

**AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO ZONING AND LAND USE PERFORMANCE
STANDARDS RELATIVE TO POLITICAL SIGNS**

THE CITY OF LEWISTON HEREBY ORDAINS:

APPENDIX A

ZONING AND LAND USE CODE

ARTICLE XII.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Sec. 16. Signs.

(b) *Signs permitted in all districts.*

(1) The following types of signs may be erected in all zoning districts without obtaining a permit from the code enforcement official:

c. *Temporary signs.* Temporary signs listed below shall not be placed in a position that will impair vision, obstruct traffic, or in any manner create a hazard or nuisance to the general public.

5. *Political signs.* Signs of a temporary nature bearing political messages relating to an election, primary or referendum may be placed within or outside the public right-of-way of any street or highway in accordance with the timelines established in M.R.S.A. Title 23, §1913-A, Section 1(H). Political signs located within or outside the public right-of-way of any street or highway are prohibited on or in front of City owned property including schools, parks, cemeteries, and municipally owned buildings. Notwithstanding Article V. Sec. 7, the code enforcement official may remove any political signs erected contrary to this section.

REASON FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT

The Zoning and Land Use Code does not contain a provision that authorizes the code enforcement official to remove illegal political signs; however, M.R.S.A. Title 23, §1917 Section 5, provides for immediate removal of illegal signs located with the public right-of-way, by the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) and it is the position of the MDOT that municipalities may remove illegal political signs located within the public right-of-way. Illegal signs are deemed to be signs that create public safety issues and/or are located within the interstate system. Consistent with MDOT's position on the removal of illegal political signs, the code enforcement official removes such signs along with signs erected contrary to

the Zoning and Land Use Code. This amendment will specifically provide for such authorization.

CONFORMANCE WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Review permitting and licensing policies and practices to see where they can be streamlined in order to better service the development community. . . (See Economy, Policy 1, Strategy C, p 39).