

Replied to : geary4yakimacountycommissioner@gmail.com

Hi Eric,

The PDC has closed your complaint against Mike Leita. After contacting Yakima County, see attached statement from Vern Redifer, Public Services Director, it appears that signs are regularly posted on that fence, and that all candidates are welcome to place their signs there. We will be following up with the county to determine what their guidelines for candidates are and their use of facilities policies.

Have a good day,

Jacob Berkey
Public Disclosure Commission

1 Attachment

PDF [5392 Redifer...](#)
(554 KB)

Hello Jacob,

I am the Public Services Director for Yakima County and, among other things, am responsible for managing all county properties including the parking area for the county motor pool vehicles shown in the photo you attached to your email. I have worked for Yakima County for 27 years – the last 16 as Public Services Director. My office overlooks the intersection shown in the picture.

The fence in question is and has been a favorite location for candidates to post their campaign signs for as long as I have worked for Yakima County. Candidates for federal, state, and local offices have all used this location to post their signs. There is no county ordinance or regulation that prohibits the use of this location for campaign signs. In fact, we allow campaign signs to be displayed within our county road rights of way throughout Yakima County. Our only requirement is that signs do not create a traffic safety issue by blocking intersection site distance for vehicles. We also have a land use ordinance that requires the signs be removed within 15 days following an election.

There is no process or requirement that candidates need to seek permission or approval to place signs on either the fence or within county road rights of way. These locations are available to anyone wishing to use them on a first come first served basis. That said, Mr. Leita did contact me last week requesting information regarding any limitations or requirements for placing campaign signs on county rights of way including the fence. I explained the above to him and specifically told him that I didn't see any problem with him installing a sign on the fence, since many other candidates have been doing so for years. In fact, there is now a second campaign sign for another candidate next to Mr. Leita's sign.

I hope this provides you with an adequate response to your question. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Vern