AN ORDINANCE of the City of Kent, Washington relating to signs, posters or bills promoting or publicizing candidates for public office or issues that are to be voted upon in an election; prohibiting signs, posters or bills on public property; limiting signs, posters or bills on private property; providing penalties for violation.

Section 1. DECLARATION AND PURPOSE.

The control of signs, posters or bills promoting or publicizing candidates for public office or issues that are to be voted upon in an election is hereby declared to be necessary to promote public health, safety, welfare, convenience and enjoyment of the public to travel, to protect public investment in the City Street System, and to encourage visitors to the city by conserving the natural beauty of the city.

Section 2. PUBLIC PROPERTY-POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS PROHIBITED.

No person shall attach, place, paint, write, stamp or paste any sign, poster or bill upon any lamp post, electric light, railway, telephone or telegraph pole, or shade tree; on any bridge, pavement, sidewalk or cross-walk, public building or any property or anything belonging to the City or within public easements.

Section 3. PRIVATE PROPERTY-PERMISSION REQUIRED.

No person shall attach, place, paint, write, stamp or paste any sign, poster or bill upon any private property in the City of Kent without first obtaining the written permission of the property owner.
Section 4. WITHDRAWAL OF PERMISSION - REMOVAL OF SIGNS

Should any private property owner withdraw permission previously granted to any political candidate for the placement of signs, posters or bills under Section 2 of this Ordinance, the political candidate shall remove said sign, poster or bill within seventy-two (72) hours of request by the property owner. In the event the candidate fails to remove the sign, poster or bill within the said seventy-two (72) hours, the property owner then may remove the sign, poster or bill and dispose of it in any manner he sees fit without incurring any liability therefore to the political candidate.

Section 5. PLACEMENT AND REMOVAL OF SIGNS

No signs, posters or bills shall be posted upon any property within the City of Kent for a period of longer than thirty (30) days prior to any primary or general election; provided, however, that a successful candidate in the primary election shall not be obligated to remove or to have removed signs, posters or bills lawfully placed upon property between the primary and general election.

All signs, posters or bills shall be removed not later than the end of the fifth (5th) day following any primary election in the case of those candidates not surviving the primary, and not later than the fifth (5th) day following a general election with regard to all candidates and issues. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to have signs, posters or bills removed.

Section 6. PENALTIES

Any person willfully violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction therefore, shall be subject to a fine not to exceed Three Hundred (300.00) Dollars or thirty (30) days in the City Jail or both such fine and imprisonment.
Section 7. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

ISABEL HOGAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARIE JENSEN, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DONALD E. MIRK, City Attorney

Passed the 16th day of August, 1971.

Approved the 17th day of August, 1971.

Published the 20th day of August, 1971.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of Ordinance No. 1733, passed by the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington, and approved by the Mayor of the City of Kent as hereon indicated.

MARIE JENSEN, City Clerk (SEAL)