



POLICY

Effective Date: March 23, 2009

Amended: October 27, 2014

Amended: November 23, 2015

Amended: October 22, 2018

Amended: October 28, 2019

Amended: October 28, 2024

POLICY TITLE: Election Signs

POLICY NUMBER: 61-009

POLICY PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for the regulation of election signs placed on public lands within the Town of Whitecourt boundaries.

POLICY:

Definitions

Election Period

- a) For a federal election or by-election as the period starting from the issuance of the writ and ending after the close of polls;
- b) For a provincial election or by-election as the period starting from the issuance of the writ and ending after the close of polls;
- c) For a municipal election or by-election or school board election or by-election as the period starting from the close of nominations and ending after the close of polls.

Election Sign

Any sign (inscribed board, bill, placard, poster, banner, flag or device) used to promote a candidate or party during an election or by-election.

1. A development permit is not required for election signs subject to the following provisions:
 - a) such signs do not obstruct or impair vision or traffic;
 - b) such signs are not attached to municipal infrastructure;
 - c) such signs are securely erected; and
 - d) such signs are free standing (not be affixed to trees, traffic control devices, etc.).
2. No sign shall be erected before the election period.



3. Election signs must be removed within 72 hours of the election day.
4. During the election period no person may put election signs within a municipal building or affix them to a municipal building or structure (ex. Whitecourt Transit bus shelter). Election signs will not be allowed on the exterior grounds and public land adjacent to municipally-owned buildings.
5. Further to the requirements listed in Clause 1, signs will be allowed on the following vacant municipal lands:
 - a) road right-of-ways;
 - b) municipal reserve lots;
 - c) public utility lots;
 - d) vacant land the municipality is holding for resale;
 - e) environmental reserve lands.
6. Signs will not be allowed:
 - e) At cemeteries;
 - f) At parks and playgrounds; and
 - g) On sidewalks and walking trails.
7. Signs may be taken down temporarily to allow Town staff to complete routine maintenance (i.e. grass cutting).
8. Anyone placing a sign on private property must have the permission of the property owner.
9. Signs on provincial highway rights-of-way, (i.e. Highways 43 and 32), are regulated through provincial legislation and practice. These are not dealt with by the Town of Whitecourt.
10. No sign shall be placed in a manner designed to impair the effectiveness of other election signs. If there is a dispute regarding sign placement, the sign that was first erected shall be allowed to remain. If the dispute is not resolvable between the concerned parties, any and all signs may be removed by the landowner at their sole discretion.
11. Contravention of this policy may result in the immediate removal of the sign without notice or compensation to the owner or the candidate. A Peace Officer, or other Town staff member authorized by the Chief Administrative Officer, may remove any sign contravening this policy.
12. The Town may seek to recover costs incurred for the removal of signs.