



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

May 7, 2014

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager 

SUBJECT: Discuss/consider revisions to sign ordinance to allow political signs more than 30 days prior to the election

RECOMMENDATION

Provide staff direction regarding revisions to the sign ordinance to allow political signs more than 30 days prior to the election

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Coler requested that the Council discuss/consider revisions to the sign ordinance that would allow political (i.e., campaign) signs to be posted more than 30 days prior to the election. The current code allows political signs to “be erected no sooner than 30 days before and shall be removed within seven days after the election of event” [see the attached Section 17.064.03 (E)]. The existing code section was last amended in 1989. Councilmember Coler indicates the Code was adopted prior to the wide-spread use of absentee or mail-in ballots and, as a result, the 30-day sign limitation may completely miss the campaigning window. This could be important for future ballot measures such as the renewal of Measure I.

Should the Council want to increase the length of time for political signs (e.g., 60 days prior), staff would return with the first reading of a proposed ordinance in June. The second reading would occur in July/August and would take effect 30 days from the second reading. This presumes minimal delays in the process.

FISCAL IMPACT

n/a

ATTACHMENT

Fairfax Municipal Code Section 17.064.03 (E)

§ 17.064.030 SIGNS PERMITTED WITHOUT SIGN PERMIT.

The following signs are not to be included in the measurement of the total allowable area and may be erected without a permit:

(E) Political signs; one per candidate or ballot measure on improved property with the owner's permission in all zones and when not over 24 inches by 48 inches; provided, however, that, the sign shall be erected no sooner than 30 days before and shall be removed within seven days after the election or event; (The foregoing also applies to unimproved property provided that there is filed with the Planning Director the written approval of the property owner and a deposit in an amount determined by resolution of the Town Council, to be refunded upon removal of the sign.)