

**ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF
THE CITY OF RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI AMENDING THE
SIGN REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF RIDGELAND,
MISSISSIPPI ADOPTED ON FEBRUARY 17, 2009**

WHEREAS, the City of Ridgeland, Mississippi acting by and through the Mayor and Board of Aldermen did on February 17, 2009 adopt an ordinance setting forth the sign regulations for the City of Ridgeland, Mississippi which regulations have been amended from time to time; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen having been advised that certain portions of the Sign Ordinance may violate the *United States Constitution* have determined that it would be in the best interest of the City and provide for more efficient government if those portions of the Ordinance are amended or added.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ridgeland, Mississippi that the Ordinance of February 17, 2009, as amended, setting forth the sign regulations of the City of Ridgeland, Mississippi shall be amended as follows:

SECTION 1

Section II. Definitions. Political Sign is hereby amended to read as follows:

Political Sign: A sign erected to publish the name of a candidate or to enlist votes in any official public election or to express any other constitutionally protected non-commercial speech.

SECTION 2

Section III – General Sign Requirements for all Districts. is amended to add Section L. Political Signs. which will read as follows:

L. Political Signs

Political signs shall be the least restricted signage within the City of Ridgeland. At a minimum, political signs may be placed anywhere any other sign is permitted and shall be entitled to the largest size or dimensions of any sign permitted at a particular location. Political signs shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. Placement of a political sign on vacant land shall require the permission of the owner in advance of such placement. Evidence of permission shall be produced upon request of the City of Ridgeland or its representative.
2. In non-residential areas dimensions and location of political signs shall be in conformity with Sections III.B and III.C of this ordinance.

3. Neither permit nor fee shall be required for any political sign.
4. No political sign shall be placed in violation of Section X.A.4 of this Ordinance.
5. The City of Ridgeland is neutral on issues involving the content of constitutionally protected free speech. It is recognized that on issues of constitutionally protected free speech there may be occasions when parties with diverse interests will seek to use the city to stifle such speech. In order to minimize this risk, no action on the complaint of a private party shall be acted upon without the filing of a written and signed complaint. The Community Development Department may prescribe a standard complaint form.

SECTION 3

That Section VIII.A – Exempt Signs. 10. Political Signs shall be amended to read as follows:

10. Political signs located on occupied residential property designed to publish the name of a candidate or to enlist votes in any official public election or to express any other constitutionally protected non-commercial speech or views of the occupant.

SECTION 4

The remainder of the Ordinance establishing Sign Regulations for the City of Ridgeland, Mississippi shall remain unaffected.

SECTION 5

This Ordinance having been unanimously adopted shall be in force and effective immediately.

ORDAINED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ridgeland, Madison County, Mississippi at its regular meeting held on the 3rd day of May, 2011.

MOTION made to adopt the foregoing Ordinance was made by Alderman Wesley Hamlin and SECONDED by Alderman Brian Ramsey and the foregoing having first been reduced to writing, was submitted to a Roll Call Vote, the result was as follows:

Alderman Ken Heard (Ward 1) voted:	AYE
Alderman Chuck Gautier (Ward 2) voted:	ABSENT
Alderman Kevin Holder (Ward 3) voted:	AYE
Alderman Brian Ramsey (Ward 4) voted:	AYE
Alderman Scott Jones (Ward 5) voted:	AYE
Alderman Wesley Hamlin (Ward 6) voted:	AYE
Alderman Gerald Steen (At large) voted:	AYE

Whereupon, the Mayor declared the Ordinance carried and the Ordinance adopted.

The foregoing Ordinance is approved this the 3rd day of May, 2011.

CITY OF/RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI

BY: 

GENE F. MCGEE, MAYOR

ATTEST:


DAVID OVERBY, CITY CLERK


SIGN-AMD-POLITICAL SIGNS-ORD
5/2/2011-MMH