

ELECTION SIGNS ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY		
ORIGIN:	CORPORATE SERVICES	AMENDED:
DATE OF ISSUE:	AUGUST 24, 2022	
APPROVED BY:	ROBERT EARL, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	

PURPOSE

In order to protect public safety and public amenities in the City of Colwood, yet allow a candidate or political organization in a local, provincial, or federal government election campaign to place signs for election purposes, the following policy applies:

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Sign permits are not required.
- Signs must not exceed 3 square meters.
- Signs must not be placed within 100m of any voting place.
- Signs must not be illuminated, animated, rotating, flashing or have moving lights or other electrical features.
- Signs must meet the requirements of the Local Election Campaign Financing Act.
- Election signs for municipal or school trustee elections and by-elections are permitted only within the campaign period as established by Elections BC for local elections. Staff will liaise with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding their Election and Referendum Signs and Posters Policy before the nomination period. Should there be a discrepancy, Colwood’s policy will be revised for consistency.
- Signs must be removed one business day following the election or referendum vote.

GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

Signs are prohibited on:

- Medians and traffic islands, and in planting beds;
- Boulevard trees, or within one (1) metre of a boulevard tree;
- All City of Colwood facilities or structures, parks, and playing fields, including the adjoining boulevard area.

Signs are prohibited on public or private property that:

- Are within one (1) metre of a fire hydrant;
- Obstruct or detract from any traffic control device or signage;
- Obstruct the line of vision at an intersection; or
- Are placed in a manner that may constitute a hazard to pedestrians, cyclists or vehicles.

Robert Earl, Chief Administrative Officer

For the 2022 General Local Election, election signs may be placed from July 18, 2022 and be taken down the day following General Election Day (October 16, 2022).

General Requirements

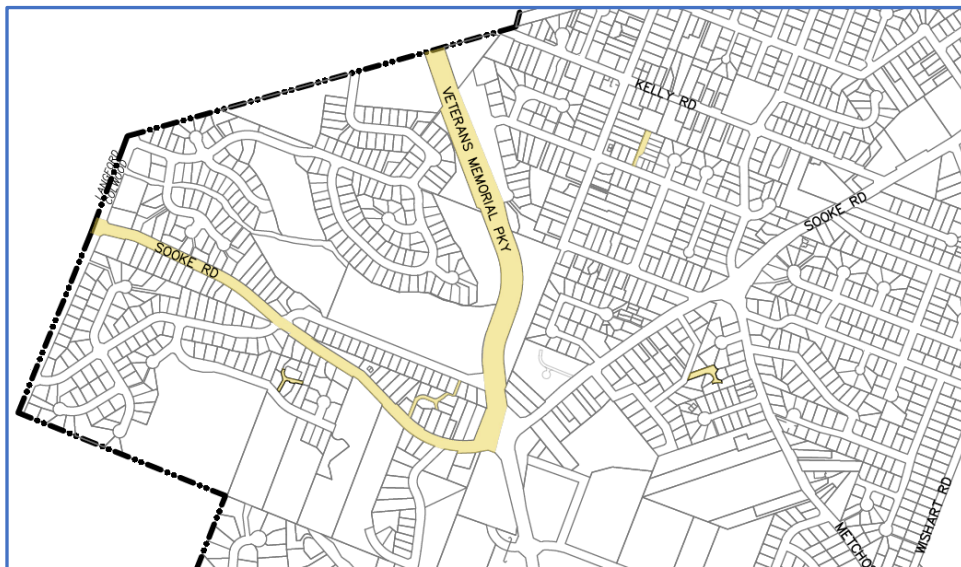
See [Election Signs on Municipal Property Administrative Policy](#).

Provincial Highway Rights of Way

Signs may be placed only during the campaign period (campaign period as defined by Elections BC) and must be removed on the day following the end of the electoral event (October 16, 2022).

See attached [Provincial Government Circular](#) regarding what you need to know about posting signs on Provincial highway rights-of-ways.

The following roads are identified below as Provincial highways within the City of Colwood:



100m Radius of the Voting Location

In accordance with the *Local Government Act*, a person must not do any of the following at or within 100 metres of a building, structure or other place where voting proceedings are being conducted at the time:

- canvass or solicit votes or otherwise attempt to influence how an elector votes;
- display, distribute, post or openly leave a representation of a ballot marked for a particular result in the voting;
- post, display or distribute election advertising, or
- any material that identifies a candidate or elector organization, unless this is done with the authorization of the chief election officer;
- carry, wear or supply a flag, badge or other thing indicating that the person using it is a supporter of a particular candidate, elector organization or result in the voting.

