



## POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS IN UNINCORPORATED ALACHUA COUNTY

Dear Political Candidate:

Alachua County Government needs your help during the upcoming campaign.

**Please read this information carefully as the Alachua County Sign Ordinance has changed!** The attached information sheet and county sign ordinance applies to the unincorporated area of Alachua County. Your cooperation and full compliance with our sign ordinance is necessary in order to keep Alachua County beautiful and to keep public rights-of-way safe and free of illegal signs.

The Alachua County Growth Management Department, Office of Codes Enforcement receives numerous complaints about signs illegally placed in the public right-of-way or placed on private property without permission. Please make every effort to educate your supporters and constituents to adhere to the attached information. Above all, we want to have a safe and accident free campaign. Signs placed in the right-of way or too close to intersections can cause visual barriers or obstructions to pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic.

Please do your part and make sure your campaign staff is aware of the Alachua County Sign Ordinance requirements. Thank you for your efforts. If you have any questions please contact Alachua County Zoning Administrator, Benny Beckham at 352-374-5247.

Please remember the following:

- 1.) A violation of the sign ordinance requirements may result in enforcement action against you.
- 2.) Signs placed within public rights-of-way will be removed and disposed of without notification.
- 3.) Signs are to be placed only on private property and only with the owner's or occupant's permission.
- 4.) Temporary sign requirements vary according to the zoning district the sign is located in. For complete size and number provisions please reference the attached fact sheet or the County sign ordinance.
- 5.) All signs shall be removed within 10 days following the election.



## ALACHUA COUNTY SIGN ORDINANCE FACT SHEET FOR POLITICAL TEMPORARY SIGNS

The Sign Ordinance is in Chapter 407, Article 3 of the Alachua County Unified Land Development Code. Temporary signs allowed in accordance with Section 407.31 of this code are exempt from permit requirements.

“Political signs” or “commercial free speech signs” are defined as **temporary signs** in the Alachua County Sign Ordinance. A temporary sign is defined as any sign that is used only for a limited time and that is not permanently mounted, such as campaign, real estate and special promotion signs.

Temporary signs may be used to express the opinion of the owner or occupant on any matter deemed by such person to be of public interest but shall bear no commercial messages.

Any temporary “political” sign placed in the public right-of-way shall be deemed to be abandoned and may be removed immediately by an officer of the sheriff’s department, a codes enforcement officer or other authorized County personnel. Any sign so removed may be disposed of without notice or compensation. Removal of the sign shall not preclude prosecution or imposition of penalties for a violation of the county sign ordinance.

In the agricultural district, no more than two temporary signs per parcel or tract of land are allowed at any one time. A total of three temporary signs per dwelling may be permitted in the single family residential zoning district and a total of three temporary signs per driveway may be permitted in the multi-family residential district. One temporary sign is permitted per building on non-residential property. A temporary free speech sign that relates to an election or other event shall be removed within 10 days following the conclusion of the election or other event.

The Dimensional and Numerical Standards for Temporary Signs are as follows:

<u><b>Zoning District</b></u>	<u><b>Maximum Area</b></u> (square feet)	<u><b>Maximum Height</b></u> (in feet)	<u><b>Maximum Number</b></u> (of signs)
Agriculture:			
5 acres or more	32	8	2
Less than 5 acres	7 ½	4	1
Single Family Residential	6	4	3
Multi-Family Residential	6	4	3 per driveway
Non-Residential	32	8	1 per building

## Article 3 Signs

### 407.24 Purpose

The purpose of this Article is to achieve balance among the following differing, and at times, competing goals:

- (a) to encourage the effective use of signs as a means of communication for businesses, organizations and individuals in Alachua County;
- (b) to provide a means of way-finding in the community, thus reducing traffic confusion and congestion;
- (c) to provide for adequate business identification, advertising, and communication;
- (d) to prohibit signs of such excessive size and number that they obscure one another to the detriment of the economic and social well-being of Alachua County;
- (e) to protect the safety and welfare of the public by minimizing the hazards to pedestrian and vehicular traffic;
- (f) to differentiate among those signs that, because of their location, may distract drivers on public streets and those that may provide information to them while they remain in their cars but out of active traffic;
- (g) to minimize the possible adverse effects of signs on nearby public and private property;
- (h) to prohibit most signs with commercial messages in residential zoning districts, while allowing those commercial messages that relate to commercial activities lawfully conducted on individual properties within such districts;
- (i) to differentiate from commercial business signs the small messages that commonly appear on vending machines, gasoline pumps, table tents and umbrellas in outdoor dining areas, menu boards at permitted drive-through facilities, and also labels on products that are lawfully displayed outside, recognizing that these small messages are not directed to drivers and that their context is such that they generally do not contribute to visual clutter the way that individual signs do;
- (j) to balance the desire to limit commercial signage in agricultural zoning districts with the recognition of the continued importance of agriculture as a part of the economic base in Alachua County, thus allowing commercial messages that relate to commercial activities lawfully conducted within such districts; and
- (k) to provide broadly for the expression of individual opinions through the use of signs on private property.

### 407.25 Applicability and Effect

#### (a) Applicability

1. Generally. This Article shall apply to all signs, as defined in Chapter 410 of this ULDC, erected, placed, constructed, painted, installed or maintained in unincorporated Alachua County. For additional standards applicable to nonconforming signs in unincorporated Alachua County, see §408.21, Nonconforming Signs.
2. Limitations. This Article shall not apply to certain architectural features to buildings in non-residential zoning districts, regardless of the fact that such features may be in part representational and may for some purposes be

considered "attention attracting devices" and thus fall under the definition of "sign." Features to which this Article is not applicable are features which meet all of the following criteria:

- a. The feature is an architectural part of the building;
- b. The surface area of any portion of the feature that is distinctly separate from adjoining elements of the building walls or roof by color, material or texture, shall not be larger than fifteen percent (15%) of each of the building elevations from which it is being viewed; if the feature is three-dimensional, for this purpose the area of the feature shall be measured as though it is two-dimensional when viewed from the side of the building from which the feature is most clearly visible and only the actual area of the feature will be used in computing the 15 percent;
- c. The feature contains no words, numbers or symbols, although the feature itself may be considered a symbol;
- d. The feature does not depict a human, animal, extra-terrestrial, comic-book or otherwise recognizable character, real or imaginary;
- e. The feature does not depict a product related to a business located or operating on the site;
- f. The feature does not depict the packaging for a product related to a business located or operating on the site, and
- g. The feature may be internally illuminated with a single color, provided such illumination does not violate the prohibitions of §407.28(a).

