

ORDINANCE NO. 867

**"AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE
ESTABLISHING TITLE 20, CHAPTER 3,
POLITICAL SIGNS FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF
THE TIMING AND PLACEMENT OF POLITICAL
SIGNS IN THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE."**

WHEREAS, political signage can be a hazard to the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of East Ridge; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of East Ridge desires to regulate the sign placement and the timing of placement of political signs in the City of East Ridge;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of East Ridge, Tennessee, that the East Ridge City Code is hereby amended to add Title 20, Chapter 3, Political Signs for the governance of the timing and placement of political signs in the City of East Ridge as follows:

**TITLE 20:
CHAPTER 3
POLITICAL SIGNS**

Sec. 20-301. Scope of Article - definition of political sign.

Notwithstanding anything in the East Ridge City Code to the contrary, the provisions of this Article shall govern the use and placement of political signs. "Political signs" shall mean any sign which supports or opposes the candidacy of any candidate for public office or urges action on any other issue on the ballot of a primary, general or special election.

Sec. 20-302. Political signs regulated.

Political signs with a sign area of more than thirty-two (32) square feet shall be subject to the provisions of the East Ridge City Code governing off-premise signs, provided that any political signs at a campaign headquarters shall be governed as on-premise signs. Political signs with a sign area of thirty-two (32) square feet or less shall be subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) No political sign less than ten (10) square feet may be placed closer than five (5) feet to the closest edge of the pavement or curb of any public or private street.
- (b) No such political sign between ten (10) square feet and thirty-two (32) square feet may be placed closer than ten (10) feet to the closest edge of the pavement or curb of any public or private street.

- (c) No such political sign may be placed closer than twenty-five (25) feet to the closet edge of the pavement or curb of two (2) public or private streets.
- (d) No person shall paste, paint, print, rope, bill, nail or pin any sign or any advertisement or notice of any kind whatsoever or cause the same to be done, on any curbstone, or in any portion of part of any sidewalk or street, tree, lamppost, telephone or telegraph pole, awning, porch or balcony or upon any other structure in the limits of any street or public right-of-way in the City including but not limited to any divided roadway median, traffic island and/or traffic circle/roundabout, except such as may be required by this Code or other City ordinance.
- (e) No such political sign may be placed upon or attached in any way to any tree, utility pole, light pole or rock; provided that no such sign shall be placed on any fence or fence post which presents any safety or line of sight issues for drivers as determined by the Chief Building Official for the City.
- (f) No Political sign shall be posted more than sixty (60) days in advance of the election to which it refers.
- (g) All such political signs shall be removed within fifteen (15) days after the election to which they refer has been held. Such signs erected for a primary election may remain only if they continue to be valid for the next general election.
- (h) The Office of the Building Official or the Traffic Engineer may order the removal or relocation of any such sign which may constitute a hazard to the public traveling on public streets.
- (i) No such sign may be placed upon a public sidewalk.
- (j) Any person or organization planning to erect any political signs shall first file with the Office of the Building Official the name, address and telephone number of the person or persons who shall be responsible for the proper erection and timely removal of such signs.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed first reading _____ September 10 , 2009.

Passed second reading _____ September 24 , 2009

Mike Steele
Mike Steele, Mayor

Attest:

William R. Whitson
William R. Whitson, City Manager

Approved to form:

John R. Anderson
John R. Anderson, City Attorney