



CITY OF WILSON
Planning & Design Review Board Agenda Session

Agenda Item #: 2
City Council Meeting: May 21, 2026

TO: Planning & Design Review Board
FROM: Janet Holland, Land Development Manager
SUBJECT: ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT CHANGE REQUEST (LD-26-0101)

APPLICANT: City of Wilson
SECTIONS: Chapter 11, of the UDO
Purpose: Technical amendments to update the UDO with regards to Uses, Supplemental Standards, Signs, Non-conformities and best practices.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: 1) Approval. 2) If you move to approve the request, be sure to preface your motion with the “reasonable” statement below. **3)** If you move to deny the request, be sure to preface that motion with the “not reasonable” statement below.

Choose one:

I MOVE THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT IS REASONABLE DUE TO ITS CONSISTENCY WITH THE FOLLOWING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN POLICIES AND THAT IT BE APPROVED:
Plan Monitoring and Updating

I MOVE THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT IS NOT REASONABLE DUE TO ITS INCONSISTENCY WITH THE FOLLOWING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN POLICIES AND THAT IT BE DENIED: Plan Monitoring and Updating

BACKGROUND:

Staff and Legal Counsel discussed the City’s legal ability to remove campaign signs 30 days following an election. The City does not currently have an ordinance in place specifically addressing this issue, but is authorized to adopt one pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 136-32 (please see attached). We have drafted a proposed ordinance amendment that gives the City this authority and incorporates the other campaign sign restrictions set forth in the statute. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the attached draft.

COORDINATION:

Kathy Bangley, CFM, CZO, Director, Development Services; 252.206.5289;

Project LD-26-0101

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Janet Holland, AICP, Land Development Manager; 252.399.2215;

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ATTACHEMENT: NCGS 136-32, Proposed Ordinance

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILSON TO AMEND THE UNIFIED A DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (UDO) TO CODIFY/AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVING POLITICAL SIGNS

WHEREAS, within its Unified Development Ordinance, the City of Wilson (“The City”) has established comprehensive regulations governing the display and placement of signage throughout the community, and

WHEREAS, the Unified Development Ordinance presently contains no specific provisions addressing the regulation of political signs, and

WHEREAS, the City is empowered to regulate the placement of political signs by virtue of the authority granted under North Carolina General Statute § 136-32, and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to enact regulations for political signage in furtherance of the broader objectives articulated within the Unified Development Ordinance, and those set forth in Chapter 11, Section 11.1, thereby promoting the public welfare and community character.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Wilson, North Carolina that Chapter 11 of the Unified Development Ordinance be amended as follows:

SECTION 1. That in Chapter 11, entitled “Signs,” in Section 11.5, entitled “Signage Standards by Category,” in subsection 11.5.2, entitled “Freestanding Sign Standards,” the table should be amended to include the following:

11.5.2 FREESTANDING SIGN STANDARDS

	Permitted Location	Maximum Area	Maximum Height	Other Requirements	Maximum Number
D. Political Signs	Public street rights-of-way within City’s corporate limits	6 sq ft	3.5 ft	Signs not permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway. 3 ft minimum setback from the edge of the pavement of the road. Signs must not obscure motorist visibility at an intersection. Signs shall not obscure or replace another sign.	n/a

				Signs subject to timing, consent, and removal standards outlined in subsection 11.6.11	
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SECTION 2. That in Chapter 11, entitled “Signs,” in Section 11.6, entitled “Other Signage Standards,” the text should be amended to include the following:

11.6.11 POLITICAL SIGNS

Political Signs are permitted when they meet the requirements outlined in subsection 11.6.11.D and following standards:

- A. Consent** – The permittee must obtain the permission of any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected.
- B. Timing** – Political signs can be placed during the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of early voting under North Carolina General Statute § 163-166.40 and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day.
- C. Removal** – Any political sign that remains in a right of way more than 30 days after the end of the period prescribed in the ordinance is to be deemed unlawfully placed and abandoned property, and a person as well as the City of Wilson, may remove and dispose of such political sign without penalty.

SECTION 3. That in Chapter 17, entitled “Definitions,” in Section 17.4, entitled “Definitions, Generally,” the text should be amended to include the following definition alphabetically:

SIGNS, POLITICAL Any sign that advocates for political action. The term does not include a commercial sign.

SECTION 4. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 5. That if any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

SECTION 6. That this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Carlton L. Stevens
Mayor

ATTEST:

Tonya A. West, City Clerk