Examples: This subsection is intended to allow the incorporation into commercial buildings distinctive rooflines, supports and simulated supports that may or may not be recognizably characteristic of a particular business. It is not intended to allow the addition of other structures, street furniture, benches, plant containers or other items that essentially function as signs. It is also not intended to allow the addition of permanent or temporary characters, such as animals, clowns, dinosaurs, or cartoon characters, to a building or site. Features that include words, numbers or symbols, features or separate structures representing characters, or plant containers or street furniture containing words, characters or symbols will be considered signs and will be subject to the limitations of this Article.

**(b) Activity Centers, Village Centers, TNDs, TODs and Planned Developments**

Where regulations or approved plans for an Activity Center, Traditional Neighborhood Development, Transit Oriented Development or Planned Development contain express standards that differ from the standards in this Article, the specific standards for that Development shall prevail. In all other cases in such Developments, the standards of this Article shall prevail.

**(c) Product Displays, Sales Devices, Menu Boards**

1. Nothing in this Article shall prohibit or limit the outdoor display of products where allowed under the zoning ordinance, although a particular product may be a thing which would be prohibited by this Article if used as a sign and although one or more such products may have on them permanent labels that might otherwise fall under this Article. This Article shall, however, apply to any sign, banner, pennant, or other attention-attracting device affixed to a

product displayed outdoors. For example, the label "Chevrolet" on an automobile or "John Deere" on a tractor shall not be considered a sign for purposes of this Article, but a separate sign attached to such a product shall be considered a sign and be subject to regulation.

2. Signs on gasoline pumps, vending machines, news racks and similar machines and devices used for the sale or dispensing of products shall be allowed without a sign permit if they do not flash and if they are either not legible from any public right-of-way, public property or private property other than the site on which the sign is located; or they consist entirely of letters, numerals or symbols that are less than four inches in height. All other signs on vending machines, gas pumps, news racks and similar machines and devices shall be considered "signs" and shall be subject to all of the regulations of this Article.
3. In districts where drive-through and drive-up facilities are allowed, menu boards, customer order displays, or other instructional or informational devices related to the drive-through or drive-up facilities shall be allowed without a sign permit, provided that such device is less than six square feet in size, and that the only words, numerals, symbols or pictures on such device that are legible from any location other than the site on which it is located shall include no commercial message but shall simply identify the device as a "menu," "directory," "instructions," "information" or something similar. If such a menu board, customer order display, or other device is larger than six square feet or if it is electrified and does not fall under any of the general exemptions of §407.29, it shall require a sign permit in addition to any building or electrical permit required. Such a menu board, customer order display, or similar device may include electronic changeable copy technology, provided that the message is not legible from the public right-of-way or from other private property.

**(d) Conflict of Laws**

Where other federal, state or county sign or outdoor advertising regulations are in effect and are more restrictive than the provisions of this Article, the more restrictive provisions shall prevail.

**407.26 Construction and Interpretation**

**(a) General**

All signs, as defined in Chapter 410, erected, placed, constructed, painted, installed or maintained in unincorporated Alachua County shall require a sign permit unless otherwise exempted by this Article. In all applications for permits where a matter of interpretation under this Article arises, the most restrictive interpretation shall prevail in order to carry out the purpose of this Article, except as expressly provided in §407.25(b) above. This Article shall otherwise be interpreted liberally in order to carry out and accomplish its purpose.

**(b) Computation of Area of Individual Signs**

The area of a sign face shall be computed by means of the smallest square, circle, rectangle, triangle or combination thereof that will encompass the extreme limits of the writing, representation, emblem, or other display, together with any material or color forming an integral part of the background of the display or used to

differentiate the sign from the backdrop or structure against which it is placed, but not including any supporting framework, bracing or decorative fence or wall when such fence or wall otherwise meets the regulations of the zoning code and is clearly incidental to the display itself. The sign areas of painted wall signs or flat signs, when composed of letters only (whether script or printed letters), shall be the sum of the areas of the smallest contiguous rectangles each capable of containing one such letter.

**(c) Computation of Area of Multifaced Signs**

For signs with two or more parallel sides where the greatest distance between the faces is three feet or less, only one display face shall be measured in computing sign area. If the faces of a multifaced sign are of unequal area, the area of the sign shall be the area of the larger face. In all other cases, the areas of all faces of a multifaced sign shall be added together to compute the area of the sign.

**(d) Computation of Height**

The height of a sign shall be computed as the distance from the highest point of the sign structure to the elevation of the centerline of the adjacent street or highway from which the principal access is provided, or the ground elevation at the base of the sign, whichever distance is less. The centerline elevation shall be taken at a point which is defined by extending a horizontal line from the sign, which is perpendicular to the centerline of the street or highway. This definition applies only to freestanding signs.

**(e) Determination of Visibility or Legibility**

1. Where this Article requires a determination of "visibility" or "legibility," the standard shall be based on the eyesight of an adult eligible to receive a Florida driver's license (wearing any corrective lenses required by such license). Where the height of the person is material to the determination, the person shall be presumed to be more than five feet and less than 6 feet tall.
2. In determining visibility of a sign from a residential property, it shall be assumed that a two-story residence will occupy the property with second-story windows facing toward the sign.

