

Sign Ordinance



A sign ordinance can help a municipality reduce the visual clutter of signage and end business sign wars. It also can help protect, establish, or enhance community identity.

By regulating the type, size, and location of signs in a municipality (as well as the process for erecting new signs), a sign ordinance can help preserve or create community character and stop visually distracting sign competition between businesses. A municipality may adopt a sign ordinance as a part of the zoning ordinance or as a stand-alone ordinance.

Links to a variety of helpful guides, model ordinances, and examples for establishing and improving sign ordinances are provided below.

Guides

These guides provide a comprehensive look at understanding, designing, and implementing sign ordinances. Some also include model ordinances.

[*Sign Ordinance: A Comprehensive, Content-Neutral Approach to Local Sign Control*](#) (Montgomery County Planning Commission)

- Includes model ordinance

[*Context-Sensitive Signage Design*](#) (American Planning Association)

[*A Framework for On-Premise Sign Regulations*](#) (D.B. Hartt and Alan Weinstein)

- Includes model ordinance

[*Serving on a Sign Ordinance Committee*](#) (United States Sign Council)

Model Ordinances

In addition to the guides listed above that include model ordinances, see:

[*Model Zoning Ordinance Regulations for Signs*](#) (Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission)

[*Model Sign Ordinance*](#) (Pocono Mountain Chamber of Commerce)

[*Model On-Premise Sign Code*](#) (United States Sign Council)

Ordinance Examples

Below are examples of sign ordinances from municipalities in Pennsylvania and other states. (For more examples, see the Scenic City Certification Program's [Example Ordinances webpage](#).)

[Radnor Township Sign Ordinance](#)

[Hermitage Zoning Ordinance](#)

- See Section 409 for sign regulations

[Lancaster Township Zoning Ordinance](#)

- See Article 12 for sign regulations

[Frederick County Sign Regulations](#)

[Columbia Heights Sign Code Regulations](#)

[Hopkins Sign Ordinance](#)

[West Hollywood Sign Ordinance and Design Guidelines](#)

The most recent version of this guide and related resources can be found online at <https://conservationtools.org/guides/50>

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