

TOWNSHIP OF MOORESTOWN

ORDINANCE NO. 20-2004

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOORESTOWN
TO AMEND CHAPTER 180, ZONING,
OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOORESTOWN
TO REVISE AND CLARIFY THE STANDARDS FOR POLITICAL SIGNS**

WHEREAS, the Township Council of Moorestown finds that the current standards for signs are unclear, leading to unnecessary confusion among those citizens who wish to display political signs, and

WHEREAS, the Township Council finds that a clarification of said standards will facilitate political expression within the Township and will provide for ease of enforcement,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Moorestown, County of Burlington, and State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1. §180-80.3(E), Political Signs, shall be deleted in its entirety.

Section 2. §180-2, Definitions, shall be amended to delete the definition of “Political Sign,” which conflicts with the definition contained in Article XXIV, Signs, at §180-80.2.

Section 3. §180-80.1, Permit Requirements, shall be amended to include a new Subsection §180-80.1(C), Political Signs, as follows:

“§180-80.1(C) Political Signs. Political Signs shall be subject only to the following requirements, which shall take precedence over and supersede all standards or requirements found in any portion of Article XXIV, Signs.”

(1) Permit Requirements. A permit is required for any Political Sign. No fee shall be charged for such permit. Any person or group seeking to place a Political Sign must, before erecting the sign, first apply for and receive a permit from the Zoning Officer for each location where a sign is to be placed. The application for the permit shall indicate the dimensions of the sign in accordance with §180-80.1(C) and the location where such sign is to be erected. Any sign placed without a prior permit being obtained shall be subject to removal without notice by the Zoning Officer.

(2) Permission to Place Signs. No Political Sign shall be erected, posted or placed on private property without the express consent of the owner. The owner of said private property shall be responsible for compliance with the requirements of this Section.

- (3) Time. All Political Signs shall be specific to the event or election in question. Such signs shall be erected not more than 30 days prior to the event or election and shall be removed by the permittee not more than 5 days after the event or election. Notwithstanding, between the Effective Date of this ordinance and December 31, 2004, such signs may be erected for a period of no more than 50 days prior to the event or election.
- (4) Size and Height. The name of any candidate or slate may appear on only one (1) sign per lot; notwithstanding, however, between the Effective Date of this ordinance and December 31, 2004, this requirement shall not apply. The maximum size for a Political Sign shall be five (5) square feet in area, and there shall be no more than ten (10) square feet of political signage per lot, and the maximum height shall be forty inches (40") from ground level, inclusive of supports. For purposes of Political Signs only, a sign where copy or graphics appear on two sides of the sign shall be considered one (1) sign, whether or not different copy or graphics appear on either side of the sign.
- (5) Placement.
 - (a) No Political Signs shall be affixed to a fire hydrant, telephone booth, utility pole or other public utility structure or posted, painted or otherwise affixed to trees, rocks or natural features within a street right-of-way, or in any other manner be placed within a street right-of-way. Signs shall be located behind the sidewalk or bicycle path. Where there is no sidewalk or bicycle path, signs shall be located no closer than three feet (3') from the edge of the cartway (road surface).
 - (b) No Political Signs shall be erected closer than or within ten feet (10') of any intersection."

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon its final passage, adoption and publication or the earliest date permitted by law, except for those particular provisions herein specified as having different Effective Dates.

Section 5. Severability. If any section, paragraph, clause, phrase, term, provision or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or inoperative, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the section, paragraph, clause, phrase, term, provision or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in such judgment shall be rendered.

Section 6. Short Title. This ordinance may be cited as Ordinance No. 20-2004.

NOTICE AND CERTIFICATION

The ordinance published herewith was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Moorestown, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, held on July 26, 2004. This ordinance will be further considered for final passage by the Township Council at a meeting to be held in the Council Chambers of Moorestown Township, 111 West Second Street, Moorestown, NJ on August 23, 2004 at 8pm or at any time and place to which such meeting may be adjourned. All persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance. During the week prior to and including the date of such further consideration, copies will be made available at the Municipal Clerk's Office in said Municipal Building to any member of the general public who shall request such copies.

Patricia L. Hunt,
Township Clerk