**(f) Site to Which Numerical Limits for Freestanding Signs Are Applicable**

Limits on the number of signs allowed on a site shall apply to permanent, freestanding signs only; signs exempt from permit requirements or partially exempt from this Article under §407.29 or provided for under §407.25(c) shall not be considered in determining the number of signs allowed on a site. The lot or site to which numerical limits are applicable under this Article shall be the larger of the following:

1. A platted lot or other separately owned parcel; or
2. A site for which a preliminary development plan has been approved.

**407.27 Substitution of Messages**

Any sign allowed under this Article may contain, in lieu of any other message or copy, any lawful noncommercial message that does not direct attention to a business operated for profit, or to a product, commodity or service for sale or lease, or to any other commercial interest or activity, so long as said sign complies with the size, height, area and other requirements of this Article.

**407.28 Prohibited Signs**

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, place or use within the County:
1. Off-site signs or off-site advertising structures, except where expressly allowed herein;
  2. Flashing signs;
  3. Revolving signs;
  4. Pennants;
  5. Signs affixed to rocks, trees, or other natural features;
  6. Signs affixed to utility poles, other than signs placed there by the pole owner or operator and related to the pole and related lines;
  7. Portable signs, including but not limited to A-frames and trailer signs, except where expressly allowed herein;
  8. Pole or pylon signs, excluding incidental signs; this provision shall not prohibit use of a sign that is supported by a pole where the pole is covered with a pole cover that has a width greater than or equal to 50% of the sign face;
  9. Any sign that incorporates a beacon;
  10. Signs that in any way simulate emergency vehicles;
  11. Signs that simulate traffic control signs and devices, directional, information and warning signs;
  12. Any sign that obstructs any fire escape or any window, door, or opening used as means of ingress or egress;
  13. Any sign that incorporates or consists of ribbons, streamers, spinners or wind-operated devices shall be prohibited, except that this prohibition shall not apply to flags conforming with §407.37.5;
  14. Banners used for permanent signage except those conforming with §407.31(e);
  15. Animated or moving signs;
  16. Any human sign with a commercial message;
  17. Changeable copy signs on which the message changes more than one time in a five minute period that are legible from a public way or private property other than the site on which the sign is located;
  18. Signs emitting sounds; and
  19. Signs on or above a roof, except that this prohibition shall not apply to signs incorporated into a mansard roof or similar structure. For purposes of this Article, a mansard roof shall be defined as a style of hip roof characterized by two slopes on each of its four sides with the lower slope being much steeper, almost a vertical wall, while the upper slope, usually not visible from the ground, is pitched at the minimum needed to shed water.
- (b) Any other type of sign or advertising structure not permitted shall be prohibited.

**407.29 Exemptions****(a) Signs Exempt from this Article**

Signs listed in this Section shall be exempt from the permit requirements and other standards of this Article but shall, to the maximum extent allowed by law, be subject to the other standards of this ULDC. Where a sign is erected pursuant to a statute or a court order, the sign may exceed the size standards of this ULDC or otherwise deviate from the standards set forth in this ULDC to the extent that the statute or court order expressly required the larger size or other deviation. In all other respects, such signs shall conform to the standards of this ULDC. This Section shall apply to the following types of signs:

1. Signs conforming with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and bearing no commercial message;
2. Signs bearing no commercial message and installed by employees or officials of a state or federal agency in the course of their governmental duties;
3. Signs required by a state or federal statute;
4. Signs required by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction;
5. Signs installed by public utilities in their rights-of-way or on their facilities and bearing no commercial message other than such message is necessary to identify the use;
6. Signs installed by a transit company with a franchise or other right to operate in Alachua County, where such signs are installed along its routes and relate to schedules or other information about the transit route.
7. Signs approved as part of a Temporary Use Permit in accordance with §402.154(a).
8. Any permanent or temporary sign interior to a building provided such signage does not cover more than 50% of any of the windows in the building or violate the prohibitions of §407.28 of this Article.
9. Sponsorship signs for outdoor recreation facilities mounted on an interior wall, fence or building and facing into the facility not toward a public way, provided such signs are not illuminated.
10. Any freestanding sign that is less than 24 square feet and four feet in height that is not visible from a public way or from private property other than the site on which the sign is located, except that an electrical permit is still required, if applicable.
11. Any freestanding architectural features meeting the definition of a sign under Chapter 410 that do not exceed 10 feet in height provided such features have no copy or logos of any kind and are not separately illuminated by internal or external illumination.

**(b) Signs Exempt from Permit Requirements Only**

The following signs shall be exempt from the permit requirements of this Article but shall be subject to all other standards of this Article.

1. Signs installed by or on behalf of County employees or officials of Alachua County and not falling under one of the broader exemptions of (a) above, Signs Partially Exempt;



2. Incidental signs;
3. Building signs smaller than two square feet in area and containing no commercial message, except that signs for a general home based business shall not require a sign permit;
4. Temporary signs permitted in accordance with this Article or Article 25, Temporary Use Permits, of Chapter 402;
5. Any sign not legible from a public way or from private property other than the site on which the sign is located that does not meet the qualifications for exemption in §407.29(a)10, except that any permanent freestanding sign must still apply for a building and/or electrical permit if applicable;
6. Signs where only the face or other surface is altered or replaced and the size, height and location are not changed, excluding any change where an electrical permit is required;
7. Sidewalk signs permitted in accordance with §407.34(b)2.d;
8. Outline lighting on principal buildings permitted in accordance with §407.34(d)1.a.iv; and
9. Banner signs permitted in accordance with §407.31(e).

