



FAX (724) 745-8850

# BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG

"THE FUTURE IS NOW, IT IS HERE IN CANONSBURG"

INCORPORATED 1802

68 EAST PIKE STREET CANONSBURG, PA 15317

JEFFERSON COLLEGE  
FIRST COLLEGE WEST OF THE ALLEGHENY

## Application Permit for Political Signs

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Permit# \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Sign #'s \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Good Through: \_\_\_\_\_

Elected Position Seeking: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Fee Amount: \_\_ \$25.00 \_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

*(Amount of permit fee to be refunded after removal of signs, within 12 days after election)*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Applicant)*

Zoning Officer Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 142

### SIGNS

#### ARTICLE I Political Signs

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Canonsburg 12-16-1997 by Ord. No. 1216. Amendments noted where applicable.]

#### GENERAL REFERENCES

Parks and recreation — See Ch. 123.

Zoning - See Ch. 170.

#### ARTICLE I Political Signs

##### § 142-1. Definitions.

Unless it appears from the context that a different meaning is intended, the following words shall have the meanings given them in this section:

**BOROUGH** — The Borough of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

**PERSON** — Any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.

**POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGN** — Any sign urging the election or defeat of any candidate seeking any political office or urging the passage or defeat of any ballot measure, but does not

mean or include any billboard owned or maintained by a commercial firm or advertising company.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY** — All publicly owned property, including streets, rights-of-way, easements and everything affixed thereto and thereover.

**SIGN** — Includes any bill, poster, placard, handbill, flyer, painting, sign or written matter in words, symbols or pictures or in any combination thereof.

**ZONING OFFICER** — The Borough Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Officer.

#### **§ 142-2. Restrictions.**

- A. Posting on public right-of-way prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to post a political campaign sign on or over any public property in the Borough.
- B. Posting on utility poles prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to post a political campaign sign on any public utility pole or other public utility structure or to post paint or otherwise affix such signs to trees, rocks or other natural features.
- C. Size of signs. It shall be unlawful for any person to erect any political campaign sign which exceeds 12 square feet, and it shall be unlawful to erect political campaign signs on any lot, the total message area of which exceeds six square feet. **[Amended 4-14-2008 by Ord. No. 1283]**

#### **§ 142-3. Posting time limits.**

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to post a political campaign sign more than 30 days prior to the election for which the sign is posted, and it shall be unlawful to fail to remove a political campaign sign within 12 days after the election for which the sign was posted.
- B. Notwithstanding anything in this chapter to the contrary, said time limit shall not apply to signs posted inside a building or residence and displayed in a window, which signs shall have no limitation as to time prior to an election or after an election. **[Added 2-8-1999 by Ord. No. 1224]**

#### **§ 142-4. Permits; deposit.**

The erector of such signs or an authorized agent of the political party or candidate shall apply for and obtain a permit from the Borough and deposit with the Borough, at the time of his application, a sum in an amount as set forth from time to time by resolution of the Borough Council as a guaranty that all signs will be removed promptly within 12 days after the date of the election to which such sign relates. If such signs are not removed at the end of the twelve-day period, the Borough shall have them removed and keep the full sum deposited to reimburse the expense incurred by it.

**§ 142-5. Removal of signs.**

The Zoning Officer or his authorized agents are hereby authorized to remove any political campaign sign found posted within the corporate limits of the Borough when such sign is in violation of the provisions of this article.

**§ 142-6. Right of entry.**

For the purpose of removing political campaign signs, the Zoning Officer or his authorized agents are empowered to enter upon the property where the signs are posted, and the director is further authorized to enlist the aid or assistance of any other department of the Borough and to secure legal process to the end that all such signs shall be expeditiously removed from any property where posted.

**§ 142-7. Notice of violation.**

When the Zoning Officer or his agents find that a political campaign sign has been posted in violation of this article or without the payment of the permit fee set forth in § 142-4, he shall attempt to contact the candidate, committee or person responsible for the posting of such sign. If successful, he shall give 24 hours' advance telephonic notice of his intention to remove the sign and indicate the nature of the violation and the location of the sign. If, after such notification, the illegal sign remains in violation, the Zoning Officer or his agents shall remove said sign and store it in a safe location. If, after reasonable diligence, the Zoning Officer is unable to contact the candidate, committee or person responsible for the sign, he may dispense with the notice requirement and remove the sign, storing it in a safe location.

**§ 142-8. Storage; notice of removal; recovery.**

If the Zoning Officer or his agents remove any political campaign sign, he shall keep a record of the location from which the sign was removed. He shall store the political campaign sign in a safe location for at least 90 days and shall immediately notify, by telephone, the candidate, committee or person responsible for the posting of the sign, indicating the fact of removal and the location where it may be retrieved. If the Zoning Officer is unable to make telephone contact, he shall provide written notice if the address of the candidate, committee or person is known or can be ascertained. The Zoning Officer shall return any political campaign sign upon the payment of the fee provided in § 142-4.

**§ 142-9. Cost of removal.**

The Borough shall be entitled to receive a sum as set forth from time to time by resolution of the Borough Council for every political campaign sign removed by the Zoning Officer for which no permit had been obtained, to cover the expense of removal, notice and storage. In cases where unusual effort is needed to remove a sign, such as the cutting or removal of supporting structures, use of aerial devices, towing of trailer signs or other unusual situation, the Borough shall collect from the person responsible a sum sufficient to cover the costs and hourly wages of employees so utilized.

**§ 142-10. Responsible persons.**

In a campaign for political office, the candidate for such office shall be deemed the person responsible for the posting of political campaign signs, unless he first notifies the Borough Zoning Officer of another person who is responsible. In such case, the candidate shall provide the name, address, telephone number and signed consent of such other responsible person. In a campaign regarding a ballot measure, the president of the committee supporting or opposing such ballot measure shall be deemed responsible, unless he first notifies the Zoning Officer of some other person responsible, in the manner described above. The candidate or, in the case of the ballot measure, the committee president, or other responsible person, if so designated, shall be liable to pay any fees or costs for the removal and storage of illegal signs as set out herein. Further, such candidate, committee president or other designated person shall be subject to prosecution for any violation of this article. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to make any person liable, civilly or criminally, for any sign posted by persons unknown to him or her or by persons over whom he or she has no control.

**§ 142-11. Nuisances.**

Political campaign signs in violation of this article are hereby declared to be public nuisances and may be abated as such by the Borough. The collection of removal fees shall not preclude the Borough from prosecuting any person for violating this article.

**§ 142-12. Revocation of permits.**

The Borough Zoning Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to revoke any permit issued by him pursuant to this article or any preceding sign ordinance upon failure of the holder of such permit to comply with any provision of this article.

**§ 142-13. Violations and penalties.**

Any person, firm or corporation who shall erect, alter, remove or shall do or cause to be done any work in the erection, alteration, removal or repair of any without first having obtained the permit required by this article or who shall fail to comply with any of the requirements of the permit or of this article or who shall fail to comply with any regulation, order or direction of the Borough of Canonsburg Department of Code Enforcement or who shall violate any of the provisions in this article in any way shall, upon conviction in a summary proceeding before any District Justice of Washington County, be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 and costs of prosecution for each and every offense or, upon default in payment of the fine and costs not caused by indigence or lack of sufficient assets, by imprisonment in the Washington County prison for a period not to exceed 30 days. Each day that such violation is continued after notice shall constitute a new and separate offense, punishable by like fine and penalty or imprisonment; and, further, notices to the offender shall not be necessary in order to constitute such continuance as an additional offense or offenses.