



# BOROUGH OF WANAQUE

*Application is hereby made to the Borough Clerk of the Borough of Wanaque to erect or display political signs in accordance with Ordinance 17-0-96*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PERSON, POLITICAL PARTY OR ORGANIZATION MAKING APPLICATION)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

\$200.00 refundable deposit:  Cash  Check

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## GENERAL REGULATIONS

*Ordinance 17-0-96 (Section 1, Article 114-17-G. Political Signs. New)*

- 1. No more than five (5) four foot by eight foot (4 by 8) signs per candidate, party or platform issue. No signs of greater dimension permitted. All other signs permitted.*
- 2. All signs must be removed within fourteen (14) days after the election for which they were posted. If the signs are not removed, the deposit of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) shall be forfeited to the Borough of Wanaque. Election signs may be posted or erected for periods not exceeding 45 days prior to election.*
- 3. No political signs shall be displayed on private property without the consent of the owner.*
- 4. No political signs shall be displayed on any property owned or leased by the Borough of Wanaque or by any other governmental agency.*
- 5. No sign shall be erected or displayed in such a manner so as to obscure traffic sight lines or so as to impede or impair vehicular or pedestrian traffic.*



**§ 114-17. Signs. [Amended 11-12-2001 by Ord. No. 17-0-01; 3-11-2002 by Ord. No. 3-0-02]**

No signs shall be constructed, erected, displayed, altered, relocated or reconstructed unless a permit shall have first been obtained from the Building Inspector.

A. General provisions.

- (1) "Sign" shall mean any rigid or semirigid material, with or without advertisement displayed thereon, situated upon or attached to real property outdoors, primarily or principally for the purpose of furnishing a background or base or support upon which an advertisement may be posted or displayed. Such sign may be in the form of writing, printing, a picture, painting, an emblem, drawing or similar device intended to invite or to draw the attention of the public to any goods, merchandise, property, business, services, entertainment or amusement.
- (2) Area measurement. The area of any sign shall be computed as a product of the largest horizontal width and the largest vertical height of the lettering, illustration, display or background. This shall not be construed to include the supporting members of any sign. If the letters, illustration, display or background are attached directly to the face of the building, the height or width of the sign shall be the height or width of the largest letter, illustration, display or background, whichever is the greater. For signs with two display faces, the maximum area requirement shall be permitted on each side.
- (3) General prohibitions. The following types and uses of signs are prohibited in all districts:
  - (a) No flashing, moving, rotating or apparent motion signs or lights, as well as streamers, pennants, and similar displays, are allowed.
  - (b) No signs with more than two display faces are allowed.
  - (c) No sign as permitted shall extend or project above the highest elevation of the wall to which it is attached, nor shall any sign be erected on or attached to the roof of a building.
  - (d) No sign shall be painted on or affixed to water towers, storage tanks, smoke stacks or similar structures.

- (e) No private sign shall be erected within the right-of-way of any street, nor shall any sign be located so as to constitute a traffic hazard.
- (f) No sign shall be placed so as to interfere with or be mistaken for a traffic light or similar safety device or interfere with traffic visibility.
- (g) No signs shall be placed so as to impede or interfere in any way with the operation of a traffic light, traffic directional signal or general traffic vision.
- (h) No billboard or billboard signs shall be permitted.
- (i) No sign shall be placed, located or displayed upon any sidewalk.
- (j) Off-premises signs are prohibited in all districts.
- (k) Projecting signs are prohibited.
- (l) Back-lighted signs, with the exception of pole signs.
- (m) No neon or back-lighted window signs shall be permitted.
- (n) If, at any time, the Construction Code Official shall determine that any sign constitutes a menace to the health, safety, morals or general welfare of the community, he shall notify the record owner and the beneficial user of the premises on which said sign is located by serving a written notice upon him, together with a written notice of demand that the condition be remedied within 10 days from the receipt of said notice and demand. If the condition is not so remedied, the Borough Administrator may either undertake the necessary steps to rectify the same (charging all the costs incident to said efforts to either the record owner or the beneficial user of the premises, or both, provided that there shall be no duplication of the payment of said costs), or such sign may be removed.
- (o) The limitation on signs prescribed in this chapter shall not apply to any sign or directional device erected by any governmental agency. The limitations on signs prescribed in this chapter for permitted commercial and industrial uses shall not apply to parking lot markers, directional signs or entrance and exit signs erected on the premises, provided that each such sign does not exceed two square

feet in area, that the number and location of such signs are approved by the Planning Board and that no such sign contains any advertising material.

(4) Height.

(a) Signs shall not be erected higher than the following limits at their highest points:

<b>Type of Sign/ Location</b>	<b>Height (feet)</b>
Wall	16
Pole	
Ringwood Avenue	6
Union Avenue	25
Ringwood Avenue for a length of 500 feet north of the Union Avenue intersection	25
Ground	6

(b) No sign shall be located on the roof or above the highest part of the front wall.

(5) Maintenance. All signs shall be maintained in good repair. Lack of proper maintenance shall be considered abandonment and such signs shall be removed upon notification by the Building Inspector.

(6) Structurally unsafe. Whenever a sign becomes structurally unsafe or endangers the safety of the building or the public, the Building Inspector shall order such sign to be made safe or to be removed. Such order shall be complied with within 10 days of the receipt thereof by the person, firm or corporation owning or using the sign or the owner of the building or premises on which such unsafe sign is affixed or erected. The Building Inspector may cause any sign which is an immediate peril to persons or property to be removed summarily and without notice.

(7) Directional signs (on site). Directional signs shall give vehicular and pedestrian movement instructions on site. No off-site directional or advertising signs shall be permitted. Direction signs, e.g., entrance-exit, one-way, etc., shall not exceed two square feet in area and are exempt from total sign

area limits. Such signs must be at least two feet from front property lines and at least five feet from side property lines.

- (8) Ground signs. Any sign supported by one or two uprights or braces upon the ground and not attached to any building shall be considered a ground sign. The area surrounding ground signs shall be kept neat, clean and landscaped. The owner of the property upon which the sign is located shall be responsible for maintaining the condition of the area.
- (9) Illuminated signs. All illuminated signs shall be indirectly lighted above or below. No sign shall be lighted by means of flashing or intermittent illumination except for the intermittent illumination necessary to show time and temperature changes on signs intended for the purpose. All light used for the illumination of any use or building or the area surrounding them or for the illumination or display of merchandise or products of business establishments shall be completely shielded in such a manner that it is not visible from the street or adjoining property. Floodlights used for the illumination of said premises or of any sign thereon, whether or not such floodlights are attached to or separate from the building, shall not project light above the height of the highest elevation of the illumination wall of the building.
- (10) Pole signs. Any freestanding sign which is not attached to any building or structure and is erected on one or more poles or pylons shall be considered a pole sign. Pole signs shall advertise only the permitted use, products or services conducted on the premises and shall be only internally illuminated.
- (11) Temporary signs. All temporary signs erected for a special event, such as an election or sale, shall be removed by the property owner when the event shall have taken place. No permit is required for such temporary signs, provided that they do not exceed 32 square feet in the commercial and industrial zones and nine square feet in residential zones. No temporary sign other than election signs shall remain in place for more than four weeks. Election signs may be posted or erected for periods not exceeding 45 days and must be removed 14 days after elections. However, each candidate must post bond for removal of all signs following election. This provision shall not include signs for the sale or rental of real property.