#### **407.30 Application Process**

Applications for sign permits shall be submitted in accordance with Chapter 402 of this ULDC. In addition, two copies of the following shall be submitted along with the application describing and setting forth:

- (a) The type of sign or advertising structure as defined in Chapter 402 and in this Chapter;
- (b) The value of the sign or advertising structure;
- (c) All documents required by the applicable provisions of the Florida Building Code and the related National Electrical Code;
- (d) A copy of the approved development plan for the site, and a copy of the approved freestanding signage plan if applicable, showing existing and proposed buildings and existing and proposed signs requiring permits on the site;
- (e) For building signs, the total area of the front building elevation of the principal building(s) and calculations of allowable sign area;
- (f) For freestanding signs, all dimensions shown at a scale of  $\frac{1}{2}'' = 1'$ .
- (g) The sign area of the sign or advertising structure
- (h) Type of lighting proposed.
- (i) Written approval by the utility provider that the location of a freestanding sign meets the utility provider's requirements.

#### **407.31 Signs Allowed in Any Zoning District**

The following signs shall be allowed in any Zoning District:

##### **(a) Incidental Signs**

1. Such signs are generally intended to provide directions, information and warnings but may be used for any noncommercial message and may be internally or externally illuminated. Such signs may include a company's

logo when located on the same property, provided it does not exceed 10% of the sign's square footage. Maximum area for an incidental sign shall be six square feet with a maximum height of four feet. There are no limits to the number of incidental signs that may be permitted.

2. Signs providing for vehicle clearance and/or directional information located within or adjacent to an approved drive-through facility that meets all other requirements of 407.31(b)(1) above may be permitted, subject to the following standards:
  - a. Such signs shall not exceed six square feet;
  - b. Freestanding signs shall be a maximum of 12 feet in height;
  - c. Excluding any security lighting on the structure to which a sign is attached, such signs shall not be illuminated except as provided in §407.25(c)3 for electronic changeable copy technology.

**(b) Signs on Historic Sites or Buildings**

This sub-section shall apply to any historic site or site containing a historic building designated or certified by or under the direct authority of the Secretary of the Interior of the United States, the State Historic Preservation Office of the State of Florida, or a duly constituted historic commission of Alachua County. Each such site shall be allowed one additional freestanding sign, which shall be subject to the following standards:

1. Subject to the following additional standards, it shall conform with applicable federal and/or state standards for historic markers;
2. It shall not exceed 10 square feet in sign area;
3. It shall not exceed 5 feet in height;
4. It shall not be separately illuminated;
5. It shall be subject to all setback standards;
6. It shall contain no commercial message except to the extent that a commercial enterprise may be named as part of the designation of the historic site.

**(c) Development Entry Signs**

In addition to the other freestanding signs allowed on a site, development entry signs may be permitted to identify the name of a multi-family development, residential subdivision, nonresidential or mixed-use development, or neighborhood or other distinct sub-area, subject to the standards below.

1. Such signs shall be located at the entrance or entrances to the development, subdivision, or neighborhood.
2. Such signs shall not exceed a total sign copy area of 32 square feet.
3. Where an entry sign is placed on each side of an entry drive, the 32 square feet maximum area may be divided between two signs.
4. Maximum height shall not exceed eight (8) feet.
5. For proposals to place a neighborhood entry sign within a public right-of-way, a separate Right-of-Way Use Permit is required pursuant to §407.39(c) of this Article.

6. Development entry signs may be separately illuminated by external, direct, white light, which shall not flash or move.

**(d) Banner Signs**

Banner signs may be allowed on private property, subject to the following standards:

1. A banner may be attached to a light pole or other pole structure serving another purpose on the site and not installed simply to hold the banner;
2. Each banner must be affixed to a permanent frame at the top and bottom, preventing significant movement in the wind;
3. Banners once installed must be repaired or replaced as necessary, to maintain them in good condition, in accordance with the standards of §407.38.5;
4. No banner shall be larger in area than a number of square feet computed by dividing the height of the pole by 3 and rounding the result up to the nearest whole number. This area limit shall be measured on one side, but the banner may have messages or images on both sides; and
5. There shall be no more than two banners attached to each pole.

**407.32 Signs for Residential Development (excluding the 'A' Agriculture District)**

The following subsections identify the types of signage allowed for residential development.

**(a) Permanent Signs for Residential Development**

In addition to the entry signs allowed in § 407.31(c), the following signs are allowed. A permanent sign allowed in a residential district may bear a noncommercial message, the permitted commercial messages described below, or any combination thereof.

**1. Single Family Developments**

- a. A single building sign may be allowed that is a maximum of two square feet.
- b. The only commercial messages allowed on permanent signs in Single Family Residential Developments, or for residential uses in the RP Zoning District, are those related to a home-based business lawfully conducted on the premises.

**2. Multifamily Developments**

- a. One building sign may be allowed per building, not to exceed six square feet. For buildings in which access to units is from common hallways, one permanent building sign shall be permitted for each public entrance to such building.
- b. The only commercial messages allowed on permanent signs in Multifamily Residential Developments are those related to a home-based business lawfully conducted on the premises or a message related to the management, lease or rental of the premises.

**(b) Temporary Signs for Residential Development**

1. The only commercial messages allowed on temporary signs in Residential Developments are the following:
  - a. a message pertaining to the sale or lease of the premises; or

- b. a message related to an occasional sale, held lawfully and in accordance with applicable ordinances of the County.
- 2. A total of three temporary signs per dwelling may be permitted in the single family residential developments and a total of three temporary signs per driveway may be permitted in multi-family residential developments. Two temporary signs in these areas may bear a commercial message at any one time, and the remaining sign may only bear a noncommercial message.
- 3. In addition to the signs allowed in 2, above, temporary signs advertising the sale or lease of units, lots or dwellings in residential developments shall be allowed in accordance with the following standards:
  - a. One sign up to 32 square feet in size and up to eight feet in height shall be allowed at each public entrance to the residential development or subarea for which a development plan has been approved;
  - b. In addition, up to six (6) pole-mounted banners shall be allowed at each public entrance subject to the following standards:
    - i. Only one banner shall be permitted per pole;
    - ii. Banners shall not be placed in any public right-of-way;
    - iii. Such signs shall be removed upon the sale or lease of 90 percent or more of the available units or lots included in the approved development plan.
- 4. Dimensional and numerical standards for temporary signs for Residential Development are provided as follows:

Table 407.32.1

Dimensional and Numerical Standards for Temporary Signs for Residential Development

Residential Development Type	Maximum Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Height (ft.) for Freestanding Signs*	Maximum Number of Signs
Single Family	6	4	3
Multifamily	6	4	3 per driveway

\* Maximum heights listed herein do not apply to building signs, which are limited by the definition in Chapter 410.

**(c) Illumination of Signs for Residential Development**

With the exception of neighborhood entry signs permitted in accordance with §407.31(c), a temporary or permanent sign on residential property shall not be separately illuminated.

**407.33 Signs Allowed in the Agriculture Zoning District**

**(a) Limitations on Permanent Freestanding Signs in the Agriculture (A) District**

- 1. One such freestanding sign may be permitted. Maximum area shall be 32 square feet. Maximum height shall not exceed eight feet.
- 2. On a parcel larger than five acres, the 32 square feet of sign area may be divided between two signs. On a parcel of five acres or less in area, there shall only be one sign.

3. In lieu of a freestanding sign, the 32 square feet may instead be applied toward building signage, not to exceed the number of public entrances plus two.
4. Such sign shall not be separately illuminated.
5. Such sign may bear a noncommercial message, a commercial message permitted in subsection 6 below, or any combination thereof.
6. Permitted commercial messages on permanent signs are:
  - a. a message related to a home based business, agricultural business or other commercial business lawfully conducted on the premises; or
  - b. a message related to agritourism or ecotourism activities lawfully conducted on the premises.

**(b) Temporary Signs in the Agriculture District**

1. The only commercial messages allowed on temporary signs in the Agriculture District are the following:
  - a. a message pertaining to the sale or lease of the premises;
  - b. a message related to a home based business, agricultural business or other commercial business lawfully conducted on the premises;
  - c. a message related to an occasional sale, held lawfully and in accordance with applicable ordinances of the County; or
  - d. a message related to agritourism or ecotourism activities lawfully conducted on the premises.
2. A total of two temporary signs per parcel or tract of land shall be allowed at any one time, only one of which may bear a commercial message.
3. In addition to the signs allowed in 2, above, temporary signs advertising the sale of lots or dwellings in residential developments shall be allowed in accordance with the following standards:
  - a. One sign up to 32 square feet in size and up to eight feet in height shall be allowed at each public entrance to the subdivision or subarea included in the areas of the development for which subdivision plats have been approved;
  - b. In addition, up to six (6) pole-mounted banners shall be allowed at each public entrance subject to the following standards:
    - i. Only one banner shall be permitted per pole;
    - ii. Banners shall not be placed in any public right-of-way;
  - c. Such signs shall be removed upon the transfer of title to 90 percent or more of the available lots, dwellings or dwelling units included in the approved plat.
4. Dimensional and numerical standards for temporary signs in the Agriculture District are provided as follows:

**Table 407.33.1**  
**Dimensional and Numerical Standards for Temporary Signs in the Agriculture District**

Parcel Size	Maximum Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Height (ft.) for Freestanding Signs*	Maximum Number of Signs
Tract or parcel 5 acres or more	16**	8	2
Tract or parcel less than 5 acres	7 ½	4	1

\*Maximum heights listed herein do not apply to building signs, which are limited by the definition in Chapter 410.

\*\*If using only one temporary signs on a tract or parcel greater than five acres, the square footage may be combined to use as one 32 square foot sign.

**(c) Illumination of Signs in Agricultural Districts**

With the exception of neighborhood entry signs permitted in accordance with §407.31(c), a temporary or permanent sign on residential property in an Agricultural District shall not be separately illuminated.

**407.34 Signs Allowed for Nonresidential Development**

The following subsections identify the types of signage allowed within nonresidential developments, including commercial uses in the RP district. Nonresidential planned developments shall be subject to all requirements of this Section unless otherwise specified on the Zoning Master Plan. For purposes of this Section, sign copy is defined as the writing, representation, logo, emblem or other display but not including the background of the display.

**(a) Limitations on Permanent Freestanding Signs in Nonresidential Development**

1. On an individual site with a single tenant a single sign is allowed, in addition to the entry signs allowed in accordance with §407.31(c).
2. On a site with multiple tenants in one or more buildings, one permanent freestanding sign per 400 feet of street frontage shall be allowed, in addition to the entry signs allowed in accordance with §407.31(c). The computation for 'street frontage' in this paragraph shall include frontage along any nonresidential or mixed-use streets internal or external to the development that are dedicated to the County or State as public streets or are private streets built to County standards. In no case shall there be more than three freestanding signs on a single street frontage external to the site.
3. Freestanding signs exempt from permit requirements as provided in §407.29(b)5 shall not count toward the number of freestanding signs permitted on a site but shall be subject to all other standards in this Section.
4. Sign area shall not exceed 50 square feet. Sign height shall not exceed eight feet. The Director may grant an exception to the height limitation, allowing up to two additional feet for architectural features designed to coordinate with the building that exhibit creative solutions to signage and enhance the overall appearance of the sign.

**(b) Standards for Permanent Freestanding Signs in Transit-Oriented Developments (TOD)**

1. TOD developments may provide the following signage for nonresidential uses:
  - a. Along external roadways, one multi-tenant permanent freestanding sign may be permitted per 400 feet of exterior street frontage. The computation of 'street frontage' shall include frontage along all external streets.
  - b. One or more of the multi-tenant permanent freestanding signs allowed under the calculation in §407.34(b)1.a may be located at primary project entrances from external streets, even if such entrances do not front an external street.
  - c. In no case shall there be more than three multi-tenant permanent freestanding signs along an individual street frontage external to the site, except where such frontage is separated by an arterial roadway or by Interstate 75.
  - d. Internal to the site, single use buildings may each be permitted on permanent freestanding monument sign that does not exceed 24 square feet in area and four feet in height.
  - e. Those freestanding signs exempted under 407.29 or allowed in any zoning district under §407.31 shall not count toward the number of freestanding signs allowed on the site.
  - f. Signs permitted under this subsection shall be monument signs as defined in Chapter 410 of this ULDC.
  - g. The copy area of signs permitted under this subsection shall not exceed 40% of the total sign area.
  - h. Permanent freestanding signs allowed under this subsection are subject to the following dimensional standards provided in Table 407.34.1.

