

TOWN OF HARWICH

Building Department

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Office of Geoffrey Larsen, Building Commissioner, CFM

August 27, 2012

Subject: The placement of Political Signage and your Town's Zoning By-Law

To whom it may concern,

The People of Harwich have adopted the following Political Sign regulations in order to create a safe and level playing field for all candidates running for elected office and ballot votes. As the enforcement official, I would respectfully request that all parties involved read the relevant portion of the Sign By-Law (Article VII of the Zoning Code*) prior to placing a Political Sign. The town By-laws can be found online at www.harwich.ma.gov, under Reports, Data, Documents and Maps.

* Sections 325-23 through 325-35 and "new laws"

The Building Department offers the following in good faith:

Political Sign regulations at a glance:

1. No Sign Permit or department notification is required for Political Sign displays.
2. Political Signs are allowed in all zoning districts on private property with the property owner's authorization; there is no placement of political signage on municipal property.
3. Signs must be removed within 60 Days of posting or one week following the date of the election.
4. Political Signs are not limited in size however, public safety is key, and structures may require a building permit.
5. Political Signs must not block reasonable sight lines of other signs.
6. Public safety is paramount; the Building Official may take any necessary action, including sign removal.
7. Enforcement of the Sign By-Law is initiated by a written complaint, which is a public document.

Massachusetts's General Laws Chapter 40 A, Town Zoning By-Laws Article VII & X, and the Department's posted policy book are the ground rules for displaying Political Signs. Please be mindful of the by-law and help monitor the location of your campaign's sign displays.

Respectfully,

Geoffrey S. Larsen, CFM
Building Commissioner

Cc: Candidates
Board of Selectmen
James Merriam, Town Administrator
Town Clerk