



THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-01

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 36 OF
THE LAKE FORET CITY CODE REGARDING SIGNS**

**Adopted by the Mayor and City Council of
The City of Lake Forest
this 17TH day of JANUARY, 2012**

**Published in pamphlet form by direction and
authority of the City Council of The City of Lake Forest,
Lake County, Illinois
this 18TH day of JANUARY, 2012**

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**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 36 OF THE
LAKE FOREST CITY CODE REGARDING SIGNS**

WHEREAS, the regulation of signs in Chapter 36 of the City Code (the "**Sign Code**") is essential to supporting the objectives of the Zoning Code and the Comprehensive Plan, to preserve and enhance the appearance of the City, and to protect the property values herein; and

WHEREAS, the Sign Code establishes regulations to ensure that all signs within the City are compatible with existing land uses and/or buildings with regard to size, location, color, message, construction, materials, and manner of display; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Sign Code, political campaign signs must be removed within seven days after the election to which the signs pertain; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2010, the Governor of the State of Illinois signed into law Public Act 96-904, which Public Act amends the Illinois Municipal Code to prohibit municipalities (including home rule municipalities) from imposing durational limitations on the display of outdoor political campaign signs; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to amend the Sign Code in order to comply with the amended provisions of the Illinois Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City also wishes to guarantee the First Amendment rights of those who wish to express themselves through the use of signs containing specific messages; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have determined that the best interests of the City and its residents will be served by amending the City's Sign Code as hereinafter set forth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF ILLINOIS, as follows:

SECTION ONE: Recitals. The foregoing recitals are by this reference incorporated into and made a part of this Ordinance as if fully set forth.

SECTION TWO: Amendments to Chapter 36 of the City Code. Chapter 36, entitled "Signs," of the City Code of The City of Lake Forest is hereby amended as follows:

A. Article II of Chapter 36, entitled "Definitions," is hereby amended in its entirety, so that Article II shall hereafter be and read as follows:

- A. **AWNING:** A structure attached to a building, typically made of tubular frame and covered with canvas or similar soft material(s).
- B. **BULLETIN BOARD:** A sign used for the posting of events, notices, hours, or related information.
- C. **DIRECTORY SIGN:** A free standing sign identifying the location of five (5) or more separate businesses. One or more maps may be incorporated as part of the directory sign along with a listing of business names and types.
- D. **EVENT SIGN:** A sign announcing a noteworthy happening, social occasion, or activity taking place at a particular date and time.
- E. **FREE-STANDING SIGN:** A sign having not more than two sides erected at grade level supported by one or more uprights, or other structural members, which are placed in or on an approved foundation and not attached to any building.
- F. **INCIDENTAL SIGN:** A sign which is incidental to the primary use and is for public information and not for advertising purposes.

- G. OBSOLETE SIGN: A sign which identifies a use that is no longer on the site.
- H. OPEN HOUSE SIGN: A form of Event Sign directing people to homes that are for sale and open to the public for physical viewing without prior appointment. Such signs may identify the street address and the times for such public viewing.
- I. PERMANENT SIGN: Any sign which is permanently affixed or installed and is intended for long-term use, generally being in place longer than ninety days.
- J. POLITICAL SIGNS:
 - i. POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGN: A temporary sign that announces or supports political candidates or issues in connection with any national, state, or local election. Political election signs include only those signs specifically advocating on behalf of a person, or a position on a question, to be considered by voters on a ballot that has been certified in accordance with the Illinois Election Code.
 - ii. POLITICAL MESSAGE SIGN: A sign, other than a Political Campaign Sign, that expresses a noncommercial message regarding an issue of political or public concern.
- K. PORTABLE SIGN: Any sign not permanently attached to an approved foundation or a building.
- L. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION SIGN: Any sign identifying only a general contractor's name and telephone number and the project name for building construction and remodeling projects.
- M. PROJECTING SIGN: Any sign projecting from and attached perpendicular to a wall of a building. A sign attached to the wall of a building or structure, with the exposed face(s) in a plane perpendicular to the building wall.
- N. PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY: That land area over which the City has rights either through ownership or easement, to use for public street and utility purposes.
- O. REAL ESTATE SIGN: Any free standing sign that announces the sale or lease of property, excluding tract identification signs.
- P. SANDWICH BOARD SIGN: A portable A-Frame sign that is designed to be self-supporting by nature.
- Q. SETBACK: The minimum horizontal distance between the front line of a building or structure and the street right-of-way line, as required by the Lake Forest Zoning Code.

- R. SIGN: Any visible identification, description, illustration, object, or device, illuminated or non-illuminated, which directs attention to a product, service, place, activity, person, institution, business or solicitation. This definition does not include products typically displayed in the window(s) of businesses.
- S. TEMPORARY SIGN: A real estate sign, or any other sign in place for ninety (90) days or less.
- T. TOTAL SURFACE AREA: The entire area within any continuous perimeter enclosing the extreme limits of lettering, representations, or other figures or messages, together with any material or color which is an integral part of the display or which is used to differentiate the sign from the background against which it is placed.
- U. TRACT SIGN: Any free-standing sign which announces the sale or lease of a subdivided or an unsubdivided tract of land containing twenty (20) or more acres.
- V. WALL SIGN: A sign attached to the wall of a building or structure, with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the building wall.

B. Subsection 12, entitled "Political Election Signs and Message Signs," of Section E, entitled "Exempt Signs," of Article III, entitled "General Regulations and Standards," is hereby amended and shall hereafter be and read as follows:

- 12. Political Signs may be located entirely on private property pursuant to the Owner's consent and subject to the following limitations:
 - a. Political Campaign Signs of not more than six square feet in area per candidate or issue per lot may be displayed. No such sign may exceed four feet in height.
 - b. Political Signs shall be maintained in good physical condition and shall not exceed six square feet in area and four feet in height per sign. Except as provided in Subsection 12.c., the total area of Political Signs shall not exceed a total of thirty square feet in area per zoning lot, and the total area of political signs that may be located within the required setback is zero square feet.
 - c. Notwithstanding the size limitations contained in Subsection 12.b., from the date a ballot for any

particular election has been certified until seven days after such election occurs, in addition to the amount of Signage authorized in Subsection 12.b., Political Campaign Signs that meet the criteria established in Subsection 12.a. may be located within the required setback with no limitations on total square feet per zoning lot.

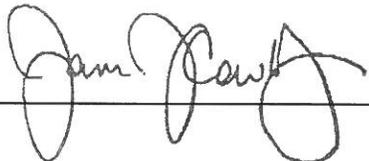
- d. Unless a Political Sign includes on the sign face the name of the person responsible for the sign, the owner of the private property on which the sign is located shall be deemed responsible for the sign.
- e. Political Signs shall be exempted from any regulations regarding sign colors, but not regulations relating to illumination of signs.
- f. Political Signs are permitted at all times and are exempted from permit requirements at all times.
- g. Political Signs may not be located in the public right-of-way.

SECTION THREE: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect following its passage, approval, and publication in pamphlet form in the manner provided by law.

PASSED THIS 17th DAY OF January, 2012.

AYES: Novit, Pandaleon, Schoenheider, Morsch, Adelman
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Waldeck, Palmer, Moore
ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED THIS 17th DAY OF January, 2012.

Mayor 

ATTEST:



City Clerk (Deputy)