

TOWN OF GIBBONS - ALBERTA

TITLE: ELECTION SIGNAGE

AUTHORITY: ADMINISTRATION

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 9, 2007

POLICY NO.: L1-07

APPROVAL: Council

SUPERSEDES:

POLICY STATEMENT:

To establish a written policy, as approved by Council, regarding election signage guidelines.

OBJECTIVE:

The Town of Gibbons wishes to ensure that election signs are placed in a manner that regards the amenities of existing developments, the respect of other candidates and the safety of the traveling public.

GUIDELINES AND POLICY PROCEDURES:

1. Definitions

“Election Sign” means any sign used to promote a candidate or party during a municipal, provincial, or federal election, or any election held pursuant to the local Authorities Election Act.

2. Municipal Guidelines

- a) Election signs may be placed on private or public property (with the approval of the owner/public authority) provided that they shall not obstruct the view of or be liable to be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device or otherwise pose a potential hazard to traffic.
- b) Election signs must be placed in a manner so as to not obstruct signs placed by other candidates.
- c) Candidates shall remove their election signs from public property within 48 hours after the close of the voting stations on Election Day and ensure that the site is cleaned up and that the holes are filled with a mixture of topsoil and grass seed. If a candidate fails to remove his or her election signs, the Town of Gibbons may remove them and the candidate may be liable for the cost of the removal.
- d) When an election sign interferes with work being carried out by the Town work crews or contractors doing work on behalf of the Town, the crews may remove such signs. The Town will store these signs at the operations yard until 48 hours after the close of voting stations on Election Day. After this period, the Town will dispose of any signs which have not been picked up by the candidates.
- e) An election sign shall not exceed 3.0 square meters.
- f) Election signs shall not be permitted at any time inside or on the outside of a building where an election or advance vote is taking place.
- g) Election signs shall not be permitted within 500 meters of any building being used for a voting station.
- h) Election signs must not be attached to trees, utility poles or any municipal structures.

3. Provincial Highway Guidelines

- a) The maximum size allowable for signs located within highway right-of-ways is one and a half square meters. There is no size restrictions for signs located on private property.
- b) Election signs are temporary signs and are only permitted from the date the election is called until three days after the election.
- c) Signs of the following types will not be allowed:
  - Signs that display an intermittent flashing, rotating or moving light
  - Signs that are floodlit which could cause interference to the motoring public
  - Signs that have any moving or rotating parts
  - Signs that imitate the wording of a standard or commonly used highway traffic sign, such as stop, stop ahead or yield
  - Signs that imitate or resemble the visual appearance of a traffic control device (e.g. stop sign)

- d) In general, election signs shall be placed as far from the shoulder line as practical, always allowing the traveling public to have an unobstructed view of the roadway.
- e) The following shall be considered when placing election signs:
- Signs must be placed no closer than two meters from the edge of pavement (or, in the case of gravel roads, no closer than two meters from the shoulder of the road).
  - During winter conditions, there is a high probability that signs less than six meters from the road will be either covered with snow or damaged during snow removal and sanding operations.
  - No election signs will be allowed within the median of a divided provincial highway.
  - No election signs shall be mounted on highway signs or sign posts. These signs will be removed by the Province.
  - No election sign shall be placed in or within 500 meters of construction zones.
  - No election sign shall be placed that obstruct a motorist's view of an intersection in an urban area or within 250 meters of an intersection in a rural area.
  - Those installing election signs must use safety precautions to ensure their safety and prevent driver distraction.
  - All persons working near the highway shall wear reflective vests and bright clothing.
  - Election signs shall be installed during daylight hours only.
  - Vehicles used for transporting election signs must be parked so as to minimize the impact to the traveling public (preferably on an approach), as far as possible from the travel lane, and have four-way hazard warning signals operating at all times.
  - Removal of election signs shall include the sign panel, supporting structure and any wiring used to install and support the sign.

If a sign is in contravention of these provincial highway guidelines, a peace officer or a person authorized by the road authority may, without notice or compensation, remove the sign and may enter onto privately owned land to do so.

PURPOSE:

DEFINITIONS: