



Memorandum

Date: 6/23/2026  
Meeting of: City Council Study Session

File No. SS 26-062  
Type: Study Session

TO: Members of the City Council  
FROM: Mayor Angela Birney  
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR CONTACT(S):

Planning and Community Development	Carol Helland	425-556-2107
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DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Planning and Community Development	Seraphie Allen	Deputy Director
Planning and Community Development	Jeff Churchill	Long Range Planning Manager
Planning and Community Development	Lauren Alpert	Senior Planner

TITLE:  
RZC Amendments: Temporary Non-Commercial Signs

OVERVIEW STATEMENT:

Staff recommend adopting an ordinance creating a regulatory framework for temporary non-commercial signs.

The Redmond Zoning Code (RZC) regulates signs in chapter 21.44, Signs. The proposed amendments would establish a regulatory framework for temporary non-commercial signs. Common examples of such signs include political campaign signs, community event signs, and philosophical or religions message signs.

The RZC does not have a regulatory framework for temporary non-commercial signs. The proposed framework is consistent with U.S. Supreme Court precedent (see Attachment B). The framework:

- Allows temporary non-commercial signs in the public right-of-way with limitations.
- Regulates size, placement, and durability of signs.
- Does not regulate content.

Creating a regulatory framework for temporary non-commercial signs advances public health, safety, and welfare while respecting constitution free speech and guarantees.

The Planning Commission recommendation is provided in Attachment A. It differs from the Technical Committee recommendation in two key respects:

- The Planning Commission does not recommend establishing a cost-free, renewable permit.
- The Planning Commission recommends allowing these types of signs in roundabouts and medians.

Staff's opinion on these differences is provided in Attachment C. A City Council issues matrix is provided as Attachment D.

Additional Background Information/Description of Proposal Attached

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

- Receive Information                       Provide Direction                       Approve

**REQUEST RATIONALE:**

- **Relevant Plans/Policies:**  
The following Redmond 2050 policies: PI-17 concerning clear development regulations, and FW-CD-2 concerning the use of development regulations to achieve desired design outcomes.
- **Required:**  
U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *Reed v. Town of Gilbert* (2015) and *City of Austin v. Reagan National Advertising of Austin LLC* (2022) require the City to update sign regulations.
- **Council Request:**  
N/A
- **Other Key Facts:**  
N/A

**OUTCOMES:**

Creating a regulatory framework for temporary non-commercial signs advances public health, safety, and welfare while respecting constitutional free speech.

**COMMUNITY/STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT:**

- **Timeline (previous or planned):**  
Public comments were collected February and March 2026.
- **Outreach Methods and Results:**  
Online questionnaire, and Planning Commission public hearing.
- **Feedback Summary:**  
Public comments included:
  - Concerns on having clear rules on how long signs can remain posted,
  - Concerns about some signs being deliberately treated with hazardous substances, creating risks for anyone who touches or removes them.
  - Support of prohibiting signs in medians and roundabouts

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

**Total Cost:**

\$5,350,743 is the total cost of the Community and Economic Development budget offer, which includes the staff time for this work.

- Approved in current biennial budget:**                       Yes                       No                       N/A

**Budget Offer Number:**

0000304

**Budget Priority:**  
Vibrant and Connected

**Other budget impacts or additional costs:**     Yes             No             N/A

*If yes, explain:*  
N/A

**Funding source(s):**  
General Fund

**Budget/Funding Constraints:**  
N/A

Additional budget details attached

**COUNCIL REVIEW:**

**Previous Contact(s)**

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
6/2/2026	Committee of the Whole - Planning and Public Works	Provide Direction

**Proposed Upcoming Contact(s)**

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
7/21/2026	Business Meeting	Approve

**Time Constraints:**

Existing regulations for these types of signs are not enforceable. Timely City Council action will establish a regulatory framework that is consistent with U.S. Supreme Court precedent.

**ANTICIPATED RESULT IF NOT APPROVED:**

If not adopted, the benefits of the recommended amendments will not be realized. There would not be a regulatory framework for temporary non-commercial signs.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Attachment A: Planning Commission Report with Appendices
- Attachment B: Legal Memo
- Attachment C: Staff Memo
- Attachment D: Issues Matrix