

CITY OF MARGARET, ALABAMA

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-____

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PARKING AND STOPPING OF VEHICLES WITHIN PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY

WHEREAS

The City Council of the City of Margaret, Alabama, is authorized under §11-45-1, Code of Alabama 1975, to enact ordinances to protect public safety, preserve health, and promote the orderly use of public streets and rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS

Unregulated parking within public rights-of-way can obstruct traffic flow, interfere with drainage, impair emergency response, and create safety hazards for pedestrians and motorists; and

WHEREAS

The City Council finds it necessary to establish clear, uniform rules governing the parking and stopping of vehicles within public rights-of-way;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARGARET, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the parking and stopping of vehicles within public rights-of-way in order to:

1. Protect public safety;
2. Maintain unobstructed traffic flow;
3. Preserve proper drainage and roadway infrastructure; and

4. Ensure access for emergency, maintenance, and utility services.

This ordinance shall be interpreted and applied to achieve these objectives in a reasonable and non-discriminatory manner.

Section 2. Definitions

For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

(a) Public Right-of-Way

Any street, road, alley, shoulder, easement, or area dedicated or accepted for public vehicular or pedestrian use, including the paved surface, shoulder, and drainage area.

(b) Vehicle

Any motorized or non-motorized device by which persons or property may be transported, including automobiles, trucks, trailers, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, and commercial vehicles.

(c) Park or Parking

The standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, other than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading passengers or property.

(d) Obstruction

Any condition that blocks, restricts, or interferes with the normal movement of traffic, emergency vehicles, pedestrians, drainage flow, or access to public or private property.

Section 3. Prohibited Parking and Stopping

Except as otherwise provided herein, **no person shall park or allow a vehicle to remain parked** in any public right-of-way in the following circumstances:

1. In a manner that obstructs vehicular traffic or creates a traffic hazard;
 2. In a manner that interferes with stormwater drainage, ditches, culverts, or drainage structures;
 3. In a manner that blocks access to driveways, intersections, fire hydrants, or utility access points;
 4. On any portion of the traveled roadway where such parking is not expressly designated or permitted;
 5. In any location posted or marked as “No Parking” or “No Stopping.”
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Section 4. Temporary and Authorized Exceptions

The following shall not constitute violations of this ordinance, provided that reasonable care is exercised:

1. Temporary stopping for emergency response or public safety purposes;
2. Vehicles engaged in construction, utility, maintenance, or public works activity with authorization from the City;
3. Temporary loading or unloading of passengers or materials, provided the vehicle does not create an obstruction or hazard.

Authorization under this section may be granted by the Mayor or the Mayor's designee.

Section 5. Enforcement Authority

This ordinance shall be enforced by:

- The City Police Department; and/or
- Any other City official or employee designated by the Mayor.

Authorized personnel may issue citations, warnings, or take lawful action necessary to abate violations. Authorized personnel may cause a vehicle to be removed or towed when necessary to eliminate an obstruction or hazard, in accordance with applicable state law.

Section 6. Penalties

Any person violating this ordinance shall be subject to the penalties provided in the City's general penalty ordinance or fine schedule, as may be amended from time to time.

Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 7. Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or provision of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 8. Repealer

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed **to the extent of such conflict only**.

Section 9. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption, approval, and publication as required by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF MARGARET, ALABAMA

Matt Tortorice, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk