.

7. How can I differentiate between the right of way and private property? Generally speaking, private property will be located behind public infrastructure. The area between the sidewalk and the road, for example, is the right of way. If you place your sign on the property represented behind sidewalks and power poles/power lines, this usually represents placement on private property and out of the right of way.

8. What happens to signs placed on public property and right of way not in accordance with Section 12 of the Sign Ordinance? Unless the event signage has been pre-approved by the Mayor or City Council for placement in the right of way, illegal signs within public right of ways are subject to immediate removal by City staff.

9. What happens to signs removed by City Staff? Signs removed by City staff are placed in a discard pile at Public Works (555 South Section Street) and are usually available for reclamation on the next business day. Public Works is open 7 – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 – 3 p.m. on Saturday.

10. What is the City of Fairhope’s enforcement procedure for illegal signs, including signs placed within the right of way not in accordance with Section 12 of the Sign Ordinance? One or more of these actions may occur: City staff (usually Planning and Zoning Department) may remove the sign from the right of way and place it in the discard pile at Public Works; City staff may issue a warning, verbal or written; City staff may issue a citation or Municipal Offense Ticket for repeat offenders.

11. How can I advertise my listing or my event without sign placement in the right of way?

- a. Place signage on the property it represents (for yard sales, estate sales and real estate signs).
- b. Use social media to advertise events.
- c. Non-profit events are welcome to submit “pole banners” to the City of Fairhope for placement on utility poles around town. Up to three pole banners may be submitted for placement two weeks prior to the event. To request a copy of the City of Fairhope Pole Banner policy and guidelines contact the Planning and Zoning Department or visit the City website:

www.fairhopeal.gov/departments/planning-and-zoning/publications-and-forms

12. Are any signs allowed on the City right of way? Yes, there are a few exceptions. See below:

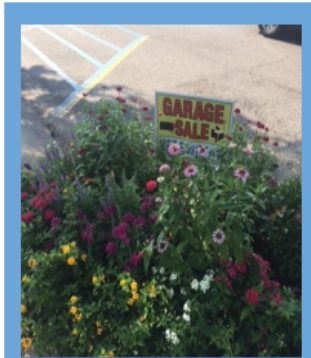
- a. A-frames are allowed on the right of way in the Central Business District of Fairhope with a pre-approved a-frame permit.
- b. Pole banners may be submitted for placement at intersections on utility poles. Pole banners are provided by the event organizer and installed by the City of Fairhope Electric Department. Pole banners are only an option for non-profit events and must be pre-approved by City staff.
- c. Section 12 of the Sign Ordinance allows for some sign placement (residential and non-profit only) on the right of way on weekends, see above. Restrictions apply.
- c. Some events (such as races and festivals) may require sign placement on the right of way for public safety, community awareness or regulatory reasons. This must be pre-approved by the Mayor or City Council.

13. Who do I contact with questions or for permitting of signs in Fairhope? City of Fairhope Planning and Zoning Department, Kim Burmeister, Code Enforcement Officer, (251) 990-2877.

Kim.burmeister@fairhopeal.gov

Thank you for adhering to the rules and regulations listed in the City of Fairhope Sign Ordinance. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Signs are not allowed on the right of way unless in accordance with Section 12 of the sign ordinance



DON'T

Signs are not allowed on public property, including right of ways, intersections and flower beds.



Do

Signs must be placed on private property and behind all public infrastructure. Public infrastructure can include sidewalks, ditches, powerlines, and flower beds.



Do

For non-profit events consider pole banners. You supply the banner and the City of Fairhope Electric Dept will hang up to three of them 2 weeks prior to the event for no charge.