

LA SIGN ORDINANCE -- SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

The Los Angeles Sign Ordinance draft is very comprehensive, and has many rules that don't affect commercial office or retail buildings. The summary below lists the provisions that would most likely affect BOMA/GLA's members.

NOTE: Under current law, on-site and off-site signage are covered by separate provisions. The draft ordinance places limits on all types of signs, no matter the content or where located. This means signs relating to the use of the property are treated the same as billboard ads along the freeway.

- Prohibits any super graphic signs (large fabric signs covering the entire side or large portion of a building).
- Prohibits digital signs - these include not just digital billboards but any sign that changes information periodically. Time and temperature signs are an example.
- Reduces the total sign area allowed on a lot to one square foot of sign area for every linear foot of street frontage, and 1 .5 feet of sign area for every linear foot of building frontage. This total amount of sign area can be divided up in several signs or used on one. Previously a ratio of 4 to 1 was used.
- Roof signs will be prohibited except in Sign Districts (the rules for sign districts have also been tightened).
- Monument signs are permitted up to 60 feet square for any one sign, including all faces. Previously, a sign could be up to 75 for one face or 150 for both sides of the sign.
- Limits high rise signs to one per building face and two per building, requires channel letters, and restricts illumination. Previously, there was no limitation on high rise signs. High rise is defined as over 100 feet. There are different area limitations for signs depending on the height of the building.
- Temporary signs such as those use for leasing space are limited to use for 90 days. After that, they must come down.
- Pole signs may be to a maximum height of 25 feet. Current law allows poles to a height of 42 feet for lots with 100+ feet of frontage.
- The ordinance does not allow for the use of any new technology on signs. New sign technologies not defined would be prohibited.