

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

Chapter 230 Sign Regulations

Section 230-1 Title

This chapter shall be known and may be referred to as the "Sign Ordinance of the City of Valdosta."

Section 230-2 Authority

This chapter is enacted pursuant to the general police powers of the city and other authority provided by federal, state and local laws applicable hereto.

Section 230-3 Findings, Purpose, and Intent

The City of Valdosta finds that the number, size, design characteristics, and locations of signs in the city directly affect the public health, safety, welfare and property values. The city finds that excessive signs are distracting and dangerous to motorists and pedestrians, may be confusing to the public, and substantially detract from the beauty and appearance of the city and associated property values. The purpose and intent of the governing authority of the city in enacting this chapter are as follows:

- (A) To protect the health, safety, general welfare and property values of the citizens of the city, and to implement the policies and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan of the city through the enactment of a comprehensive set of regulations governing signs in the city.
- (B) To regulate the erection and placement of signs within the city in order to provide safe operating conditions for pedestrian and vehicular traffic without unnecessary and unsafe distractions to drivers and pedestrians.
- (C) To preserve the value of property on which signs are located and from which signs may be viewed.
- (D) To maintain an aesthetically attractive city in which signs are compatible with the surrounding area.
- (E) To maintain for the city's residents, workers and visitors a safe and aesthetically attractive environment and to advance the aesthetic interests of the city.
- (F) To establish comprehensive sign regulations that effectively balance legitimate business and development needs with a safe and aesthetically attractive environment for residents, workers and visitors to the city.
- (G) To provide fair and reasonable opportunities for the identification of businesses that are located within the city and to provide for the identification of the availability of products, goods or services to promote economic vitality.
- (H) To ensure the protection of free speech rights under the state and United States Constitutions within the city.
- (I) To establish a permit system to allow specific types of signs in zoning districts consistent with the uses, intent and aesthetic characteristics of the areas where the signs are to be located.
- (J) To allow certain signs that are small, safe, unobtrusive and incidental to the principal use of the respective lots on which they are located, subject to the substantive requirements of this article but without a requirement for permits.
- (K) To provide for temporary signs in certain circumstances.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

- (L) To place reasonable controls on nonconforming signs that are by definition contrary to the public health, safety and welfare while protecting the constitutional rights of the owners of said nonconforming signs.
- (M) To prohibit all signs not expressly authorized by this chapter, to provide for the maintenance of signs, and to provide for the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.

Section 230-4 Applicability of Other Code Requirements

- (A) It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, construct, enlarge, move, alter or convert any sign or cause the same to be done within the city except in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter 230.
- (B) All sign structures shall be subject to the provisions of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Valdosta, Building and Electrical Codes and other relevant local, state and federal laws.
- (C) Any legally permitted sign may contain any message not otherwise prohibited by law.

Section 230-5 Permit Requirements

Except as specifically exempted from the provisions of this chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person to post, display, substantially change, or erect a sign without an approved sign permit except as otherwise specifically provided in this Chapter. A change of only the copy of a sign shall not constitute a substantial change. This section shall not require a sign permit for the repair or maintenance of a conforming sign for which a permit has already been issued, so long as the sign is not modified in any way from its original condition. A permit shall be required for any new or existing business changing the number, size, shape or location of existing signs. Sign permits for any permanent sign shall only be issued to a licensed contractor or other person approved by the Director.

- (A) Application. All applications for sign permits shall be submitted to the Planning and Zoning Division on forms provided by the City. The application shall set forth in writing a complete description of the sign and shall include, but not be limited, to the following information:
 - (1) Name(s), address(es) and telephone number(s) of the sign owner(s).
 - (2) Name, address and telephone number and business license number of the sign contractor or installer.
 - (3) Name(s), address(es) and telephone number(s) of the owner(s) of the lot or parcel on which the sign is located, if different from the above.
 - (4) Tax map and parcel number, street address and current zoning of the property location for the proposed sign. In the absence of a street address; a method of location acceptable to the director shall be used.
 - (5) Scale plan and elevation drawings of the proposed sign indicating all applicable layout dimensions, including the sign's relation to property lines, streets, rights-of-way, driveways, and other structures.
 - (6) The type of sign to be erected, along with the height, shape, and overall size of the sign and its graphics. In the case of a wall sign, this will also include the building frontage and wall dimensions of the wall on which the sign will be placed.
 - (7) The street frontage of the parcel on which a free standing sign is to be placed.
 - (8) Landscaping plan for area around the sign, when applicable.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

- (9) Construction drawings outlining the scope and structural details of the work to be complete, including details of all connections, guy lines, supports, footings, mounting hardware, and materials to be used.
 - (10) Structural Design (if applicable). Freestanding signs that exceed 100 square feet in area and exceed 25 feet in height above grade, shall require structural drawings certified by a Georgia registered design professional. At the Building Official's discretion, such drawings may also be required for smaller signs in the case of unusual design situations. Structural drawing(s) plan review requirements are as follows:
 - (a) Drawings for each sign structure shall clearly specify the required materials, sizes, and locations for all structural components. Complete details shall be provided that clearly indicate the required connections between all structural components including anchorage to the foundation. Details shall also indicate required attachments of sign cabinets to the supporting structure.
 - (b) Sign foundation requirements shall be clearly indicated on the drawings including, but not limited to, footing size and reinforcement, 28-day compressive strength of concrete, anchor bolt size and embedment depth.
 - (c) Drawings for signs that require design by a Georgia registered professional engineer shall contain the following additional minimum design data:
 - i. Statement on drawings that the design complies with the International Building Code;
 - ii. Statement on drawings that the wind load design complies with ASCE 7 (minimum design loads for buildings and other structures);
 - iii. Basic wind speed (minimum 100 MPH 3-second gust or 85 MPH sustained), design wind pressure (PSF), exposure category (B);
 - iv. Minimum required soil bearing capacity (PSF);
 - v. Structural material specifications (including but not limited to ASTM designation, yield strength (SKI), and material grade, if applicable).
 - (11) Electrical permit, if applicable, as follows:
 - (a) Drawings for each illuminated sign shall clearly indicate the electrical requirements including the size and location of the electrical disconnect, the type and size of wire, the conduit size and estimated load.
 - (b) Electrical installations shall meet the requirements of the National Fire Prevention Association, National Electrical Code and must be performed by a Georgia licensed electrician.
 - (12) Written agreement to indemnify and hold the City harmless for all damages, demands or expenses of every type which may in any manner be caused by the sign or sign structure.
 - (13) Other administrative or technical information needed as may be determined by the Director in the performance of his or her duties.
- (B) Fees. Sign permit fees shall be in accordance with the adopted fee schedule of the City of Valdosta.
- (C) Permit Issuance and Duration. The Community Development Department shall issue to any applicant, upon approval of a completed application and accompanying material for a sign which meets the requirements of this Chapter 230, a written sign permit evidencing compliance with all applicable codes and regulations. The written sign permit, or notification of denial, shall be made available to the applicant within 5 working days from the date of application. A sign permit shall

