

TOWN OF
QUEEN CREEK
ARIZONA

TA11-068
Political Signs

Town Council
November 16, 2011



Background

- Town currently regulates the location and size of political signs
- New State law – HB2500 modifies how communities regulate political signs
- Town needs to modify our regulations to meet the State requirements
- Elections are coming up:
 - Primary – March 13
 - General – May 15
 - January 13 = 60 days prior to Primary
 - December 15 = 90 days prior to Primary



Current Ordinance

Article 6.16.B.6

6. **POLITICAL SIGNS.** Political signs, such as election signs, shall be allowed for a period not to exceed **ninety (90) days**. Political signs shall not exceed **thirty-two (32) square feet** in area. The highest portion of the sign shall not exceed six (6) feet from the finished grade. Political signs may be placed in private property with the property owner's permission. Political signs may be placed in the right of way, but set back a minimum fifteen (15) feet from the pavement edge, or two (2) feet behind the back of the sidewalk. No signs shall be placed in any location or manner to block visibility to any roadway, such as within the safety triangle of an intersection. Political signs shall be removed no later than **ten (10) days** following the election. No sign permit is required.



Proposed Change

Article 6.16.B.6

6. POLITICAL SIGNS.

- a. POLITICAL SIGNS ARE PERMITTED IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY, SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ARTICLE.
- b. POLITICAL SIGNS ARE ALLOWED FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY (60) DAYS PRIOR TO A SPECIAL, PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION AT THE LOCAL OR STATE LEVEL.
- c. POLITICAL SIGNS SHALL BE REMOVED NO LATER THAN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FOLLOWING A SPECIAL OR GENERAL ELECTION. POLITICAL SIGNS FOR A CANDIDATE IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION WHO DOES NOT ADVANCE TO THE GENERAL ELECTION SHALL BE REMOVED NO LATER THAN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FOLLOWING THE PRIMARY ELECTION.



Proposed Change

- d. POLITICAL SIGNS SHALL NOT EXCEED SIXTEEN (16) SQUARE FEET IN AN AREA ZONED FOR RESIDENTIAL USE AND THIRTY-TWO (32) SQUARE FEET IN ANY OTHER LOCATION. THE HIGHEST PORTION OF THE SIGN SHALL NOT EXCEED SIX (6) FEET FROM THE FINISHED GRADE.
- e. ALL POLITICAL SIGNS PLACED IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY SHALL INCLUDE THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE CANDIDATE OR CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CONTACT PERSON.
- f. POLITICAL SIGNS MAY BE PLACED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY WITH THE PROPERTY OWNER'S PERMISSION.
- g. A POLITICAL SIGN SHALL NOT BE PLACED IN A LOCATION THAT IS HAZARDOUS TO PUBLIC SAFETY, OBSTRUCTS CLEAR VISION IN THE AREA OR INTERFERES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.



Proposed Change

- g. IF THE TOWN DEEMS THE IMPROPER PLACEMENT OF A POLITICAL SIGN AN EMERGENCY, THE TOWN MAY IMMEDIATELY RELOCATE OR REMOVE THE SIGN. THE TOWN SHALL NOTIFY THE CANDIDATE OR CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE THAT PLACED THE SIGN WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THE RELOCATION THAT THE SIGN HAS BEEN RELOCATED OR REMOVED.
- h. IF A POLITICAL SIGN IS PLACED IN A LOCATION IN VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE, BUT IS NOT DEEMED TO CONSTITUTE AN EMERGENCY, THE TOWN MAY NOTIFY THE CANDIDATE OR CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE THAT PLACED THE SIGN OF THE VIOLATION. IF THE SIGN REMAINS IN VIOLATION AT LEAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THE NOTIFICATION OF THE CANDIDATE OR CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, THE TOWN MAY REMOVE THE SIGN. TOWN STAFF SHALL CONTACT THE CANDIDATE OR CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CONTACT AND SHALL RETAIN THE SIGN FOR AT LEAST TEN BUSINESS DAYS TO ALLOW THE CANDIDATE OR CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE TO RETRIEVE THE SIGN WITHOUT PENALTY.



Proposed Change

- i. POLITICAL SIGNS SHALL NOT BE PLACED ON, OR AFFIXED TO, ANY UTILITY POLE, FENCE, TREE OR OTHER VEGETATION, TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE, OR SAFETY BARRIER
- j. THE INSTALLATION OF POLITICAL SIGNS ON ANY STRUCTURE OWNED BY THE TOWN IS PROHIBITED.
- k. NO SIGN PERMIT IS REQUIRED.
- l. POLITICAL SIGNS MAY BE PLACED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY WITH THE PROPERTY OWNER'S PERMISSION



Current and Proposed Political Sign Definitions

Article 6.16.0. DEFINITIONS

Current Definition

Sign, political. A temporary sign announcing or supporting political candidates or issues in connection with any national, state or local election.

Proposed Definition

SIGN, POLITICAL: A TEMPORARY SIGN ERECTED IN SUPPORT OF, OR OPPOSITION TO, A CANDIDATE SEEKING PUBLIC OFFICE IN A SPECIAL, PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION, OR IN SUPPORT OF, OR OPPOSITION TO, A BALLOT MEASURE ON A SPECIAL, PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION.



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Thank You

Questions?

