

TOWNSHIP OF PENN FOREST
ORDINANCE # 2012 - 03 ✓

*Amended by
Ord 2012-04*

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PENN FOREST, A SECOND CLASS TOWNSHIP OF THE COUNTY OF CARBON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, CREATING A CHAPTER IN THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED "POLITICAL SIGNS"

WHEREAS, the Township desires to regulate the placement of Temporary Political Signs with the Township to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the community;

WHEREAS, the Township is empowered to enact ordinances to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the community, in accordance with the Second Class Township Code;

WHEREAS, the Township desires to regulate the placement of Temporary Political Signs to protect automobile drivers from unnecessary dangerous intersections, to uphold the property values of the community by prohibiting unreasonably obtrusive political signs, and to uphold the dignity and impartial non-partisan manner of our public institutions.

WHEREAS, the Township desires to reasonably regulate the placement of Temporary Political Signs in order to assure that means will remain open for political communication within the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, be it ordained and enacted and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the Board of Supervisors of the Township.

Section 101 - Purpose.

The purpose of the Township in promulgating this ordinance regulating the placement of Temporary Political Signs on public property is, among other things, to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the community.

Section 102 - Definitions.

The following shall be defined terms for the purpose of this Chapter.

- A. "Temporary Political Signs" are those signs announcing political candidates seeking office, political parties and/or political and public issues contained on an election ballot.

Section 301.

Temporary Political Signs posted on public property located within the Township are subject to the following general requirements:

- A. Number of Signs. No more than one Temporary Political Sign shall be placed on public property at any intersection of roads or streets for any candidate nor shall a temporary Political Sign be located within five hundred (500) feet of any other such sign for any candidate.
- B. Area. No Temporary Political Sign on public property shall exceed an aggregate gross surface area of four (4) square feet per sign.
- C. Height. No Temporary Political Sign shall project higher than four (4) feet, as measured from the base of sign or grade of the nearest adjacent roadway, whichever is higher.
- D. Timing. No Temporary Political Signs may be erected or maintained for a period to exceed thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election to which such signs are applicable and shall be removed within (3) days following the termination of the election.
- E. Illumination. No Temporary Political Sign shall be illuminated in any manner.
- F. Required information. At the time of the posting of the cash bond, there shall be submitted to the Township, on a form supplied by the Township, the following information:
1. The name and address of a person who is placing the Temporary Political Signs and the name and address of the person who will be responsible for removal of each sign.
 2. The general nature and purpose of the Temporary Political Signs to be placed.
 3. The date when the Temporary Political Signs will be removed. In no event shall the date specified for removal be later than three (3) days following the termination of the election.
- G. Required Consent of the Township for the placement of Temporary Political Signs on the public right-of-ways or public property. The Township reserves the right to deny a request to post Temporary Political Signs on public property or require the removal of any Temporary Political Signs at any time whenever such sign poses a threat to the public's safety, health and welfare; Specific prohibitions include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Temporary Political Signs shall be prohibited within five (5) feet of the edge of the paved surface of any road or street within the Township.

2. Temporary Political Signs shall be prohibited along any road or street within the Township where it would obstruct the clear sight distance of the traffic.

Section 401 - Private Property.

No Temporary Political Signs shall be placed or erected on any private property without first obtaining permission from such property owner.

Section 501 - Violations and Penalties.

Any person who shall be convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of this Chapter before a District Magistrate having jurisdiction shall be sentenced to pay a fine or not more than three hundred dollars (\$300.00), together with costs of prosecution, or to imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed thirty (30) days, or both.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this day 2nd of July, 2012 by the Board of Supervisors.

TOWNSHIP OF PENN FOREST

Paul Montemuro, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Judith M. Knappenberger

Judith M. Knappenberger, Vice Chairman

Board of Supervisors

Warren R. Reiner

Warren R. Reiner, Supervisor

Alan S. Katz, Supervisor

Christine A. Fazio

Christine A. Fazio, Supervisor

ATTEST:

Mary Ann Lewellyn

Mary Ann Lewellyn
Secretary/Treasurer

TOWNSHIP OF PENN FOREST

ORDINANCE # 3 of 2012

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- D. Timing. No Temporary Political Signs may be erected or maintained for a period to exceed thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election to which such signs are applicable and shall be removed within (3) days following the termination of the election.
- E. Illumination. No Temporary Political Sign shall be illuminated in any manner.
- F. Posting of a Cash Bond. Prior to any person, firm or corporation placing a Temporary Political Sign within the confines of any public right-of-way within the Township, there shall be posted with the secretary of the Township a cash bond in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- G. Required information. At the time of the posting of the cash bond, there shall be submitted to the Township, on a form supplied by the Township, the following information:
 - 1. The name and address of a person who is placing the Temporary Political Signs and the name and address of the person who will be responsible for removal of each sign.
 - 2. The general nature and purpose of the Temporary Political Signs to be placed.
 - 3. The date when the Temporary Political Signs will be removed. In no event shall the date specified for removal be later than three (3) days following the termination of the election.
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1. Temporary Political Signs shall be prohibited within five (5) feet of the edge of the paved surface of any road or street within the Township.
 2. Temporary Political Signs shall be prohibited along any road or street within the Township where it would obstruct the clear sight distance of the traffic.
- I. Return of Bond. If the Temporary Political Sign is removed within three (3) days after the date when it was declared to the Township that they would be so removed, the cash bond shall be refunded to the person or organization responsible for posting that bond.
- J. Forfeiture of Bond. If the Temporary Political Signs are not removed within three (3) days after the date when it was declared to the Township that they would be so removed, the posted cash bond as required by this section shall be forfeited to the general fund of the Township in an amount of \$5.00 per sign as the cost of the Township to remove the signs.

Section 401 - Private Property.

No Temporary Political Signs shall be placed or erected on any private property without first obtaining permission from such property owner.

Section 501 - Violations and Penalties.

Any person who shall be convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of this Chapter before a District Magistrate having jurisdiction shall be sentenced to pay a fine or not more than three hundred dollars (\$300.00), together with costs of prosecution, or to imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed thirty (30) days, or both.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this _____ day of _____, _____ by the Board of Supervisors.

TOWNSHIP OF PENN FOREST

Paul Montemuro, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Judith M. Knappenberger

Judith M. Knappenberger, Vice Chairman
Board of Supervisors

Warren R. Reiner

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ATTEST:

Mary Ann Lewellyn
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