**Table 407.34.1**  
**Dimensional Standards for Multi-Tenant Freestanding Signs in TODs**

Roadway Classification	Total Maximum Sign Area (sq. ft.) <sup>1</sup>	Maximum Sign Area Per Tenant (sq.ft.)	Maximum Height (ft.) for Freestanding Signs	Minimum Vertical Clearance for Sign Copy Placement <sup>2,3</sup>
Local or Collector Roadway <sup>4, 5, 6</sup>	100	10	10	2
Arterial Roadway	360	25	24	4
Interstate 75	740	45	38	6

1. Developments that choose not to have a separate development entry sign as permitted under §407.31(c) at one of the primary project entrance sign locations may increase the maximum sign area allowed by up to 32 square feet for incorporation of development identification. Such an allowance must be clearly noted on the freestanding signage plan.
2. Vertical clearance refers to the separation between the top of the sign structure and the top of the copy area on the sign.
3. Development identification copy may be located within the vertical clearance area.
4. An additional 100 square feet of maximum sign area is allowed for 4 lane local or collector roadways.
5. An additional 10 square feet of maximum sign area per tenant is allowed for 4 lane local or collector roadways.
6. An additional 2 feet of maximum height is allowed for 4 lane local or collector roadways.

2. A freestanding signage plan shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval. This plan shall be consistent with and cover the entire area of an approved preliminary TOD master plan. The freestanding signage plan shall detail the height, size and location of all proposed freestanding signs permitted under this subsection as determined by the calculations and allowances for such signs in §407.34(b)1 and the dimensional standards in Table 407.34.1. All subsequent sign permit applications for permanent freestanding signs within the development must be consistent with an approved freestanding signage plan.

**(c) Other Permanent Signs in Nonresidential Development**

**1. Maximum Sign Area**

For permanent signs other than freestanding signs, the maximum sign area shall not exceed one-fourth of the front building elevation area of the principal building(s) or individual storefront where there are multiple tenants per building.

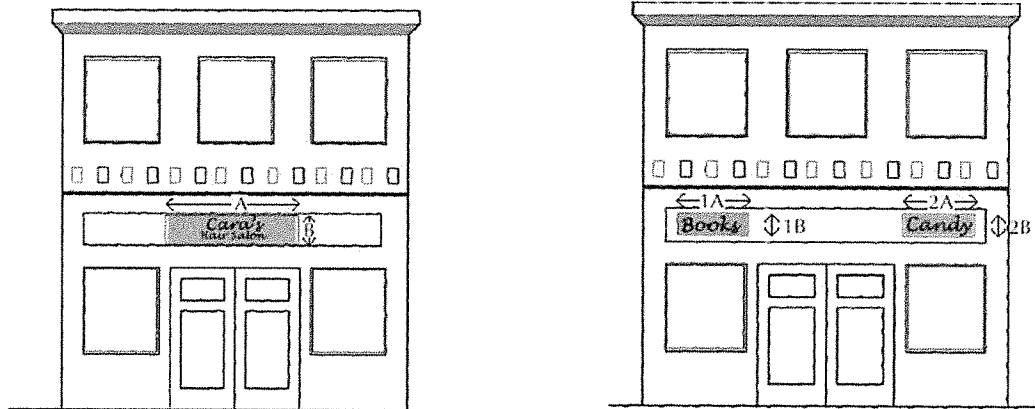
**2. Type and Number Allowed**

**a. Wall or Building, Projecting, and Awning Signs**

The total number of wall or building, projecting and awning signs shall not exceed the number of public entrances on the principal building(s) plus two. For projecting signs, the height of the top edge of the signboard shall not exceed the height of the wall from which it projects.



Illustration 407.34.1 - Wall or Building Signs

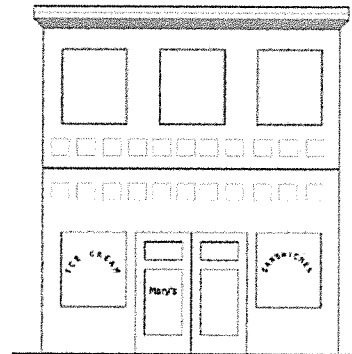
**b. Portico and Entry Signs**

For portico or entry signs, the distance from the nearest edge of the signboard to the ground shall be a minimum of 7.5 feet. Portico or entry signs shall not exceed six square feet per side.

**c. Window or Door Signs**

Signs attached to windows or doors are permitted subject to the following.

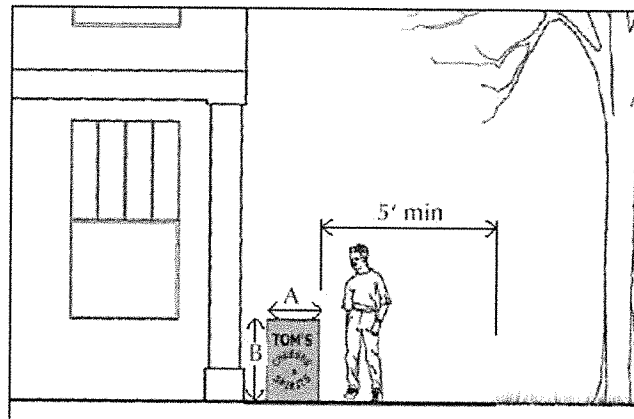
- i. Maximum sign area shall be 25 percent of the transparent portion of the window or door.
- ii. Signs shall be silk-screened, painted, vinyl or etched.

