



**MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP  
147 MUNICIPAL DRIVE  
EAST STROUDSBURG, PA 18302  
570-223-8920  
570-223-8935 FAX**

# APPLICATION FOR POLITICAL SIGN PERMIT

1. Applicants Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Political Candidate or Issue: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Estimated Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Date of Completion \_\_\_\_\_

The appropriate sections of the Zoning Ordinance with regard to Political Signs and placement of those signs within General Sign Requirements are attached. Signature of Applicant below confirms receipt, and agrees to adherence, of these regulations.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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(All Items in This Section to Be Completed By Township)

This permit for Political Signs is issued in accordance with Township Ordinance. Specific regulations with regard to Political Signs and their placement within Middle Smithfield Township have been provided to the Applicant. Failure to adhere to these regulations could result in the removal of the non-compliant sign.

Permit Fees: Political signs are exempt from all fees per Resolution Number 05-2015-1

Permit No. \_\_\_\_\_

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

See attached Chapter 200 Zoning sections 090-130A(10), 090-100D, 090-100E, 090-100F (attached)

ZONING OFFICER

- (a) Each incidental sign shall not exceed a sign area of three square feet.
- (b) An incidental sign shall not exceed a height of five feet if attached to a pole or post, or eight feet if attached to a building wall.
- (c) An incidental sign shall not include advertising.
- (d) Any illumination shall meet § 090-140. The use of reflective materials is encouraged.

(8) Mural. Murals are permitted as allowed in Schedule I of this article,<sup>100</sup> provided that:

- (a) No mural shall cover any windows, doors, or other architectural features.
- (b) No mural shall exceed a height of 15 feet.
- (c) No mural shall exceed an area of 32 square feet, and no more than one mural shall be permitted on a building.
- (d) A mural visible to the public shall be integrated into the design of the building and not involve nudity or sexually explicit images.
- (e) No mural shall contain a commercial message or shall advertise a use located in the building on which the mural is located, unless the mural meets all of the regulations for the applicable type of sign.
- (f) The area of a mural shall be included within the maximum sign area of wall signs permitted by this article.

(9) Personal use and information signs (includes home occupation signs). Except as otherwise provided herein, personal use and information signs are allowed in all districts and shall meet the following additional standards:

- (a) No personal use and information sign may exceed two square feet in area.
- (b) The aggregate area of all personal use and information signs on a lot that are readable from a street shall not exceed eight square feet.
- (c) No personal use and information sign may exceed five feet in height.
- (d) Commercial messages in a residential district shall be limited to an on-premises use, such as an approved home occupation.
- (e) Building address numbers shall be posted within clear view of a street in compliance with Chapter 85 of the Middle Smithfield Township Code of Ordinances, in order to provide adequate visibility for emergency responders in vehicles. Such chapter covers such matters as the height, location, size and visibility of such address numbers.

(10) Political signs. Political signs are permitted in all districts, provided that:

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100. Editor's Note: See § 090-080A.

- (a) No political sign shall be displayed more than 15 days after the election or vote to which the sign pertains, if it pertains to an election or vote.
- (b) A political sign shall not be posted on Township property, except as may be allowed outside of a polling place on election day.
- (c) The maximum sign size shall be 16 square feet on each of two sides. Any larger sign shall be regulated as an off-premises sign (such as on a billboard).
- (d) A political sign for any candidate or issue shall not be located within 100 feet of any other sign for the same candidate on the same lot that is readable from the same street.

(11) Real estate signs. Except as otherwise provided herein, real estate signs indicating the availability of real property for lease or sale are permitted in all districts if they meet the following additional provisions:

- (a) The real estate sign must be located on the premises being leased or sold.
- (b) Display of real estate signs shall be limited to one per street frontage.
- (c) No real estate sign shall exceed six feet in height unless attached to the side of a building.
- (d) A real estate sign in a CON, PRD, RR, R1, R2 or R3 District or for an individual dwelling unit shall not exceed 16 square feet in sign area.
- (e) Except as provided in Subsection A(12)(d) above, a real estate sign shall have a maximum size of 32 square feet. In addition, a lawful existing sign may be temporarily used as a real estate sign.
- (f) All real estate signs shall be removed within seven days after settlement, lease of the property, or expiration of the listing term.

(12) Special event sign (includes banners). Signs announcing special events, including but not limited to auctions, grand openings, new management, going out of business, and events sponsored by religious, charitable, or public service organizations or occasional festivals within a resort complex/commercial resort are permitted as allowed in Schedule I of this article,<sup>101</sup> provided that:

- (a) A zoning permit shall be obtained at least once a year that lists the dates or weeks when the special event signs will be displayed. Such signs shall not be displayed on one lot a grand total of more than 60 days per calendar year, except a maximum total of 90 days shall apply where the special event benefits a charitable or public service organization.
- (b) A maximum of two special event signs are permitted on-site, except four special events signs shall be allowed where the special event benefits a charitable or public service organization.

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<sup>101</sup>. Editor's Note: See § 090-080A.

- (5) Holographic images. Signs shall contain no parts that are holographic or that are able to produce any holographic image.
- (6) Clear sight triangle. No sign shall be located within a clear sight triangle or shall otherwise create a traffic visibility hazard.

**D. Setbacks and signs in the right-of-way and on public property.**

- (1) Except as otherwise permitted by this article, all signs shall be set back at least 10 feet from a street right-of-way line, or from a street cartway where a right-of-way line does not exist. Only official governmental signs and signs authorized under PennDOT regulations to be located within a public right-of-way shall be allowed within a public right-of-way.

**(2) Public property.**

- (a) A person or nongovernmental entity shall not post any sign upon public property without written permission from the governmental entity that owns or controls that property, except for customary information utility companies place on utility poles. Political and commercial advertising signs shall not be allowed on public property except for:
  - [1] Political signs on election days where allowed outside of a polling place; and
  - [2] Signs authorized by a governmental entity to recognize a sponsor of a festival or recreation association, provided such signs are not designed to be readable from a public street or dwelling.

(b) A sign posted on Township property or within a public street right-of-way without governmental permission may be removed and discarded.

(3) Freestanding signs of more than 10 square feet in sign area shall be set back a minimum of 10 feet from any adjacent lot line of a lot that is not in common ownership with the lot where the sign is located.

**E. Signs on private property.** No person shall post a nongovernmental sign upon private property without permission from the property owner. A nongovernmental sign posted on private property without permission of the property owner may be removed and discarded by the property owner or his/her designee.

**F. Signs and traffic safety.** All signs shall meet the following minimum traffic safety standards:

- (1) No sign shall be erected so as to obstruct any of the following:
  - (a) The clear sight triangle at any street intersection;
  - (b) Safe sight distances at vehicle driveways; or
  - (c) Views of a traffic control sign or a traffic signal.