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

expire and become null and void if installation of the sign has not been completed within 6 months from the date of issuance. Issuance of a sign permit shall not prevent the City from later declaring the sign to be nonconforming or unlawful if it is found not to conform to the requirements of this ordinance.

Section 230-6 General Regulations

(A) Maintenance.

- (1) Signs shall be kept clean, neatly painted, and maintained at all times so as to remain legible and not become detrimental to public health, safety, and general community aesthetics. This includes but is not limited to keeping the sign free from faulty wiring, loose fastenings, and sharp or otherwise dangerous protrusions.
- (2) No trash or rubbish shall be allowed to accumulate in the area around a sign and all weeds shall be kept out from surrounding landscaping.
- (3) Except as otherwise provided in state law, any abandoned, dilapidated or neglected sign(s) and/or sign structure(s) that is structurally unsound or illegible due to damage or lack of maintenance, shall either be repaired or removed by the property owner or sign owner no later than 30 days after written notification from the Community Development Department. If the property owner or sign owner fails to comply within 30 days after written notification, the City may cause the removal of the sign at the property owner's or sign owner's expense or may pursue other enforcement procedures as described in Chapter 110-8
- (4) Except as otherwise provided in state law, any abandoned, dilapidated, or neglected sign(s) and sign structure(s) that are not repaired and removed as provided in Section 230-6(a)(3) may not be reused unless the owner is granted a permit for a new sign. As a new sign, it will be required to conform to existing regulations in place at time of application.

(B) Enforcement.

- (1) This Chapter 230 shall be enforced as provided by the Code of Ordinances of the City of Valdosta. Each day of violation shall be regarded as a separate offense.
- (2) Removal of Signs. Any of the following signs shall be immediately removed upon notification from the Community Development Department:
 - (a) A sign that is prohibited or classified as unlawful under the terms of this Chapter 230.
 - (b) A sign that does not conform to the International Building Code.
- (3) Revocation of Permit. A sign permit shall be revoked if it is found to be not in compliance with this Chapter 230.

(C) Remedies. In the case any sign or other device covered by this Chapter that is, or is proposed to be, erected, constructed, altered, converted or used in violation of any provision of this Chapter, the Director, or designee may, in addition to other remedies, and after due notice to the appropriate person(s), issue a citation for violation of this chapter or institute an injunction or other appropriate action or proceedings to prevent such unlawful erection, construction, alteration, conversion or use or to correct or abate such violation as provided in Chapter 110 of this LDR.

(D) Severability. In the event any section, subsection, sentence, or word of this Chapter is declared and adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of this Chapter, which shall remain in full force and effect as if such portion so declared or adjudged unconstitutional were not originally part of this Chapter, even if the surviving parts of the ordinance result in greater restrictions after any unconstitutional provisions are stricken. The City Council declares that it would have enacted the remaining parts of the Chapter if it had known that such portion thereof would be declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional. The City

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

Council declares its intent that should this Chapter be declared invalid or unconstitutional in part or in whole, signs are to be subject to regulations applicable to “structures” contained in the LDR.

Section 230-7 Prohibited Signs

The following signs and devices are found to be unlawful and are prohibited within the city limits:

- (A) Animated signs; include those that flash, blink, change image, or show any form of movement, excluding historic signs and those officially designated for public service except for variable message boards that meet the standards of Section 230-9 (e).
- (B) Attention-getting devices. See definition in Chapter 106.
- (C) Signs that resemble any official traffic control device or emergency vehicle markings.
- (D) Unshielded illuminated devices that produce glare or create a hazard or nuisance to motorists or occupants of adjacent properties.
- (E) Signs attached to or painted on vehicles of any type which are conspicuously parked for more than 48 hours on commercial property in proximity to a street so as to have an effect similar to that of a sign.
- (F) Signs greater than 32 square feet when painted on or attached to a trailer or motor vehicle unless the trailer or motor vehicle is licensed and regularly used for transporting goods, equipment, or produce.
- (G) Snipe signs.
- (H) Roof signs other than mansard signs, but including any non-freestanding sign which extends above the roof line of a building.
- (I) Search lights, strobe lights, and beacons.
- (J) Signs which emit visible smoke, vapor, particles, or odor.
- (K) Signs with lighting or control mechanisms which cause radio, television, or other communications interference.
- (L) Signs located on waste containers, or other forms of street furniture.

Section 230-8 Signs Not Requiring a Permit

The signs listed in this section do not require a permit, except as otherwise provided; given that each is erected in accordance with the prescribed conditions of the LDR and all other applicable codes and regulations of the City of Valdosta. These signs are allowed in addition to signs requiring permits.

