

Only those portions of Title 18B that are proposed to be amended or necessary for context are shown. Remainder of text, maps, tables and/or figures is unchanged.

Chapter 18B.20
COUNTYWIDE SIGN DESIGN REGULATIONS

18B.20.080 Electronic Message Signs.

Electronic message signs are allowed as follows:

- A. Electronic message signs are allowed for the following civic uses in urban areas as shown in Table 18B.20.080-1, Electronic Message Signs:
 - 1. Schools (elementary, middle, high, college, university);
 - 2. Regional park facilities;
 - 3. Police and fire stations; and
 - 4. Religious facilities.
- B. Electronic message signs are allowed for the following civic uses in rural areas as shown in Table 18B.20.080-1, Electronic Message Signs:
 - 1. Schools (elementary, middle, high, college, university); and
 - 2. Police and fire stations.
- C. Electronic message signs shall be allowed in urban commercial zone classifications as shown in Table 18B.20.080-1, Electronic Message Signs.
- D. Temporary electronic message signs used for traffic control purposes within the County or State rights-of-way, as approved by the County Engineer or Washington State Department of Transportation, are permitted County-wide.
- E. All electronic message signs are subject to subsection B. of this Section, Electronic Message Signs*.
- F. **Regulations – Electronic Message Signs.**
 - 1. An electronic message sign, as a wall or freestanding sign, shall not exceed the size, setback or height limits of the zone classification.
 - 2. When an electronic message sign is located in a residential zone classification, the sign shall not operate between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
 - 3. An electronic message sign shall be located on the same site as the use for which it is associated.
 - 4. Information on the electronic message sign shall only include alphanumeric characters, punctuation, static images, graphics, logos, and symbols.
 - 5. Electronic message signs shall display static messages only. No video, scrolling, streaming, flashing, or trailing content, animations, or similar displays are permitted.
 - 6. The change from one message to another message shall be no more frequent than once every 8 seconds when along a major arterial and 20 seconds when along all other roadways.
 - 7. The change of message shall be completed in two seconds or less. Messages, including backgrounds, text, numbers, static images, graphics, logos, and

- symbols, may change by dissolve, fade, or by instantaneous change from one static display to another, but shall remain as a static display after completing the change and, once changed, shall remain static until the next change.
8. Electronic message signs shall not exceed a brightness level of 0.3 foot candles above ambient light as measured using a foot candle meter at a preset distance depending on sign size. Measurement distance shall be determined using the following calculation: the square root of the product of the sign area times 100. Example using a 12 square foot sign: $\sqrt{(12 \times 100)} = 34.6$ feet measuring distance.
 9. Electronic message signs shall be equipped with a mechanism that automatically adjusts the brightness in response to ambient conditions and equipped with a means to immediately turn off the display if it malfunctions or if for some reason it is not complying with the regulations in this Section.
 10. All electronic message signs shall be designed to prevent light trespass into the sky.

18B.20.090 Sign Illumination.

A. Regulations – General.

1. Illumination should be energy efficient and shall be arranged so the light source is shielded from view;
2. All sign illumination shall be directed to preclude glare visible from public right-of-way and neighboring properties;
3. Surface brightness or intensity of lighting shall not be beyond that necessary for visibility from the public right-of-way;
4. Signs shall not produce a harsh, uncomfortably bright light either through the level of illumination or a combination of illumination levels and design of the sign face;
5. Signs shall not be overly bright so as to overshadow signs in the immediate vicinity, cause glare, or create an island of light;
6. Signs shall not be permitted to remain lit during non-business hours; and
7. Internal or backlit sign illumination is the only type of illumination permitted for commercial or civic uses.
8. All illuminated signs shall be designed to prevent light trespass into the sky through methods that may include, but are not limited to, light shielding, downward directional lighting, or specialized fixture optics.

B. Regulations – Illumination. The following types of illumination and mechanical movement are permitted for all activities in all zone classifications subject to the limitations indicated in this subsection, unless precluded by PCC 18B.10.060, Prohibited Locations for Signs and Prohibited Signs:

1. **Colored light.** White light is the only color of light which is permitted in areas designated as rural residential or within 300 feet of such areas. Colored light is only allowed in urban and rural center zone classifications.
2. **Internal illumination.** Internal illumination is a light source concealed or contained within the sign and which becomes visible in darkness through a

- translucent surface. Such lighting is allowed in urban and rural center zone classifications. Brightness shall not be so great as to disturb nearby residences.
3. **Indirect illumination.** Indirect illumination is a light source not directly seen. It is allowed for all activities subject to the provisions of this Section and these Regulations.
 4. **Floodlight illumination.** Floodlight illumination is allowed for commercial activities in urban and rural center zone classifications provided that the floodlight or spotlight is positioned so that none of the light shines ~~out~~ into an adjoining property, the sky or in the eyes of motorists or pedestrians.
 5. **Neon tube illumination.** Neon tube illumination is a source of light supplied by a neon tube that is bent to form letters, symbols, or other shapes (does not include signs that are internally lit by neon tubing).