**d. Sidewalk Signs**

Sidewalk signs shall be allowed on sidewalks on private property but not on public sidewalks, subject to the following standards:

- i. Signboards shall not exceed six square feet in area per side. There shall be a maximum of one such sign per storefront.
- ii. The sign location shall not interfere with pedestrian or vehicular circulation or sightlines.
- iii. Sidewalk sign placement shall leave a minimum of five feet of sidewalk clearance.
- iv. The sign shall be constructed of durable materials.
- v. All sidewalk signs shall be located in front of the building.
- vi. Sidewalk signs shall only be set out while the business is open and must be taken indoors when the business is closed.

Illustration 407.34.3 - Sidewalk Signs

**(d) Temporary Signs for Nonresidential Development**

1. During the time that a property is under development or construction, one temporary freestanding or building sign that conforms in size, height and location with the standards for permanent signs shall be allowed. For developments with preliminary development plan approval, one additional freestanding sign per 25 acres of non-residential uses that conforms in size, height and location with the standards for permanent signs shall be allowed. Such temporary signs shall be removed upon the earlier of: sixty days after issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for the premises; or installation of the permanent sign; and
2. At any time, one other temporary freestanding or building sign up to 32 sq. ft. in area and 8 ft. in height per building or individual storefront is allowed. Such maximum height shall not apply to building signs, which are limited by the definition in Chapter 410. Such temporary signs shall not be separately illuminated.

**(e) Illumination of Permanent Signs for Nonresidential Development****1. Nonresidential Development (excluding A-RB)**

- a. Subject to the limitations of §407.38(c), signs in nonresidential developments may be separately illuminated by external, direct, indirect or internal lights. Outline lighting may be permitted for any principal building in a nonresidential development along the edge of a roofline, not to exceed six inches in width, provided such lighting is only one color and does not violate the prohibitions of §407.28(a).
- b. Permanent freestanding signs, except those located along the Interstate 75 corridor, may contain internally illuminated electronic message centers, subject to the following standards:
  - i. The electronic message center shall occupy no more than 20% of a sign's total square footage or 10 square feet, whichever is less.
  - ii. The electronic message center shall consist of a dark background, with monochromatic lettering that does not flash or move.

- iii. The message displayed in an electronic message center shall not change more than once in a five minute period.

## 2. A-RB Zoning District

A permanent sign in the Agricultural Rural Business (A-RB) Zoning District may be separately illuminated by external, direct, white light, which shall not flash or move, and which shall not result in glare at the nearest property line.

### 407.35 Signs Allowed in Mixed-Use Developments

The following types of signs shall be allowed within mixed-use developments, such as Traditiona Neighborhood and Transit Oriented Developments.

#### (a) Permanent Signs in Mixed-Use Developments

1. The residential portion of a mixed-use development, including any residential portion located above a nonresidential area, shall be subject to the requirements of §407.32(a), Permanent Signs for Residential Development.
2. The non-residential portion of a mixed-use development shall be subject to the requirements of §407.34(a), (b), and (c), Permanent Signs for Nonresidential Development.

#### (b) Temporary Signs in Mixed-Use Developments

1. The residential portion of a mixed-use development shall be subject to the requirements of §407.32(b), Temporary Signs for Residential Development.
2. The non-residential portion of a mixed-use development, including any residential located above the non-residential portion, shall be subject to the requirements of §407.34(d), Temporary Signs for Nonresidential Development.

#### (c) Illumination of Signs in Mixed-Use Developments

1. The residential portion of a mixed-use development shall be subject to the requirements of §407.32(c), Illumination of Signs for Residential Development.
2. The nonresidential portion of a mixed-use development, including any residential located above the non-residential portion, shall be subject to the requirements of §407.34(e), Illumination of Signs for Nonresidential Development.

### 407.36 RESERVED

### 407.37 Signs Allowed for Institutional Uses in Residential or Agricultural Zoning Districts

#### (a) Limitations on Permanent Signs for Institutional Uses in Residential or Agricultural Zoning Districts

For any educational institution, religious institution or other institutional use located in a Residential or Agricultural Zoning District, the following permanent signs shall be allowed in lieu of the permanent signs otherwise allowed in such districts:

1. For each principal institutional use; one freestanding sign not more than 32 square feet in area and not more than eight feet in height, which may include

2. changeable copy area, subject to the illumination standards in subsection (c) of this Section;
3. One building sign for each public entrance to the institution, each of which shall be no more than 32 square feet in area;
4. One fence, wall or building mounted sign per on site use for those institutional uses that consist primarily of open uses of land including but not limited to recreation and preservation areas, each of which shall be no more than 32 square feet in area; and
5. Flagpoles, in accordance with §407.37.5.

**(b) Temporary Signs for Institutional Uses in Residential or Agricultural Zoning Districts**

1. During the time that a property is under development or construction, one temporary freestanding sign that conforms in size, height and location with the standards for permanent signs shall be allowed. Such temporary sign shall be removed upon the earlier of sixty days after issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for the premises or installation of the permanent sign; and
2. At any time, one other temporary freestanding or building sign up to 32 sq. ft. in area and 8 ft. in height. Such height limitation shall not apply to building signs, which are limited by the definition in Chapter 410.
3. Such temporary signs shall not be separately illuminated.

**(c) Illumination of Permanent Institutional Signs**

A permanent sign located on the site with an institutional use in an Agricultural or Residential Zoning District may be separately illuminated by external direct, white light, which shall not flash or move, and which shall not result in glare at the nearest property line.

**407.37.5 Flags and Flagpoles**

The display of flags shall be subject to the following limitations:

**(a) In Residential and Agricultural Zoning Districts**

Flags and flagpoles shall be allowed in accordance with the following standards in the A, A-RB, RE, RE-1, R-1aa, R-1a, R-1c, R-1b, R-2, R-2a and R-3 zoning districts for residential and permitted institutional uses in such districts:

1. There shall be no more than one flagpole on a lot;
2. No flag shall bear a commercial message; and
3. No flagpole shall exceed 20 feet in height.