- (A) Signs required by public ordinances, regulations and laws.
- (B) Building markers, security signs to include alarm and video monitoring, and other small incidental signs at the discretion of the Zoning Administrator.
- (C) In residential districts, either one window sign not to exceed 2.5 square feet, or one freestanding incidental sign per parcel on private property, not exceeding 3 feet in height, two and one-half (2.5) square feet in area. In non-residential districts, such signs shall not exceed 6 square feet and 4 feet in height.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

- (D) Each lot shall be allowed a maximum of three (3) flags and flag poles that conform to the standards of this paragraph. No flag may exceed 60 square feet in area, and the height of a flag pole shall not exceed the maximum allowable height of a structure or building in the applicable zoning district, or 40 feet, whichever is less. The hoist side of the flag shall not exceed 20% of the vertical height of the flag pole
- (E) Window signs in non-residential zones provided that they do not exceed 100 square feet or 30% of the available window space along any face of the building, whichever is less.
- (F) Any sign not visible from public thoroughfares or any sign within a business, office, mall, or other totally enclosed area except window signs.
- (G) Temporary signs, provided that they are erected outside public rights of way, and are subject to the following standards in addition to applicable requirements of this Chapter. Portable signs and banners, as defined in this LDR, are not exempt from permitting requirements, and are subject to the provisions for Special Signage Types in Section 230-9(E).
 - (1) Temporary political campaign signs pursuant to O.C.G.A. 16-7-58(a)(2). In residential zones, such signs shall not exceed 6 square feet each, and a maximum height of 4 feet. In non-residential zones, such signs shall not exceed 32 square feet if only one sign and 16 square feet each if more than one sign, with a maximum height of 6 feet.
 - (2) Temporary signs during the time that a lot or building is actively being constructed, or is actively being marketed for sale, lease, or rent. Such signs may be freestanding or attached to a building (wall sign or banner). In residential zones, such signs shall not exceed 6 square feet and a maximum height of 4 feet. In non-residential zones, such signs shall not exceed 32 square feet and a maximum height of 8 feet. Such signs are limited to one sign per street frontage. Such signs shall be removed within 10 days after the subject lot or building is leased, sold, or construction is completed.
- (H) A-frame sidewalk signs. Each use or tenant in a Commercial zoning district shall be permitted one A-frame, sandwich type, sidewalk or easel sign per building entrance on the sidewalk or walkway in front of the respective business during business hours only. These signs may be 2 sided and shall be limited to 6 square feet per side and a maximum height of 5 feet above the sidewalk or walkway. These signs shall be located within 15 feet of the building entrance. Minimum setback shall be 2 feet from the street curb when located in C-D zoning, and 5 feet from the property line when located in other zoning districts. Such signs shall be located so as to not obstruct safe vision of vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

Section 230-9 Sign Standards

- (A) Location in General.
 - (1) All signs shall be located only on or over private property and outside any street or railroad right-of-way, except where specifically otherwise authorized by this Chapter 230.
 - (2) No sign shall be attached to any utility pole, light pole, flag pole, fence, rock, tree or other form of vegetation.
 - (3) All signs shall be erected in such a manner as to not interfere with or obstruct the view of any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device.
 - (4) No sign shall be attached to or placed against a building in such a way as to prevent egress through any door or window required or designed for access to any building; nor shall any sign be attached to or obstruct a fire escape, or interfere with openings required for proper light or ventilation.
 - (5) All signs shall be located in such a way that they maintain horizontal and vertical clearance from all overhead utilities based on the applicable voltage as specified in the latest edition of the National Electrical Code.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

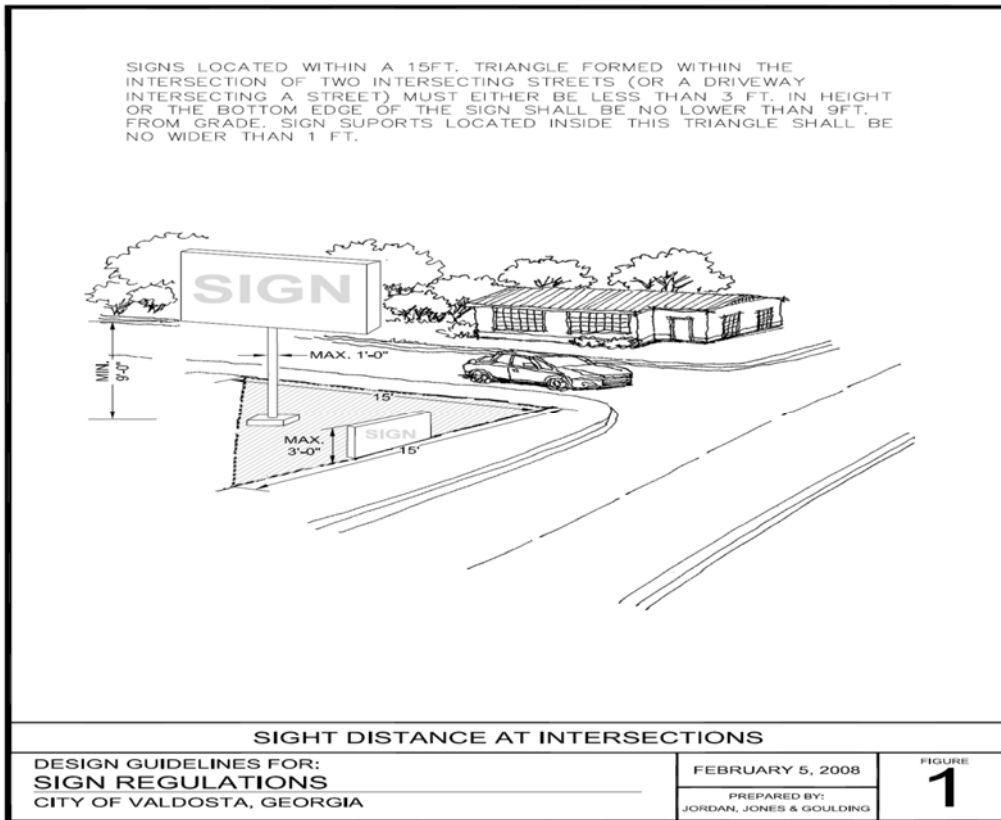
(B) Maximum Height, Size and Number.

