



Memorandum

Date: 7/21/2026
Meeting of: City Council

File No. AM No. 26-114
Type: Consent Item

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:

Adoption of an Ordinance for the Redmond Zoning Code Amendments Regarding Temporary Non-Commercial Signs

- a. Ordinance No. 3263: An Ordinance of the City of Redmond, Washington, Amending Title 21 of the Redmond Municipal Code, known as the Redmond Zoning Code, Addressing Temporary Non-Commercial Signs, Providing for Severability, and Establishing an Effective Date

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 recommended 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 religious 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 D). 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 constitutional free speech and guarantees.

The Planning Commission recommendation is provided in Attachment C. It differs from the Technical Committee recommendation. Staff's opinion on these differences is provided in Attachment E. A City Council issues matrix is provided as Attachment F.

The Ordinance, Attachment A, and Exhibits, Attachment B reflects the Council's discussion to not allow signs in roundabouts and does not establish a permit for temporary non-commercial signs.

☒ **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
6/23/2026	Study Session	Provide Direction

Proposed Upcoming Contact(s)

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
N/A	N/A	N/A

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: Ordinance Amending the Redmond Zoning Code
Attachment B: Ordinance Exhibits 1 and 2
Attachment C: Planning Commission Report
Attachment D: Legal Memo
Attachment E: Staff Memo

Attachment F: Issue Matrix