Campaigning may not take place within 100m radius of the voting location (Colwood City Hall – 3300 Wishart Road) during the advance polls, October 5 and 12, 2022 or General Voting Day, October 15, 2022.

Campaign information displayed within the 100m radius will be removed by City staff and a fee for their return or a fine may be charged.



Technical Circular T-03/18

Date: September 7, 2018

To: All HQ Directors: Operations, Planning & Major Projects
All Regional Directors
All Engineering Directors
All Senior Traffic Engineers
All District Managers Transportation
All Project Managers
Manager, Provincial Sign Program
All MoT Highway Maintenance Contractors

Subject: Election and Referendum Signs and Posters Policy

Purpose:

This Technical Circular supersedes T-02/18 regarding election and referendum signing procedures found within the Policy Manual for Supplemental Signs.

Background:

An election sign for Federal and Provincial elections is a sign, poster or other notice posted during the period between the issue of a writ of election and general voting day, by a political candidate, political party, or election advertising sponsor registered with Elections BC or Elections Canada.

An election sign for general local elections (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/governance-powers/general-local-elections>), including municipality, regional district, specified parks board, local community commission, boards of education or the Islands Trust, is a sign, poster or other notice posted by a registered political party, candidate or election advertising sponsor. Signs may be placed only during the campaign period (campaign period as defined by Election BC) and must be removed on the day following the end of the electoral event.

A referendum sign for Federal, Provincial or Municipal referenda is a sign, poster or other notice posted during the period between the issue of a writ or order of referendum and the polling day for the referendum, by a referendum proponent, opponent, or referendum advertising sponsor registered with a Municipality, Election BC (<https://elections.bc.ca/>) or Elections Canada (<http://www.elections.ca/home.aspx>).

A recall or initiative sign for a Provincial recall petition, initiative petition or initiative vote is a sign, poster or other notice posted between the beginning of a recall petition period, initiative petition period or initiative vote period and the end of the respective period as described in the Recall and Initiative Act, by a proponent, opponent, authorized participant, or a recall or initiative advertising sponsor registered with Elections BC.

Policy:

The Ministry conditionally allows signs in relation to election, referendum, initiative vote, initiative petition and recall petition (henceforth collectively referred to as “election signs”) on highway rights-of-way, with the exception of any major highway structures and highways specified in the policy. Only individuals and groups registered in accordance with this policy may post signs on highway rights-of-way.

Procedures:

Election signs must:

- Only be installed by an individual or organization that is registered with a Municipality, Elections BC or Elections Canada to sponsor advertising, such as a political candidate, political party, registered advertising sponsor, a proponent or opponent, or an authorized participant.
- Identify the owner of the sign, and a BC telephone number or BC mailing address at which the owner may be contacted.
- Only be installed during the campaign period as established by Elections BC for local elections, or by the drop/issue of a writ for federal/provincial government elections and must be removed on the day following the end of the electoral event.
- Be further from the road than standard traffic signs.

Election signs must not:

- Obstruct, simulate or be attached to any traffic control device (e.g. signs, sign posts or traffic signal poles),
- In any way pose a traffic hazard,
- Be placed on bridges, overpasses, tunnels or other highway structures,
- Belong to unregistered individuals or groups (i.e., any group or individual that is not a political candidate, political party, or other authorized participant registered with Elections BC, Elections Canada, or a Municipality as required).

PROHIBITIONS

Election signs may not be placed on:

- Highways within Provincial Parks,
- Highway 1, from Horseshoe Bay to Hope;
- Highway 5, from Hope to Kamloops;
- Highway 19, from Duke Point Ferry Terminal to Trans-Canada Highway;
- Highway 19 – Nanaimo Parkway, from Trans-Canada Highway to Island Highway;
- Highway 19, Parksville to Campbell River;
- Highway 91 and 91A;
- Highway 99, from the US border to Horseshoe Bay
- Highway 17, from Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal to Highways 1/15
- Highway 17A, from Highway 17 to Highway 99; and
- Highway 97C, from Aspen Grove to Peachland

REMOVAL OF SIGNS

Signs in contravention of this policy will be removed from the highway right-of-way by the ministry. After advising the Regional Director of the number and location of the offending sign(s) and the name of the sign owner, if identified, the District Transportation Manager will contact the owner to discuss the reasons for removal and potential proper placement.


Signs not removed by the owners on the next working day following the election, referendum, initiative vote, initiative petition or recall petition will be removed by maintenance contractors. Maintenance contractors will invoice the identified owner for the cost of removal.

LEGISLATION

This policy is supported by the Motor Vehicle Act, Sec. 214 and the Transportation Act, Sec. 62.

Contact:

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