

Election Signage  
Policy No. **61-002**  
has been renumbered

Election Signage  
Policy No. **P-49-2013**

*CA Reueg*

**Title:** Election Signage

**Resolution:** 101-2013

**Revised:**

**Special Notes/Cross Reference:**

**Next Review Date:**

**Traffic Bylaw 2004-05; Land Use Bylaw 2004-06**

**POLICY STATEMENT :** The Town of Westlock recognizes the importance of campaigning and the use of signage.

**PURPOSE :** Establish guidelines for installation of election signs within the Town of Westlock.

## **GUIDELINES / PROCEDURES / RESPONSIBILITIES**

**The Candidate is at all times responsible to ensure compliance with Town Bylaws and Policies.**

The Town of Westlock Planning and Development Department is the point of contact for this Policy.

An Election Sign is a temporary sign designed or intended to be displayed in connection with a: federal election or referendum; provincial election, referendum or plebiscite; or local government election. The purpose of the election sign regulations is to create a reasonable balance between communicating for election purposes, reducing sign clutter, and keeping our streets safe.

### **Section 11 – Traffic Control Bylaw**

No Person shall attach any poster, handbill or sign of any type to any traffic control device, tree, or pole in any public place.

Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the Town of Westlock may remove any signage authorized in accordance with this By-Law if it is deemed to interfere with authorized traffic control devices or if it is deemed to restrict visibility at junctions or intersections of roadways, or in any other way creates a potential hazard for pedestrians or vehicles.

### **Section 7.8.11, Signs – Land Use Bylaw**

#### **(3) Signs Not Requiring a Development Permit**

Signs specified in this Subsection (3) are deemed permitted uses and may be erected without a development permit, provided that the permission hereby granted in respect of any such advertisements specified below shall be subject to all other orders, by-laws, and regulations affecting such advertisements:

- (e) Posters relating specifically to a pending election, provided that such posters shall be removed within fourteen (14) days after the election;

(8) General Provisions

(a)

- (ii) No sign shall be allowed which is attached to a fence, pole, tree, or any object in a road or public place.
- (iii) No sign shall be erected in any location which may obstruct free and clear vision of vehicular traffic or where it may interfere with, or be confused with, any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device.

1. Election Signage:

Those installing election signs within the Town of Westlock must follow these guidelines.

- a. For signs located within highway rights-of-way, the maximum sign size will be **1.5 square metres**.
- b. For signs located on private property, the maximum sign size will be **1.0 square metre**.
- c. Election signs are temporary signs and are only permitted from the date the election is called until fourteen days after the election.
- d. Signs must conform to the following
  - Must not imitate the wording or a standard or commonly used highway traffic sign, such as stop, stop ahead or yield.
  - Must not be animated, illuminated, rotating, flashing or have moving lights or other electrical features.
  - Must not have attachments such as balloons, kites, an electronic message centre or inflatable devices.
  - Must not resemble traffic control devices.
  - Must not be placed in such a way as to create a potential hazard to vehicular or pedestrian traffic and must not obstruct the view of any portion of a traffic control device or signal.
  - Are not permitted on centre medians and traffic islands.
  - Must be self supporting and cannot be attached to any Town property such as fences, benches, trees, street light poles, traffic signal poles, fire hydrant.
  - For corner lots, election signs must not be located within 6.0 metres of the corner property lines.

**2. LOCATION GUIDELINES:**

Candidates may place signs on private property only with the consent of the property owner. Candidates are encouraged to obtain the home owner's permission before placing a sign adjacent to their property.

In general, election signs shall be placed as far from the shoulder line as practical, always allowing the travelling public to have an unobstructed view of the roadway.

The following shall be considered when placing election signs:

- a. Election signs shall be placed with a minimum spacing distance of **10 metres** between the same candidate's signs.
- b. Signs must be placed must be placed no closer than **2 metres** from the edge of pavement.
- c. During winter conditions, there is a high probability that signs near the road will be either covered with snow or damaged during snow removal and sanding operations.
- d. No elections signs will be allowed within the median of Highway #44 or Highway #18.
- e. No election signs shall be placed in or within 500 metres of construction zones.
- f. No election signs shall be placed that obstruct a motorist's view of an intersection within the Town limits.

**3. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:**

- a. Those installing election signs must use safety precautions to ensure their safety and prevent driver distraction.
- b. All persons working near the highway shall wear reflective vests and bright clothing.
- c. Election signs shall be installed during daylight hours only.
- d. Vehicles used for transporting election signs must be parked so as to minimize the impact to the travelling public, as far as possible from the travel lanes, and have four-way hazard warning signals operating at all times.

**4. SIGN REMOVAL:**

- a. All election signs **must be removed fourteen (14) days after the election**. The removal shall include the sign panel, supporting structure, stakes, and any tie wiring used to install and support the sign.
- b. Signs that pose a hazard to the public, or safety or operational concerns may be removed without notice or compensation, by the Town of Westlock. Signs will be stored at the Town of Westlock Public Works workshop for seven days.
- c. The Town of Westlock is not responsible for any signs damaged during the removal process.

  
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Mayor Bruce Lennon  
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Town Manager Darrell Garceau