

**ARTICLE ZE (2012ATM) #**  
(Two-thirds vote)

**AMEND ZONING BYLAW – POLITICAL SIGNS**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw by deleting section 7.5.12 and replacing it with a new section 7.5.12 as follows:

7.5.12 Political SIGNS – In addition to WINDOW SIGNS, SIGNS may be ERECTED on a LOT displaying political messages. Such SIGNS shall be stationary and shall not be illuminated. The height of such SIGNS shall not exceed 4 feet and their DISPLAY AREA shall not exceed 6 square feet. SIGNS associated with a political event such as elections, primaries, balloting, or voter registration shall be removed within 5 days after the event.

*[Note – Section 7.5.12 currently reads:*

*7.5.12 Political SIGNS – In addition to WINDOW SIGNS, one SIGN may be ERECTED on a LOT displaying a political message. Such a SIGN shall be stationary and shall not be illuminated. Its height shall not exceed 4 feet and its DISPLAY AREA shall not exceed 6 square feet. SIGNS associated with a political event such as elections, primaries, balloting, or voter registration shall not be ERECTED earlier than 25 days prior to such event and shall be removed within 5 days after the event. SIGNS not associated with a particular political event shall be ERECTED for a period of no longer than 30 days, or if ERECTED for a longer duration shall not exceed 2 square feet in DISPLAY AREA. Such SIGN may be a MOVABLE SIGN.]*

, or take any other action relative thereto.

**SUMMARY**

This article relaxes and, in some cases, eliminates the regulations for political signs. The existing standards functioned merely as guidelines that were often ignored by political campaigns. In addition, enforcement of all the previous standards was potentially subject to challenge on the grounds that the signs are constitutionally protected free speech. If adopted the remaining regulations will continue reasonable time, place and manner regulations, such as prohibition of illumination of political signs, height and display area limits, and retain the requirement that signs related to a political event must be removed in a reasonable period of time after the event is over. If passed, enforcement of this section will still be analyzed on a case by case basis to ensure the Town's actions are consistent with constitutional protections.

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Selectman assigned:

**Board of Selectmen:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Planning Board:**