**(b) In Business, Commercial and Industrial Zoning Districts and Mixed-Use Developments**

Flags and flagpoles shall be allowed in accordance with the following standards in the AP, BP, BR, BR-1, BH, BA, BA-1, MB, BW, ML, MS, and MP Zoning Districts for permitted non-residential and industrial uses:

1. There shall be no more than three flagpoles per principal building on any development site;
2. Each flagpole must be within 30 feet of the principal entrance to the building to which it is oriented;

3. No flag may contain a commercial message; and
4. No flagpole in a nonresidential district shall exceed 30 feet in height.

(c) **Conditions Applicable in All Zoning Districts**

1. A flagpole shall be setback at least five feet from any property line,
2. No rooftop flagpoles shall be permitted in any zoning district.

**407.38 Construction and Installation**

(a) **Minimum Lot Area**

No sign or advertising structure shall be permitted on any lot or parcel of record which does not meet the minimum area requirements of the applicable provision of this ULDC.

(b) **Building and Electrical Codes**

All signs or advertising structures shall be constructed in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Florida Building Code and the related National Electrical Code.

(c) **Illumination**

Illuminated signs shall be designed and constructed so that there shall be no direct glare visible from any residential district caused by unshielded floodlights or other sources of high intensity lighting, and in accordance with the other requirements of this Article.

(d) **Interference with Visibility**

To prevent signs from interfering with visibility for drivers and pedestrians, no sign shall be installed within an area defined by the Florida Department of Transportation sight triangle, as outlined in the FDOT Design Standards for Design, Construction, Maintenance and Utility Operations on the State Highway System.

(e) **Other Standards**

1. All signs shall be mounted and/or applied true, square, level and plumb.
2. All conduits, ballasts, transformers, circuit breakers, etc. are to be concealed from public view.
3. All manufacturer labels are to be concealed from public view.
4. After installation of the sign or signs, the installation sites are to be cleaned of all debris and prepared for landscape installation.

**407.38.5 Maintenance**

All signs and advertising structures shall comply with the following requirements:

- (a) Weeds shall be kept cut in front of, underneath and around the base. No rubbish or debris shall be permitted to collect such that the same shall be unsightly or constitute a fire hazard;
- (b) All signs and sign structures shall be maintained in a safe and attractive condition by the parcel developer, except signs that shall be maintained by the appropriate public jurisdiction; and
- (c) The sign or advertising structure shall be kept clean, neatly painted and free from all hazards such as, but not limited to, faulty wiring and loose fastenings and shall be

maintained at all times in such safe condition so as not to be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare.

**407.39 Signs in Right-of-Way**

**(a) Generally**

Except as provided in this Section, no sign shall be placed or maintained within any public right-of-way or on any tree, pole, post, meter or similar object found within the public right-of-way.

**(b) Signs allowed without a Permit**

The following signs may be installed in the public right-of-way without a permit:

1. Signs conforming with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and bearing no commercial message;
2. Signs bearing no commercial message and installed by employees or officials of a state or federal agency in the course of their governmental duties;
3. Signs required by a state or federal statute;
4. Signs required by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction;
5. Signs installed by public utilities in their rights-of-way or on their facilities and bearing no commercial message other than such message is necessary to identify the use; and
6. Signs installed by a transit company with a franchise or other right to operate in Alachua County, where such signs are installed along its routes and relate to schedules or other information about the transit route.

**(c) Signs Requiring Right-of-Way Use Permit**

A development entry sign identifying a neighborhood or other distinct sub-area within the County may be installed within the public County road right-of-way with the following conditions:

1. The sign must identify a distinct sub-area of the County and be associated with the issuance of a Class IV Access Connection Permit as outlined in Article 13 of this Chapter. The roadway associated with this Access Permit must be used primarily for access to the identified sub-area.
2. The sign must bear no commercial message;
3. The applicant for the sign must own or have the authority to represent the owners of at least fifty percent of the land area within the area to be identified; and
4. The applicant for the sign must apply for a Right-of-Way Use Permit from the Public Works Department and must comply with all of the standards for issuance of such permit, including those related to maintenance and financial responsibility.

**(d) Signs in Public Utility Rights-of-Way**

Any freestanding sign allowed on a lot or parcel under this Article, where the lot or parcel is separated from the nearest public street or road by a public utility right-of-way that is 100 or more feet in width, may be erected in the utility right-of-way if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The person seeking a sign permit or erecting a sign that does not require a sign permit has written permission from the utility that controls the right-of-way to erect the sign on the right-of-way;
2. The sign number, size, height, numbering and other limitations applicable to the zoning district in which the subject lot or parcel is located shall control the sign, regardless of the zoning of the land underlying the utility right-of-way;
3. Signs in the utility right-of-way shall be set back from the right-of-way by at least the minimum required setback for the zoning district in which the subject lot or parcel is located;
4. Such sign or signs may be erected only in the portion of the utility rights-of-way lying directly between the subject lot or parcel and the road right-of-way;
5. Such sign(s) shall be deemed for purposes of this article to be located on the subject lot or parcel; and
6. The effect of this section shall not be construed to allow an increase in the total number of signs allowed on a lot or parcel.
7. All signs relocated or erected pursuant to this section shall be in compliance with all sections of this Article. Any nonconforming sign that is relocated must be brought into conformance with this Article.

**(e) Other Signs**

Any sign placed or maintained in the public right-of-way in violation of this provision shall be deemed to be abandoned and may be removed immediately by an officer of the sheriff's department, a codes enforcement officer or other authorized County personnel. Any sign so removed may be disposed of without notice or compensation. Removal of the sign shall not preclude prosecution or imposition of penalties for a violation of this Article through the installation of the sign.

**407.39.5 Appeals**

Any person aggrieved by a decision on an application for a sign permit under this Article may proceed with an appeal in accordance with Chapter 402, Article 28.