

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-2

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ESTABLISHING IDENTIFICATION STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL ENTITIES ENGAGED IN LAND PROSPECTING AND SITE TESTING

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-1-3 grants La Porte County "Home Rule" powers, including all powers not specifically denied by the Constitution or the State; and

WHEREAS, IC 36-1-3-3 mandates that any doubt as to the existence of a power of a unit shall be resolved in favor of its existence; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds that an influx of unidentified commercial vehicles engaged in data center prospecting and soil testing has led to increased reports of trespassing, resident anxiety, and difficulty for the La Porte County Sheriff's Office in identifying responsible parties during property disputes; and

WHEREAS, the intentional masking of business names and USDOT numbers on commercial vehicles operated within the County constitutes a threat to public transparency and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA:

SECTION I: IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED

Any vehicle being used for a commercial purpose, including but not limited to soil testing, land surveying, and environmental prospecting, within the unincorporated areas of La Porte County must clearly display the following on both the driver and passenger sides of the vehicle:

- The Legal Name or Registered DBA of the entity performing the work.
- The City and State of the business's primary office.
- Letters and numbers shall be at least two (2) inches high and of a color that contrasts with the vehicle's background.

SECTION II: PROHIBITION OF MASKING

It shall be a violation of this Ordinance to operate or park a vehicle on any public right-of-way or private property under a county-issued permit if the business identification or USDOT number is obscured by magnetic covers, tape, or any other material intended to hide the identity of the operator.

SECTION III: EXEMPTIONS

The requirements herein shall not apply to the following:

1. Commercial vehicles merely transiting through the County without conducting local business;
2. Implements of agriculture and vehicles actively engaged in farming operations;
3. Personal passenger vehicles utilized for local delivery or small business operations;
- or
4. Charitable organizations or non-profit organizations.
- 5.

SECTION IV: ENFORCEMENT & VENUE

This Ordinance shall be enforced by the La Porte County Sheriff's Office or the La Porte County Building Commissioner.

Any person or entity alleged to be in violation of this Ordinance shall be cited via a Summons and Complaint filed in the La Porte Superior Court.

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Pursuant to IC 36-1-6-3, the County may maintain a civil action in the Superior Court to enjoin any person from violating this Ordinance and to collect the prescribed fines.

SECTION V: TERM

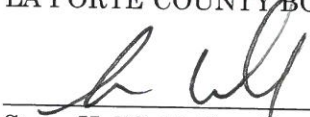
This Ordinance will sunset/terminate eighteen (18) months from the date in which it is adopted.

SECTION VI: LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

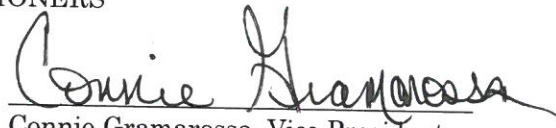
The La Porte County Attorney, or their designee, is hereby authorized to prosecute all violations of this Ordinance in the name of the "La Porte County Board of Commissioners" within the La Porte Superior Court system.

Adopted this 20th day of May, 2026.

LA PORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Steve Holifield, President



Connie Gramarossa, Vice President



Joe Haney, Member



Attest: Michael Rosenbaum, Auditor

First Reading: May 6, 2026
Second Reading: May 20, 2026

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