- (12) Wall signs. Any signs placed against the exterior wall of any building or other structure so that the display surface is parallel with the plane of the wall shall be deemed to be wall signs. They shall advertise only the permitted use, products or services on the premises on which they are displayed.
- (13) Window signs. All signs painted or pasted permanently on windows, shall comply fully with area requirements.
- B. Signs in residential districts. In all residential zones only the following signs shall be permitted, provided that no sign area limitation is exceeded:
- (1) Nameplate and professional signs. A professional sign or nameplate sign, indicating the name and/or address of the occupant, shall not be larger than six inches by 18 inches and shall not be illuminated. A permitted home occupation may be included with the name of the occupant and occupation. Only one sign per dwelling unit is permitted.
- (2) Sales or rental signs.
- (a) Signs advertising the sale or rental of the premises upon which they are located may be permitted, provided that:
- [1] The size of any such sign is not in excess of eight square feet.
- [2] Not more than one sign is placed upon any property.
- [3] Such signs shall be promptly removed when the premises are sold or rented.
- [4] Such signs shall not be illuminated.
- (b) Off-premises directional or open house signs shall be prohibited.
- (3) Institutional signs. Schools, colleges, churches or other institutions of a similar public or semipublic nature may erect and maintain ground signs and billboard-type signs, provided that:
- (a) The size of such signs is not in excess of 16 square feet. Such sign may be a changeable letter sign, which may be illuminated, referring to services, events to be held on the premises and/or other significant information related to the school, college, church or institution, provided the

sign is located a minimum of 10 feet from the property line.

- (b) Not more than one such sign is placed on a property, unless such property fronts upon more than one street, in which event two such signs may be erected, one on each of two frontages.
  - (c) If such signs are illuminated, the direct source of light shall be shielded in such a manner as not to be visible from the street or any adjoining residential property.
  - (4) Setback. None of the signs permitted in the residential zones shall be erected within 10 feet of any property line, provided that a nameplate sign not more than one square foot in area as regulated above may be placed anywhere in the front yard.
  - (5) Trespassing signs. Customary warning, no-hunting or no-trespassing signs may be erected, provided that such signs do not exceed an area of one square foot.
- C. Signs in the business districts. In all business districts only the following signs shall be permitted: Only one wall, awning or window sign shall be permitted for each building wall of an establishment that fronts on a street, and either one pole sign or one ground sign shall be permitted in all business districts. No sign shall be permitted which is not accessory to the business conducted on the property and then only if the following requirements are complied with:
- (1) Wall sign subject to the following conditions:
    - (a) Said sign shall be erected parallel to the face of the building and shall be erected on a wall fronting on a street.
    - (b) No sign shall extend further than four inches from the face of the building upon which it is attached.
    - (c) The maximum height of any sign shall not exceed 24 inches and the maximum height of the characters shall not exceed 16 inches. Said signs shall be located below the second floor level of the building.
    - (d) The maximum width of any sign shall not exceed 75% of the width of the facade of the establishment to which it is attached. **[Amended 6-10-2002 by Ord. No. 9-0-02]**
  - (2) Awning sign subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The maximum area of an awning sign shall not exceed 24 square feet.
  - (b) All awning signs shall be traditional in character consisting of only canvas material.
  - (c) The upper horizontal edge of an awning sign shall not be installed higher than the extent of the vertical wall to which it is attached.
  - (d) Awning signs may extend beyond the property line but no further than the curblin of a public right-of-way. In the case where structural supports are required to be affixed to the sidewalk, Planning Board approval shall be required.
- (3) Window sign subject to the following conditions:
- (a) The maximum area of a window sign shall not exceed 15% of the window surface.
  - (b) No window signs shall be permitted above the first floor.
- (4) Pole sign subject to the following conditions:
- (a) Said sign shall be located a minimum of 10 feet from any property line.
  - (b) The area of said sign shall not exceed 50 square feet.
  - (c) The height of the sign structure, including its support members, shall not exceed 16 feet for those properties located along Ringwood Avenue and 25 feet for those properties located along Union Avenue and along Ringwood Avenue within 500 feet of the Union Avenue intersection.
  - (d) The bottom of the display area shall not be less than 10 feet above the ground surface. Said ground surface shall be adequately landscaped with materials such as shrubs, flowers and ornamental grasses.
  - (e) The maximum width of the sign, including its supporting structure, shall not exceed eight feet.
- (5) Ground sign subject to the following conditions:
- (a) The area of said sign shall not exceed 16 square feet, including all trim, moldings and similar decorative members.

