ORDINANCE NO. 2025-009

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 070-110 OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE PERTAINING TO NONCOMMERCIAL SIGNAGE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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WHEREAS, the Town Council recognizes the importance of freedom of speech and freedom of expression found in election signage; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches (the "Town") recognizes that the location and maintenance of election signage affects the public health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the Town, and that in order to preserve and to enhance the Town as a desirable community in which to live, a pleasing and visually attractive environment is of utmost importance; and

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WHEREAS, the Town recognizes that the regulation of election signage within the Town is a means by which the aesthetics and character of the Town may be maintained. and that the uncontrolled and unlimited proliferation of election signage would degrade the attractiveness of the rural lifestyle of the Town; and

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WHEREAS, the Town has deemed it necessary to clarify and to simplify existing election signage regulations and to provide additional revisions necessary to ensure the delicate balancing of First Amendment and free speech principles while achieving the Town's goals of creating a healthy, safe, and attractive environment that does not contain excessive clutter and visual distractions throughout the Town; and

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WHEREAS, the Town Council finds the amendment furthers the goals, objectives and policies of the Town's Code of Ordinances, and that it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of its residents.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE **TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA:**

Key: Underlined text is added and stricken text is deleted.

1 2 3	Section 1: Ratification. That the foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Ordinance.			
4 5	<u>Section 2:</u> Text Amendment and Deletion. Section 070-110 of the Unified Land Development Code entitled, "Temporary signs" is hereby amended as follows:			
6	* * *			
7	Sec. 070-110. – Temporary signs			
8	* * *			
9	(L) Election signs and opinion/free expression signs.			
10	(1) Election signs.			
11	* * *			
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	(e) Duration. Election signs may be placed on a parcel <u>no earlier than ninety (90) days prior to the town's general election anytime after the scheduled primary prior to the town's general election.</u> In the event of a town special election, election signs may be placed on a parcel any time after the candidate qualification period. All election signs shall be removed within ten (10) calendar days following the election that pertains to the candidate or the issue that is the subject of the election sign. All signs shall be discarded in a proper manner so as to prevent litter and trash from accumulating within the town.			
21	* * *			
22 23 24	Section 3: Conflict. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances, Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.			
25 26 27	Section 4: Severability. If any word, phrase, clause, sentence or section of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held unconstitutional or invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect the validity of any remaining portions of this Ordinance.			

Section 5: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED ON FIRST READING this <u>26th</u> day of <u>June</u>, <u>2025</u> on a motion made by <u>Council Member Jablonski</u> seconded by <u>Vice Mayor Hartmann</u>.

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1	PASSED AND ADOPTED ON SEC	COND READING this <u>14th</u>	_ day of <u>August</u>
2	2025, on a motion made by \underline{q}_{m}	alokonshi	and
3	seconded by VM Hartman	n	
4	•		
	Breitkreuz Hartmann Allbritton Jablonski Kuczenski	Ayes Nays Absent Abstaining	5 0
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7 8 9		Steve Breitkreuz, Mayo	**************************************
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11	Attest:		
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13 14	Leballung		
15	Debra M. Ruesga, CMC, Town Clerk		
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19	Approved as to Form and Correctness:		
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21 22			
23 24	Keith M. Poliakoff, J.D., Town Attorney		

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