

County Regulation of Billboards

Survey Date: March 2, 2004

County	Does your county regulate signs?	IF YES:				
		Are they regulated through sign ordinance or zoning?	What type of signs are regulated (off premises, portable or just the billboard type)?	How many signs are permitted?	How many are currently nonconforming uses?	When a sign is removed under your ordinance, how is the sign company compensated?
Abbeville	Yes	Zoning	On premise and off premise	Based on spacing standards; just opened the rural part of the county to off site signs.	Probably many, but the new ordinance does not contain any removal standards.	No requirements for removal at this time.
Aiken	Yes	Zoning and dev. standards ordinance	Signs are classified as being either freestanding, permanently mounted on a building, or temporary.	The number of permitted signs varies by type and zoning district. The rural zoning district has no limit on number or type of sign; in all other zoning districts, one freestanding sign is permitted for each street frontage. There is no limit on the number of signs permanently mounted on buildings (although there is a limit on total allowable sign area). There is no limit on the number of most temporary signs, however, only one portable sign is permitted for each non-residential use.	There has been no survey of nonconforming signs.	The county has no program under way for removal of signs. Nonconforming signs that have been abandoned or damaged to the extent of more than 50% of their replacement cost as well as illegal signs are to be removed by the sign's owner at his/her expense.
Allendale	No					
Barnwell	No					
Charleston	Yes	Zoning and land dev. regulations ordinance	On premises and off premises signs; billboards are allowed as use of right in industrial zoning district.	Numerous	Numerous	Only abandoned signs, signs not repaired, and prohibited signs must be removed at owner's expense.
Cherokee	Yes	Sign ordinance -- ("Billboards prohibited in scenic area of Peachoid Water Tank")	Billboard	Zero	Zero	NA
Chester	Yes	Zoning	All with the following exceptions: traffic – authorized by a public agency; official – official notices issued by a court, public agency or office; temporary – non-illuminated political campaign, yard sale, for sale, for rent, for lease, or similar; historic – historic markers not in public right of way.		Many	We haven't made anyone remove their signs...ordinance has been in place since 1998 with major revision in 2000.
Clarendon	No					
Colleton	Yes	Zoning	All signs	1 on premise, 1 off premise	Many -- our sign/zoning ord. has only been in effect for two years.	Removal has not required compensation.

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Darlington	No					
Dillon	Yes	Sign ordinance	Billboard type that is off premises.	201	Zero	None have been removed.
Edgefield	Yes	Both	All signs	Intervals no closer than 1000 feet	Unknown	Regulations are relatively new and have not had any removed.
Fairfield	Yes	Zoning ordinance	Any object, device, display or structure, or part thereof, situated outdoors or indoors, which is used to advertise, identify display, direct or attract attention to an object, person, institution, organization, business, product, fixtures, colors, illumination or projected images.	5 to 10 yearly average	Unavailable	County does not have any standards in place with regard to compensation for removal of sign.
Florence	Yes	Regulations are established by the county's sign ord. that is incorporated with the county's zoning ord. and through zoning.	The zoning ord. establishes billboards as off premise signs; portable signs can't be used as permanent signs and therefore can't be used as billboards.	The zoning ord. allows one billboard per 1200 ft. measured betw. billboards located on either side of the street along the center line of the street from which the billboard is viewed.	Unable to determine at this time.	Sect. 5.10 of the zoning ord. est. the following: Outdoor advertising structures located on property, acquired by a governmental agency for public use, may be relocated on the original parcel of property that was not acquired. The structure must be rebuilt in accordance with the single steel pole structural design and the sign face square footage must remain the same.
Georgetown	Yes	Zoning ordinance	All signs	1 per parcel	61 nonconforming	Removed upon development of property or damaged beyond 70% -- no compensation.
Greenville	Yes	Sign ordinance	Off premise, on premise, portable, weekend real-estate, billboard	Calendar year 03: permanent signs 501 and portable 90; billboards has a finite number -- 232.	With the adoption of the sign ord. in all areas of the county, many older billboards and signs may be considered nonconforming.	The county has a finite cap on the number of billboards allowed; if you want to put a billboard in a new location in accordance with the sign ord., then another billboard must be removed. In the case of SCDOT road widening projects, signs may be relocated by the state or paid for.
Greenwood	Yes	Zoning	Wall, free standing, off premises, portable, directional, temporary		Unknown	If permitted, the sign will not be removed.
Hampton	Yes	Unified land dev. ordinance	All signs	Unknown	Unknown	No provision for amortization or purchase
Jasper	Yes	Both	All off premises, billboards, on site	Max of three per qualifying site	Est. 15	County has prohibited signs in certain corridor districts, and continues to allow existing nonconforming signs to remain until 50% or more substantial damage.
Lancaster	Yes	Sign ordinance	All types		Unknown	Nonconforming signs can remain in place unless they are damaged beyond 75% of their value. We do not amortize signs.

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Laurens	No					
Lexington	Yes	Zoning ordinance	All signs – off premise (which include billboards), on premise, and temporary signs (which include portable)	If by "how many" you mean "what type," then essentially all types are permitted, but are regulated as to size, location, number, and length of time (temporary signs).	Very small percentage	Ordinance allows the two main categories of signs (advertising and business signs) to continue as nonconforming unless they are hazards, in the right-of-way, business changes, etc. The zoning brd. can also extend any deadlines if there is a financial hardship.
McCormick	No					
Orangeburg	No					
Richland	Yes	Zoning ordinance	All signs -- temporary, wall mounted, pilon, and off premises	Unknown	Unknown	No signs have been removed.
Saluda	No					
Spartanburg	Yes	Unified land management ordinance (all existing grandfathered)	Billboards, off premise	454	Planning director estimates not more than 10%.	County has not compensated. All (existing) signs grandfathered. Most already permitted by state.
Sumter	Yes	Zoning and dev. standards ordinance	All signs -- on and off premise as well as permanent and temporary	Currently have about 175 off premise advertising signs in Sumter city and county of which 135 may be permitted.	At least 40	Amortization
Responses: 28	Yes: 20 No: 8					