- (b) The maximum height of the sign, including its supporting members, shall not exceed six feet.
  - (c) The maximum width of the sign, including its supporting members, shall not exceed six feet.
  - (d) The bottom of the sign shall be two feet above the ground surface. This area shall be appropriately landscaped with shrubs, flowers and/or ornamental grasses.
  - (e) Ground signs shall be located a minimum of 10 feet from the property line. No ground sign shall be placed upon a lot so as to cause a visual hazard for vehicular traffic. When necessary, the Building Inspector shall consult the Chief of the Police Department.
- (6) Gas station or automotive service station signs. Gas stations or automotive service stations may display, in addition, the following signs, which are deemed customary and necessary to their respective business:
- (a) Directional signs or lettering displays on the building walls over individual entrance doors or bays consisting only of the words, "washing," "lubrication," "repairs," "mechanic on duty" or other words closely similar in importance, provided that there shall be no more than one such sign over each bay or entrance, the letters thereof shall not exceed 12 inches in height and that such letters shall be limited to a single line.
  - (b) Customary lettering on, or other insignia which are a structural part of, a gasoline pump consisting only of the brand name of gasoline sold, lead warning signs, a price indicator and any other sign required by law and not exceeding a total of three square feet on the pump.
- (7) Temporary help wanted signs for all business districts.  
**[Added 3-9-2020 by Ord. No. 2-0-2020]**
- (a) No help wanted, hiring, or sign seeking employees shall be displayed on properties within the Business District unless in compliance herewith;
  - (b) No sign shall be displayed in excess of 45 days;
  - (c) Corrugated plastic, vinyl, or cardboard signs hung on wire frames and inserted into the ground shall be

permitted for outdoor displays. Signs may also be displayed in windows, and on entrances;

- (d) The number of signs on any property or business shall not exceed six in number, and shall not exceed two feet by three feet in dimension;
  - (e) No sign shall be erected or displayed in such a manner so as to obscure or obstruct site lines or impede or impair vehicular or pedestrian traffic;
  - (f) No sign shall be erected or displayed with blinking, vibrating, flickering, tracer, strobe, revolving, or intermittent devices. No sign may be illuminated in any manner so as to create a nuisance, shine on neighboring residences, create glare, or create driving or pedestrian hazards;
  - (g) Anyone desiring to display signs shall make application therefore to the Wanaque Borough Clerk and provide the name and address of the business or entity on which such signs shall be located, the number of signs requested, the dimension of and description of each sign and the length of time requested to display such signs.
- D. Signs in the Redevelopment Districts 1 and 2 (RD-1 and RD-2). In the Redevelopment Districts 1 and 2 only the following signs shall be permitted: Only one wall, awning or window sign shall be permitted for each building wall of an establishment that fronts on a street and either one pole sign or one ground sign shall be permitted in all business districts. No sign shall be permitted which is not accessory to the business conducted on the property and then only if the following requirements are complied with:
- (1) Wall sign subject to the following conditions:
    - (a) Said sign shall be erected parallel to the face of the building and shall be erected on a wall fronting on a street.
    - (b) No sign shall extend further than four inches from the face of the building upon which it is attached.
    - (c) The maximum height of any sign shall not exceed 24 inches, and the maximum height of the characters shall not exceed 16 inches. Said signs shall be located below the second floor level of the building.

