

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2018**

**ORDINANCE REGARDING POLITICAL SIGNS AMENDING SJCC 18.40.400 AND  
ORDINANCE 2-1998**

WHEREAS, Section 18.40.400(C) of the Development Code of San Juan County includes provisions allowing outright the use of property to erect temporary signs with political content, provided that the temporary nature of such signs be defined by reference to the number of days before the election; and

WHEREAS; such regulations have served the community well by protecting the aesthetics of the country side and scenic highways of the county, especially during the time in which the people welcome many visitors; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the Prosecuting Attorney advised that the time limits of section 18.40.400(C) are not enforceable and will not be enforced, and since that time the regulation has been treated as a guideline; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2018 and June 1, 2018, the Superior Court for San Juan County entered Orders temporarily preventing the enforcement of “the temporal aspect of SJCC 18.40.400(C)”;

and

WHEREAS, the County Council wishes to consider in the future ways in which it may protect the aesthetics of the roadsides and beauty of the islands while protecting the free speech of its citizens;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the County Council of San Juan County, state of Washington, as follows:

Section 1. SJCC 18.40.400 and Ordinance 2-1998 Exh. B § 4.29.4 are each amended to read as follows:

**18.40.400 Exempt signs.**

The following signs are exempt from the regulations contained in SJCC 18.40.370 through 18.40.400:

- A. Signs required by law and flags of national and state governments.
- B. “No Hunting” and “No Trespassing” signs, all of which must be smaller than two square feet.
- C. Political signs, ~~shall be permitted outright; provided, that they shall not be erected more than 45 days prior to an election and shall be removed by the candidate or landowner no more than 72 hours following an election terminating candidacy. Political signs shall not exceed six square feet in area.~~

D. Special event signs for periods not to exceed 30 days, after which they must be removed, and not for more than one 30-day period in any calendar year.

E. Public notice signs.

F. Traffic signs and traffic control devices and signals.

G. Temporary decorations that are customary for the holidays and located on private property.

H. One temporary construction sign no larger than four feet by eight feet in size for a period not to exceed 12 consecutive months, after which it must be removed.

I. House numbers.

Section 2. Effective Date  
This ordinance is effective on the 10<sup>th</sup> working day after adoption.

Section 3. Codification.  
Section 1 of this ordinance shall be codified.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2018.

ATTEST: Clerk of the Council

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ingrid Gabriel, Clerk Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Watson, Chair  
District 1

REVIEWED BY COUNTY MANAGER

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael J. Thomas Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Stephens, Vice-Chair  
District 3

RANDALL K. GAYLORD  
APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Hughes, Member  
District 2