- (1) **Sign Area Computation.** The area of a sign shall be calculated as the area of the entire sign face, excluding the necessary supports or uprights on which the sign is placed. For projecting or double-faced signs, only one sign face shall be measured in computing sign area when the sign faces are parallel and are not separated by more than 6 feet, or where the interior angle formed by the faces does not exceed 60 degrees, provided that it is a common attached structure. If the two faces of a double-faced sign are of unequal area, the area of the sign shall be taken as the area of the larger face.
- (2) **Sign Height Computations.**
 - (a) The height of a freestanding sign shall be computed as the distance from the base of the sign at normal grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign or sign structure, whichever is higher. Normal grade shall be construed to be: (1) existing grade prior to construction, or (2) the newly established grade after construction, exclusive of any filling, berming, mounding, or excavating solely for the purpose of locating the sign, whichever is lower.
 - (b) Alternatively, if the base of a freestanding sign (other than an incidental sign) is lower than the curb along the nearest public street when measured along the shortest horizontal distance from the sign structure to the curb, then the sign height may be increased up to 8 additional feet, if necessary, as if the base of the sign was at the same elevation as the top of such curb.

(C) Sign Setbacks.

- (1) Unless otherwise specified, sign setbacks and other distances measured from a street shall be measured perpendicularly from the nearest point along the street right-of-way line.
- (2) Unless otherwise provided, all freestanding or portable signs requiring a permit shall be set back a minimum of 5 feet (vertical line ground distance) from a right of way line or property line, and a minimum of 25 feet from any other portable sign or permanent freestanding sign.
- (3) All freestanding sign faces that are at a height greater than 3 feet and less than 9 feet above ground shall be located behind a sight distance triangle that is formed by a diagonal line connecting two points that are each 15 feet from the intersection of the right of way lines of two intersecting streets (or the intersection of a street and a driveway). Sign supports in excess of 1 square foot in cross-sectional area or a series of supports which cumulatively provide less than 70% visibility shall be subject to this same setback requirement. See Figure 230-1.

Figure 230-1



- (D) Permitted Signs by Type and Zoning District. ** (SEE TABLE A) ** The signs described in this sub-Section shall require issuance of a sign permit from the City of Valdosta, subject to standards and conditions applicable to signs in certain zoning districts established in Chapter 206 by the City of Valdosta. This chapter does not create zones or districts. Unless otherwise provided in this chapter, any sign not specifically permitted in a zoning district as provided in this chapter shall be prohibited in that zoning district.
- (1) Single-Family Residential Areas. Within R-E, R-25, R-15, R-10, and R-6 zoning districts, a maximum of one permanent monument sign may be permitted within 25 feet of an intersection forming an entrance into any residential subdivision or neighborhood. Such sign shall not be included in the calculation of aggregate sign area for any lot provided it meets the following standards.
 - (a) Maximum Height: 6 feet.
 - (b) Minimum Setback from street right of way: 5 feet.
 - (c) Maximum Size per Sign: 32 square feet.
 - (d) No illumination permitted.
 - (2) Multi-Family Residential Areas. Within the R-M zoning district, a maximum of one permanent monument sign is permitted if it is located within 50 feet of an intersection forming the entrance into a residential multi-family development, provided it meets the following standards:
 - (a) Maximum Height: 8 feet.
 - (b) Minimum Setback from street right of way: 5 feet.
 - (c) Maximum Size per Sign: 32 square feet.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

- (d) No internal sign illumination permitted. External lighting shall be directed downward so as not to produce glare on surrounding property or vehicular travel.
- (3) Signs in the E-R, R-P, O-P, and C-A, Zoning Districts:
 - (a) Signs on individual lots (except for multi-tenant developments, or convenience stores with fuel pumps).
 - i. Monument Signs. Each lot containing a building is allowed monument signs, as follows:
 - a. Principal street: One sign per 500 feet or fraction thereof, but not to exceed one sign per driveway or 2 signs on the principal street frontage, whichever is less.
 - b. Secondary street: One sign per secondary street frontage.
 - c. Height and Size Standards: The following standards shall apply to all signs governed by this paragraph with the exception of those on lots located within locally designated historic districts (See Chapter 238) in which freestanding signs shall be no larger than 24 square feet
 - 1. Maximum sign height: 8 feet.
 - 2. Maximum sign area per lot: 36 square feet.
 - d. Sign Size for Multiple Street Frontages. In the case of multiple street frontages, each monument sign on the primary street frontage (as designated by the property owner) shall comply with the maximum sign areas listed in Section 230-9(D)(3)(a).i.c. Monument signs on secondary street frontages, when permitted, shall not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the maximum sign area for signs on principal street frontage. Secondary monument signs shall be oriented for viewing from the secondary street and shall be located a minimum distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ the secondary lot frontage from the primary street.
 - ii. Canopy, Mansard, and Wall Signs. Each lot is permitted canopy signs, mansard signs or wall signs per elevation as follows:
 - a. Maximum Height: Top of sign shall be no higher than top of wall or canopy.
 - b. Maximum Size: The area of all such signs on each façade shall not cumulatively exceed the greater of: 1 square foot per linear foot of façade width, 50 square feet, or 5% of wall area of façade. In no case shall such cumulative signage area exceed 250 square feet.
 - (b) Signs for Multi-tenant Developments.
 - i. Monument Signs
 - a. A maximum of one monument sign is permitted to be located within 50 feet of an intersection that forms the entrance into a multi-tenant development. Such signs shall not be included in the calculation of aggregate sign area for any lot.
 - 1. Maximum Height: 12 feet.
 - 2. Maximum Size per Sign: 48 square feet.
 - 3. Maximum Number Permitted: One per entrance, provided signs on the same frontage are at least 300 feet apart.
 - b. Entrance Sign Size for Multiple Street Frontages. In the case of a multi-tenant development with multiple street frontages, each entrance sign on the primary street frontage (as designated by the property owner) shall comply with the maximum sign area in Section 230-9(D)(3)(b).i.a. Entrance signs on secondary street frontages, when permitted, shall not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the maximum sign area

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

for signs on principal street frontage. Secondary entrance signs shall be oriented for viewing from the secondary street and shall be located a minimum distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ the secondary lot frontage from the primary street.