- (d) The maximum width of any sign shall not exceed 15% of the width of the facade of the establishment to which it is attached.
- (2) Window sign subject to the following conditions:
    - (a) The maximum area of a window sign shall not exceed 15% of the window surface.
    - (b) No window signs shall be permitted above the first floor.
- (3) In the Redevelopment 1 (RD-1) District only the following pole/pylon shall be permitted, subject to the following conditions:
    - (a) The maximum height of said sign shall not exceed 90 feet.
    - (b) The maximum size of the sign shall not exceed 600 square feet. However, the total sign area may be distributed between up to two display areas.
    - (c) The sign shall be located in the rear yard of the site, but no closer than 10 feet to the rear property line.
    - (d) Only businesses located in the RD-1 District may utilize this freestanding sign, regardless of whether or not they are located on the lot that contains the sign.
    - (e) The sign may be internally lighted.
- (4) In the Redevelopment 2 (RD-2) District only the following pole sign is permitted, subject to the following conditions:
    - (a) Said sign shall be located a minimum of 10 feet from any property line.
    - (b) The area of said sign shall not exceed 50 square feet.
    - (c) The height of the sign structure, including its support members, shall not exceed 25 feet.
    - (d) The bottom of the display area shall not be less than 10 feet above the ground surface. Said ground surface shall be adequately landscaped with materials such as shrubs, flowers and ornamental grasses.
- (5) Ground sign subject to the following conditions:
    - (a) The area of said sign shall not exceed 16 square feet, including all trim, moldings and similar decorative members.

- (b) The maximum height of the sign, including its supporting members, shall not exceed six feet.
  - (c) The maximum width of the sign, including its supporting members, shall not exceed six feet.
  - (d) The bottom of the sign shall be two feet above the ground surface. This area shall be appropriately landscaped with shrubs, flowers and/or ornamental grasses.
  - (e) Ground signs shall be located a minimum of 10 feet from the property line. No ground sign shall be placed upon a lot so as to cause a visual hazard for vehicular traffic. When necessary, the Building Inspector shall consult the Chief of the Police Department.
- E. Signs in industrial districts. In the Industrial District, only the following signs are permitted:
- (1) Wall signs. Signs attached to a building are permitted as regulated in Subsection C(1).
  - (2) Ground signs. One ground sign is permitted, provided that:
    - (a) The area of said sign shall not exceed 16 square feet, including all trim and supportive members.
    - (b) Said sign shall not exceed six feet in height or six feet in width.
    - (c) Said sign shall not be located within 10 feet of any property line.
    - (d) The top of such sign shall not be more than six feet above the ground.
    - (e) No ground sign shall be placed upon a lot so as to cause a visual hazard for vehicular traffic. When necessary, the Building Inspector shall consult an opinion from the Chief of the Police Department.
- F. Billboards: any structure upon which any sign or display may be depicted or displayed, of a dimension greater than 150 square feet on any one side.
- (1) No billboards shall be allowed or permitted within the Borough of Wanaque except as hereinafter provided.
  - (2) No billboards shall be erected in any zone in the Borough of Wanaque except the Regional Commercial Zone.

- (3) No billboards shall exceed 25 feet in height, nor shall any such billboard be less than 10 feet from ground level.
- (4) No sign shall be erected and no sign or display allowed which employs the use of flashing or blinking lights, colored lights, projections, noise-producing effects, smoke-producing effects, or be of such a nature as to cause obstructions to traffic, impair traffic sight lines, and pedestrian sight lines, or be a hazard to vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- (5) No billboard shall be erected within 1,000 feet of the intersection of Ringwood Avenue and Union Avenue in the Borough of Wanaque.
- (6) No billboard shall be erected within 1,000 feet of any hospital, nursing home facility, church, school, municipal or governmental building or structure used for public purposes, fire house, ambulance or rescue squad, parks or recreation areas, lake or recreational facilities. Any signs that are illuminated shall be so illuminated so as to not allow light to migrate beyond a reasonable distance from the sign, and not be of such a nature so as to affect any other property owners or structures located thereon, or adversely affect traffic or pedestrian travel.
- (7) Approval for the erection of such signs shall be made by application to the Borough of Wanaque Planning Board. The applicant shall provide a survey of the property upon which the sign sought to be erected is contained, together with all structures within a radius of 1,000 feet. It shall further provide a key map setting forth the area in which the sign shall be located. Permission of the property owner must be appended to any application for the erection of such billboard. In considering applications for the erection of signs, the Borough of Wanaque Planning Board shall be guided by § 114-17 of the Code of the Borough of Wanaque, together with the Municipal Land Use Law, and concerns for the safety and well-being of the residents of the Borough of Wanaque, as well as other appropriate zoning and planning laws and concepts. Each applicant shall set forth his name and address, and shall identify all persons who have an interest of 10% or greater in the organization or company seeking to erect such billboard. All applications shall be accompanied by a sketch and elevation depicting the sign in detail and a site plan showing its proposed installation on the

