



City of Bainbridge Island
Planning & Community Development
Building Division
280 Madison Avenue N
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
206-842-2552 fax 206-780-0955

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT POLICY
POLITICAL SIGNS – EXEMPTION FROM BUILDING PERMIT**

APPROVED BY: Building Official

Revised Date:
Effective Date: 10-23-2013

Prepared by: James R. Weaver

Question:

Do political signs need a building permit?

Code Section(s):

BIMC SECTION 15.08.095 The following signs shall not require a permit:...

N. Political signs in accordance with BIMC 15.08.095;

Issue:

The means exemption for political signs is silent and unclear regarding political signs located on private property. Historical application of this section of code has defacto exempted all political signs, both on private property and within a public right-of-way. This policy is meant to clarify that exemption for use by staff and the public.

Additional Information:

All political signs located on private property must be in accordance with the sections of BIMC 15.08.095 to be considered exempt from a sign permit. The absence of a requirement within BIMC for a sign permit to be required for political signs and the subsequent temporary nature of the signs supports the consistency in application and ruling regarding the exemptions of these signs, regardless of location on either public right of way or upon a private parcel.

Determination:

The City of Bainbridge Island accepts the exemption of political signs regardless of location, if those signs are in accordance with the applicable sections of BIMC 15.08.095.

James R. Weaver,
City Building Official