- ii. Individual tenants or lots in a multi-tenant development.
 - a. A maximum of one canopy sign, wall sign, or mansard sign is permitted for each business or tenant within a multi-tenant development subject to the following standards:
 - 1. Maximum Height: Top of wall sign shall be no higher than top of wall; top of canopy sign shall be no higher than top of canopy; top of mansard sign shall be no higher than top of canopy.
 - 2. Maximum Sign Area: Canopy, wall, or mansard signs shall not exceed 1 square foot per linear foot of façade or 50 square feet, whichever is greater; or 5% of wall area of facade, but not exceed 250 square feet per business.
 - b. A maximum of one suspended sign or projecting sign is permitted for each tenant or business within a multi-tenant development, subject to the following standards:
 - 1. Maximum Size: 4 square feet.
 - 2. Height: Minimum 7.5 feet clearance above sidewalk or 12 feet above driveway.
- (c) Convenience Store with Fuel Sales.
 - i. Freestanding signs, canopy signs, mansard signs and wall signs are permitted in accordance with Section 230-9(D)(3)(a), and additional signs shall be permitted as provided in Section 230-9(D)(3)(c).ii., iii., and iv.
 - ii. Fuel Canopy Signs: One sign per canopy, per public road frontage; Maximum 16 square feet.
 - iii. Spreader Bars (signs located under-canopy over pump islands): Maximum two signs per spreader bar, not to exceed 4 square feet per sign.
 - iv. Accessory Car Wash.
 - a. Number and Type Permitted: Two wall signs or canopy signs.
 - b. Maximum Height: Top of sign may not be higher than top of wall or canopy, as applicable.
 - c. Maximum Size of Wall Sign or Canopy Sign: 8 square feet.
- (4) Signs in the C-C, C-H, M-1, and M-2 Zoning Districts:
 - (a) Signs on individual lots (except for multi-tenant developments, or convenience stores with fuel pumps).
 - i. Freestanding Signs. Each lot containing a building is allowed freestanding signs, as follows:
 - a. Principal street: One sign per 500 feet or fraction thereof, but not to exceed one sign per driveway or 2 signs on the principal street frontage, whichever is less.
 - b. Secondary Street: One sign per secondary street frontage.
 - c. Height and Size Standards: The following standards shall apply to all signs governed by this paragraph with the exception of those on lots located within locally designated historic districts (See Chapter 238) in which freestanding signs shall be no larger than 40 square feet and no taller than 8 feet in height.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

1. Maximum sign height: 24 feet.
 2. Maximum sign area per sign: 75 square feet.
 - d. Sign Size for Multiple Street Frontages. In the case of multiple street frontages, each freestanding sign on the primary street frontage (as designated by the property owner) shall comply with the maximum sign areas listed in Section 230-9(D)(4)(a).i.c. Freestanding signs on secondary street frontages, when permitted, shall not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the maximum sign area for signs on principal street frontage. Secondary freestanding signs shall be oriented for viewing from the secondary street and shall be located a minimum distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ the secondary lot frontage from the primary street.
- ii. Canopy, Mansard, and Wall Signs. Each lot is permitted canopy signs, mansard signs or wall signs as follows:
 - a. Maximum Height: Top of signs shall be no higher than top of wall or canopy.
 - b. Maximum Size: The area of all such signs on each façade shall not cumulatively exceed the greater of: 1 square foot per linear foot of façade width, 50 square feet, or 5% of façade wall area. In no case shall such cumulative signage area exceed 400 square feet for any one façade, nor shall any one sign exceed 250 square feet.
- (b) Signs for Multi-tenant Developments.
- i. Freestanding Signs
 - a. A maximum of one freestanding sign is permitted to be located within 50 feet of an intersection that forms the entrance into a multi-tenant non-residential or mixed-use development.
 1. Maximum Height: 35 feet.
 2. Maximum Size per Sign: 125 square feet.
 3. Maximum Number Permitted: One per entrance, provided signs on the same frontage are at least 300 feet apart.
 - b. Entrance Sign Size for Multiple Street Frontages. In the case of a multi-tenant development with multiple street frontages, each entrance sign on the primary street frontage (as designated by the property owner) shall comply with the maximum sign area in Section 230-9(D)(4)(b).i.a. Entrance signs on secondary street frontages, when permitted, shall not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the maximum sign area for signs on principal street frontage. Secondary entrance signs shall be oriented for viewing from the secondary street and shall be located a minimum distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ the secondary lot frontage from the primary street.
 - ii. Individual tenants or lots in a multi-tenant development.
 - a. Canopy signs, wall signs, or mansard signs are permitted for each business or tenant within a multi-tenant development subject to the following standards:
 1. Maximum Height: Top of wall sign shall be no higher than top of wall; top of canopy sign shall be no higher than top of canopy; top of mansard sign shall be no higher than top of the roof.
 2. Maximum Sign Area: Canopy, wall, or mansard signs shall not cumulatively exceed the greater of: 1 square foot per linear foot of façade width, 50 square feet, or 5% of façade wall area. In no case shall such cumulative signage exceed 400 square feet per business, nor shall any one sign exceed 250 square feet.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

- b. A maximum of one suspended sign or projecting sign is permitted for each tenant or business within a multi-tenant development, subject to the following standards:
 - 1. Maximum Size: 4 square feet.
 - 2. Height: Minimum 7.5 feet clearance above sidewalk or 12 feet above driveway.
- (c) Convenience Store with Fuel Sales.
 - i. Freestanding signs, canopy signs, mansard signs and wall signs are permitted in accordance with Section 230-9(E)(4)(a), and additional signs shall be permitted as provided in Section 230-9(E)(4)(c).ii., iii., and iv.
 - ii. Fuel Canopy Signs: One sign per canopy, per public road frontage; Maximum 16 square feet.
 - iii. Spreader Bars (signs located under-canopy over pump islands): Maximum two signs per spreader bar, not to exceed 4 square feet per sign.
 - iv. Accessory Car Wash.
 - a. Number and Type Permitted: Two wall signs or canopy signs.
 - b. Maximum Height: Top of sign may not be higher than top of wall or canopy, as applicable.
 - c. Maximum Size of Wall Sign or Canopy Sign: 8 square feet.
- (5) *Reserved.*
- (6) Signs in the C-N Zoning District.
 - (a) Each C-N development shall be allowed one monument sign per driveway entrance on a public street. Monument signs shall be attached to a permanent wall or pilasters constructed of brick, stone or textured concrete masonry units no more than 8 feet in height. Ground signs shall consist of no more than two sign faces, limited to 32 square feet per side and 8 feet in height.
 - (b) Each use or tenant in the C-N District shall be permitted wall signs per street frontage, not to cumulatively exceed 32 square feet or 1 square foot in area for each linear foot of façade, or 5% of wall area of the façade, whichever is greater for each tenant or use. However, wall signage shall not exceed a maximum of 75 square feet per façade per tenant or use.
 - (c) Each use or tenant in the C-N District shall be permitted window signs not to exceed 10% of the total window area of the facade containing the window sign(s).
 - (d) Each use or tenant in the C-N District shall be permitted one projecting sign, suspended sign, or canopy sign not to exceed 12 square feet in area. The lowest point of a projecting sign, suspended sign or canopy sign must be a minimum of 8 feet above the adjacent ground or sidewalk elevation.
 - (e) Incidental signs up to 12 square feet in area are permitted but limited to a total of 24 square feet per building, except that a use with a drive-through window is allowed one additional incidental sign adjacent to the drive-through window that shall not exceed 24 square feet in area.
 - (f) Internally illuminated signs, neon signs and day-glow signs are prohibited.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

- (g) Externally illuminated signs are permitted, provided that their light source shall be directed downward so as not to cast glare upwards or towards adjacent properties.
- (7) Signs in the C-D Zoning District
- (a) Each building in the C-D District shall be permitted wall signs in accordance with the Design Guidelines of the Valdosta Historic District and approved pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 238 Historic Preservation. Total area of wall signage shall not exceed 1 square foot per linear foot of building frontage, or 125 square feet, whichever is less. However, no building shall have more than two wall signs.
 - (b) Each land parcel in the C-D District shall be permitted one freestanding sign per street frontage not to exceed 6 feet in height or 16 square feet in area. Such signs shall be located on private property, set back at least 5 feet from all property lines and at least 10 feet from any building on the parcel.
 - (c) Each use or tenant in the C-D District shall be permitted window signs not to exceed 30% of the total window area of the facade containing the window sign(s).
 - (d) Each use or tenant in the C-D District shall be permitted one projecting sign or canopy sign not to exceed 12 square feet in area. The lowest point of a projecting sign, suspended sign or canopy sign must be a minimum of 8 feet above the adjacent ground or sidewalk elevation. In the case of a parcel with no building or wall but with its own licensed business, a single projecting sign may instead project from a pole.
 - (e) Incidental signs up to 12 square feet in area are permitted but limited to a total of 24 square feet per building, except that a use with a drive-through window is allowed one additional incidental sign adjacent to the drive-through window that shall not exceed 24 square feet in area.
 - (f) Other than exposed neon signs pursuant to the Historic District Design Guidelines, internally illuminated signs and day-glow signs are prohibited.
 - (g) Externally illuminated signs are permitted, provided that their light source shall be directed downward so as not to cast glare upwards or towards adjacent properties.
- (8) Signs for institutional uses (such as schools or places of worship) within a residential zoning district (excluding R-P) shall be allowed as follows:
- (a) Freestanding Monument Signs. Along the primary street frontage, each parcel is allowed one monument sign that does not exceed a maximum height of 6 feet or a maximum area of 24 square feet. An additional monument sign, not exceeding 6 feet in height, may be allowed on each secondary street frontage. Secondary monument signs shall not exceed 16 square feet, shall be oriented for viewing from the secondary street and shall be located a minimum distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ the secondary lot frontage from the primary street.
 - (b) Canopy, Mansard, and Wall Signs. Each parcel is allowed canopy, mansard, or wall signs that do not cumulatively exceed a maximum of 50 square feet, and do not exceed 5% of the total wall area of any particular façade.
- (9) Directional Signs. In non-residential zoning districts, permanent freestanding directional signs may be allowed for marking driveway entrances and controlling internal traffic flow. Such signs may be allowed at the rate of no more than two (2) signs per driveway entrance, and no more than one sign per internal site location. Each sign shall be limited to a maximum height of 2½ feet and a maximum area of 3 square feet. Directional signs shall not exceed a cumulative total of 12 square feet per parcel and shall be allowed in addition to other permitted freestanding signs.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

(E) Special Signage Types.

- (1) **Portable Signs.** In addition to all permitting procedures and other applicable regulations of this Chapter, portable signs as defined by this LDR may be allowed upon the issuance of a permit within non-residential zoning districts only, and subject to all of the following conditions:
 - (a) Portable signs shall be limited to one per parcel and shall only be used in lieu of a permanent freestanding sign for a period not to exceed 3 months from the date of permit issuance, or until the permanent sign is installed, whichever comes first, and only for one continuous 3-month period.
 - (b) Maximum size: 32 square feet.
 - (c) No portable signs authorized by this sub-section shall be located in a required parking space nor shall in any way impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic flow.
 - (d) All signs must be securely anchored in accordance with the International Building Code.
 - (e) Effective July 1, 2016, all existing portable signs shall be brought into compliance with the sign regulations in effect as of that date.
 - (f) If illuminated, portable signs shall be internally lit and permanently hardwired for electrical connection as approved with an electrical permit.
 - (g) Portable signs are prohibited in Historic Districts established pursuant to Chapter 238 of this LDR.
 - (h) Portable signs must be kept in good and clean condition and maintained with active signage copy at all times.
- (2) **Banners, Air and Gas-Filled Devices and Balloons.**
 - (a) In non-residential zoning districts, one air-filled device, gas-filled device or balloon may be allowed on a temporary basis per parcel for a maximum of one 30-day period per quarter per calendar year with a minimum 30-day separation, upon obtaining a special permit. The maximum size of said devices or balloons shall not exceed 200 cubic feet of air nor exceed 35 feet in height. Any electrical connections for such balloons or devices shall be approved as part of the permitting process.
 - (b) One banner may be allowed on a temporary basis upon the issuance of a banner permit for each business unit or institutional use, excluding home businesses. Such banners shall be allowed for no more than 45 consecutive days per calendar quarter. Such banners shall be limited to a maximum size of 1 square foot per 3 linear feet of façade width, or 24 square feet whichever is more, but not to exceed 100 square feet. Such banners shall be securely attached to a permanent structure, such as a building wall or columns, and maintained in good condition at all times being kept free from tears and fading. Effective July 1, 2016, all existing banners in such districts shall be brought into compliance with the sign regulations in effect as of that date.
 - (c) Special decorative banners on single poles may be allowed by Administrative Permit upon approval by the City Manager or his designee, subject to the following conditions.
 - i. Banners shall be securely mounted with brackets to be kept stationary, and shall be maintained in good condition at all times being kept free from tears and fading.
 - ii. Maximum dimensions shall be limited to 2.5 feet horizontal and 5 feet vertical.
 - iii. Minimum height shall be at least 9 feet above ground level.
 - iv. May be mounted on no more than 50% of the poles on private property.
- (3) **Signs at Drive-through Restaurants.** Upon the issuance of a sign permit, additional signs may be authorized per drive-thru window or lane. Such signs shall not exceed a cumulative total of 48 square feet in area, 8 feet in height, and if illuminated, such signs must be internally lit.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

Such signs shall be set back behind the building façade and located within 10 feet of the drive-thru lane.

- (4) Neon Signs. Neon signs are allowed as window signs in non-residential zoning districts provided that such signs do not exceed a maximum of 10 square feet or 5% of the total window area, whichever is less. Any such neon window sign shall be constant in its light emission, and shall not be animated.
- (5) Billboards. See definition in Chapter 106. Unless otherwise provided, billboards shall be subject to all of the following requirements in addition to all other applicable requirements of this Chapter.
 - (a) All billboards shall be located a minimum of 1,250 feet measured as a radius from any other billboard regardless of location.
 - (b) The number of billboard faces within the corporate limits of the City of Valdosta shall not exceed the number of faces within the corporate limits of the City of Valdosta as of September 7, 2007. An inventory of these existing faces shall be maintained by the Planning and Zoning Office. Billboard permits and applications for permits approved on or before September 7, 2007 shall be counted in the total number of billboard faces permitted. An exception shall be made in the event any billboard is located on property annexed to the City of Valdosta. In that event, the number of billboards shall immediately increase by the number of billboards contained within the newly annexed area. In the event any billboard contained within the newly annexed property does not comply with this Chapter said billboard shall be considered legal non-conforming.
 - (c) Any existing billboard structure or face may undergo minor repairs to ensure the safety and aesthetic quality of the entire sign structure and face. This minor repair shall not result in any modification of the sign structure, face or increase in the overall square footage or depth of the sign face.
 - (d) A billboard that was legally permitted prior to September 7, 2007 may be replaced by a newly erected billboard subject to an approved application filed in conformance with Section 230-5, and provided that it meets all of the following conditions:
 - i. All portions of the existing billboard and its supporting structure that are not in conformance with this sub-section shall be removed and properly disposed of within 30 days of the issuance of a permit for a replacement billboard.
 - ii. A lot containing a replacement billboard shall meet the minimum frontage and lot size requirements of the zoning district in which it is located.
 - iii. All portions of the replacement billboard shall be set back at least 10 feet from a street right-of-way line and at least 5 feet from all other property lines.
 - iv. Replacement billboard shall be a single tier billboard placed on a unipole sign post support structure.
 - v. Sign face of the replacement billboard shall not exceed the sign area of the largest billboard sign being replaced, or 378 square feet, whichever is less.
 - vi. The height of the replacement billboard shall not exceed 35 feet, unless it is located within the boundaries of the Interstate 75 Corridor Special District. See Section 230-11(B).
 - vii. A replacement billboard shall be located in a commercial or industrial zoning district, and no replacement billboard shall be located along a route designated by the City or State as a scenic route.
 - viii. A variance may be considered for the spacing requirement of Section 230-9(E)(5)(a). However, in no case shall a variance be granted for a distance less than that of the distance between the original billboard and the nearest billboard.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

- (e) Existing billboard faces may be modified to include variable message boards meeting the standards of 230-9(E)(6) below. Additionally, no billboard containing a variable message board shall be placed within 5,000 feet of another such billboard with a variable message board measured in a radius from the nearest other billboard containing a variable message board.
 - (f) No billboard containing a variable message board shall exceed 300 square feet in copy area per sign face.
- (6) Variable Message Boards.
- (a) Variable message boards will only be permitted in the C-C or C-H zoning districts, and only in conjunction with a legally permitted freestanding sign or billboard.
 - (b) Each message shall remain fixed for a minimum of ten (10) seconds.
 - (c) When a message is changed, such change shall occur within three (3) seconds.
 - (d) Messages shall not be illuminated by blinking, scrolling, intermittent, or flashing lights.
 - (e) Submittal of a complete sign application and receipt of proper permit in accordance with Section 230-5.
 - (f) A billboard owner may apply for approval of one variable message billboard sign face after the removal of at least four (4) existing billboard sign faces and their related sign structures from the City of Valdosta. Such sign shall be considered a replacement billboard and shall be subject to the requirements of Section 230-9(E)(5)(a) and (d). Furthermore, such replacement billboard shall be placed no closer than 5,000 feet from another such billboard containing a variable message board, measured in a radius from the nearest other billboard containing a variable message board. The sign area of the new variable message board may not exceed the sign area of the largest of the billboard sign faces that were removed. Billboards removed under this provision shall be deleted from the City's inventory of billboards and shall not be replaced other than as provided in this paragraph (6).
 - (g) Illumination of a variable message sign face shall not exceed the following brightness limits measured as candelas per square foot:

Color	Candellas / square foot	
	Day	Night
Red Only	200	67
Green Only	400	133
Amber Only	300	100
Blue Only	500	210
Full color	400	170

The City Engineer may require an applicant for a variable message board to provide a letter from an electrical engineer licensed in the state of Georgia, that these light levels will not be exceeded by the applicant's variable message board sign prior to issuing a permit for such sign.

- (7) Painted Wall Signs. Painted wall signs shall be regulated in the same manner as other wall signs and shall be subject to restriction in number, size, and location as provided in Section 230-9(D) except when permitted in Historic Districts established pursuant to Chapter 238 of this LDR.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

Section 230-10 Nonconforming Signs

- (A) Repairs and Maintenance. Except as provided otherwise by state law, any legal nonconforming sign may be repaired or restored to its original condition, subject to all of the following:
- (1) The cost of the repairs or the restoration does not cumulatively exceed 50% of its total replacement cost
 - (2) The repairs or restoration remain subject to all other applicable regulations.
- (B) Compliance for Single-use Parcels. All legal nonconforming signs located on a single-use parcel shall be removed or altered to conform to all existing sign regulations upon the issuance of a sign permit for any new additional sign square footage.
- (C) Compliance for Multi-tenant Developments. Legal nonconforming signs located in Multi-tenant Developments shall be removed or altered to conform with all existing sign regulations in the event the following should occur:
- (1) For nonconforming freestanding signs, the issuance of a sign permit for a new freestanding sign.
 - (2) For nonconforming building signs for a particular establishment, the issuance of any sign permit for that particular establishment, excluding repairs and maintenance.

Section 230-11 Special District Regulations

- (A) Signs in Historic Districts. All signs otherwise requiring a sign permit, including banners, shall also meet the requirements of Chapter 238 and the approved Design Guidelines for the Historic District in which it is located.
- (B) High-Rise Identification Signs. One high-rise identification sign is allowed on any parcel that is zoned for commercial or industrial uses provided that such sign is placed within 1,500 feet of the I-75 right-of-way (said distance measured in a straight line perpendicular to the right-of-way of I-75). Such sign shall be set back at least 150 feet from any street right-of-way line and preferably located in the rear yard setback area of the parcel. Such sign shall have a minimum height of 75 feet clearance above the finished grade, a maximum overall height of not more than 200 feet, shall have a sign area not to exceed 250 square feet and shall be located no closer than 300 feet radial distance from any other such high-rise identification sign. This sign shall be in addition to all signs otherwise permitted for the parcel on which it is located, and it shall remain subject to all other applicable regulations.

Section 230-12 Variances and Appeals

Variances from the provisions of this Chapter 230 may be requested subject to the provisions of Section 242-13 of this LDR.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

Section 230-13 Administrative Variances

The Director shall be authorized to grant administrative variances with respect to the standards of this Chapter 230, subject to the following limitations:

- (A) Sign height of a freestanding sign: Up to 20% of maximum height that is otherwise permitted by this Chapter 230.
- (B) Sign setback of a freestanding sign: Up to 2 feet less than the minimum required by this Chapter 230, provided that no portion of a sign shall be located in any street right of way or closer than 10 feet to the back of curb or edge of pavement of a public street.
- (C) Sign area of any type of sign except billboards, portable signs, signs with variable message boards: Up to 10% of the maximum sign face otherwise permitted by this Chapter 230.
- (D) No administrative variance shall be permitted to increase the number of signs of any type except as provided by this Chapter 230.
- (E) No administrative variance shall be permitted for any sign that is prohibited by Section 230-7.
- (F) Administrative variances pursuant to this Chapter shall be processed in accordance with the procedures of Section 242-13 of this LDR.

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations




TABLE A - PERMITTED SIGNS BY TYPE AND ZONING DISTRICT

(See Figure 230-2).

SIGN TYPE	ZONING DISTRICT										
	(R)	(P)	CN	CC	CH	C-D	CA	M-1	M-2	E-R	INST
Freestanding Signs											
Monument Sign	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Pole Sign	--	--	--	S	S	--	--	S	S	--	--
Building Signs											
Building Marker	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Canopy	--	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	--	--
Projecting	--	--	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	--	--
Mansard	--	--	--	S	S	S	S	S	--	--	--
Suspended	--	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	A	--
Wall	--	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Window	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Miscellaneous Signs											
Incidental	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Banners ^a	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Flags ^b	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Portable ^c	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Entrance	S	S	S	S	S	S	--	S	S	S	S
KEY											
(R) Residential zoning districts (E-R, R-E, R-25, R-15, R-10, R-6, R-M) and single-family or duplex residential use parcels within R-P and O-P zoning districts.											
(P) All professional office zoning districts (R-P, O-P) excluding parcels containing single-family or duplex residential uses.											
INST Institutional uses allowed in residential zones or neighborhoods.											
A Allowed without sign permit, subject to conformity with these regulations.											
S Allowed only with sign permit.											
-- Not allowed.											
Notes											
^a Subject to special regulations for banners as described in this Chapter.											
^b Subject to special regulations for flags as described elsewhere in this Chapter.											
^c Subject to special regulations for portable signs as described in this Chapter.											

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

Figure 230-2. Illustration of Sign Types.

Sign Type	Example
<p style="text-align: center;">Banner</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Billboard</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Building Marker</p>	

City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

Canopy Sign



Entrance Sign



Flag



City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

High-Rise Identification Sign



Incidental Sign



Mansard Sign



City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

Monument Sign



Pole Sign



Portable Sign



City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

Projecting Sign



Suspended sign

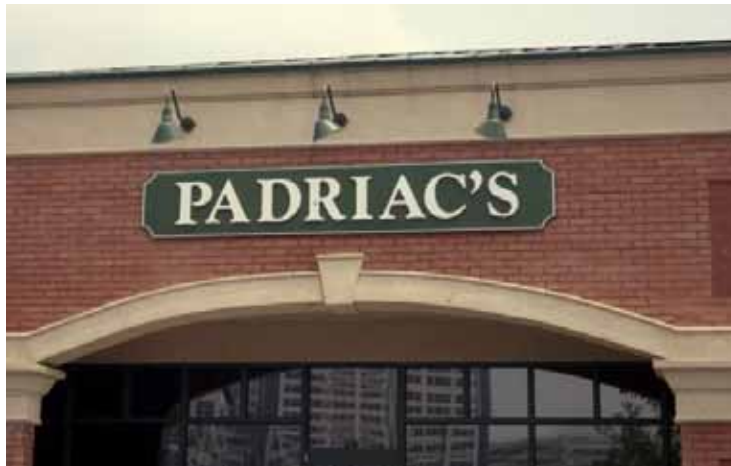


City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

Variable Message Board



Wall Sign



Window Sign



City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

Freestanding Sign



Fuel Canopy Sign



Temporary Sign



City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations

Drive-thru
Sign Restaurant



Neon Sign