property to be utilized. The fee for such application shall be in the sum of \$250 payable to the Borough of Wanaque.

G. Political signs.

- (1) No political sign shall be displayed within the Borough of Wanaque unless in compliance herewith.
- (2) Any person, political party, or organization wishing to erect or display political signs must make application therefor with the Wanaque Borough Clerk and provide the following:
  - (a) The name and address of the person, political party, or organization making application.
  - (b) A deposit in the amount of \$200 made payable to the Borough of Wanaque, which money shall be held by the Borough pending compliance with the terms and provisions hereof.
- (3) No person, political party, or organization shall erect more than five four-foot by eight-foot signs per candidate, party or platform issue. No signs of greater dimension than these shall be permitted. This shall not prohibit, however, such signs as may be displayed on an existing or previously approved billboard.
- (4) All other political signs shall be allowed.
- (5) No political signs shall be displayed on private property without the consent of the owner or lessor thereof.
- (6) No political signs shall be displayed on any property owned or leased by the Borough of Wanaque or by any other governmental agency.
- (7) No sign shall be erected or displayed in such a manner so as to obscure traffic sight lines or so as to impede or impair vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- (8) No sign shall be erected with flashing illumination or be illuminated in any manner so as to create a nuisance, shine on neighboring residences or structures, or create a driving or pedestrian hazard.
- (9) All signs provided for hereunder shall be removed within 14 days after the election for which they were posted. In the event that such signs are not so removed by the person, political party, or organization making application therefor,

the deposit of \$200 shall be forfeited to the Borough of Wanaque to defray the expenses of such removal by municipal employees.

- (10) No person, political party or organization shall, without authorization, tamper with, destroy, deface, remove or knock down any political signs erected hereunder.
- (11) Any person, political party or organization violating the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 and/or by imprisonment for a term not to exceed 90 days and/or by a term of community service not to exceed 90 days.

#### H. Maintenance of signs.

- (1) Signs erected in the Borough of Wanaque shall be maintained by the owner or operator of such establishments and/or the owner or lessor of the property so that such signs shall remain in good repair, substantially as when originally erected.
- (2) The Building Inspector or his duly authorized representative is authorized and empowered to notify the owner or operator of a business establishment and/or the property owner or lessee when a sign, because of wear and tear over a period of time, lack of maintenance or otherwise, has fallen into such state of disrepair that it constitutes a safety hazard or an eyesore. Notice shall be by certified mail to said owner, operator, property owner, or lessee, at the last known address. Repairs shall be made within 10 days after date of such notice. Where a sign is not capable of repair or it has been detached from its original mounting, or abandoned, the Building Inspector or his duly authorized representative shall notify the owner, operator, or lessor of the business establishment or property owner or lessor and direct removal of such sign. Notice shall be by certified mail to the owner, operator, property owner or lessor at the last known address. Said sign shall be removed within 10 days after the date of such notice.
- (3) Violations or penalties. The owner or operator of a business establishment, or a property owner or lessee, who fails to repair or remove a sign within the time prescribed by notice given pursuant to this section shall be liable to a fine, upon conviction, not exceeding the sum of \$500 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 90 days or a period of community

service not exceeding 90 days, or both. A separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues.