

Court: Signs are a matter of free speech

By Hans von Spakovsky, Daily Signal

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court struck down a town's sign ordinance as an unconstitutional, content-based regulation of speech. This ruling for free speech means the government can't pick and choose what speech deserves more protection based on the content of the speech.

Like most other towns in America, Gilbert, Ariz., regulates when, where and how signs may be displayed around town. Temporary non-commercial signs are classified by their content, and each category has its own set of regulations.

Real estate signs, for example, may be up to 80 square feet, and political signs may be up to 32 square feet; political signs may be displayed for four and a half months before an election, including in the public right of way; and homeowners' association event signs may be displayed for 30 days.

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