



Election Sign Bylaw

Bylaw 1385
Effective June 13, 2022

CASTLEGAR

Election Sign Bylaw

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A bylaw to regulate the placement of signs related to an election or assent voting conducted by any level of government.

WHEREAS Council is authorized pursuant to section 8(4) and section 65 of the *Community Charter*, and section 526 of the *Local Government Act*, to regulate and impose requirements in relation to signs and other advertising within the Municipality;

AND WHEREAS the City wishes to allow the use of election signs for political advertisement while preventing visual unsightliness and ensuring public safety;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Castlegar, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. CITATION

This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Election Sign Bylaw No. 1385".

2. DEFINITIONS

"**Boulevard**" means that portion of a Highway area between the curb lines or the lateral lines or the shoulder of a roadway and the adjacent property line.

"**Candidate**" means a person:

- a. who is a candidate for election pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, *the School Act (BC)*, *the Election Act (BC)*, *Canada Election Act*, or
- b. represented as a candidate on an election sign within the City of Castlegar.

"**Candidate Agent**" means a person who is appointed by a candidate as a candidate agent for the purposes of the *Local Government Act*, *the School Act (BC)*, *the Election Act (BC)*, or *Canada Election Act*.

"**City**" means the City of Castlegar.

"**Election Sign**" includes any sign primarily intended to promote the activities or the cause of any political group or entity or to encourage or discourage any Person to vote in any manner at an election or public assent voting, whether Federal, Provincial, Municipal, or other.

"**General Voting Day**" means "polling day" under the *Canada Elections Act*, or "General Voting Day" under the *Local Government Act*, *School Act (BC)*, or *Election Act (BC)*, whichever is applicable.

"**Median or Traffic Island**" means an area designated for the segregation of lanes of traffic on a roadway, designated either by lines or by landscaping.

"**Park**" means any outdoor land specifically for passive or active recreation including tot-lots, playgrounds, walkways, trails, environmentally significant areas, forest reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, greenbelts, conservation areas, allotment gardens, buffers, nature and cultural interpretation areas, and similar land uses. It includes all landscaping, facilities, sports fields, accesses, trails, buildings, and structures consistent with the general purpose of parkland.

"**Person**" means any individual, association, company, corporation, firm, organization, or partnership singular or plural, of any kind.

"**Placement**" means to place, erect, affix, or attach.

"**Sign**" means any item, device, fixture, poster, or visual representation that uses colour, form, graphic, illumination, symbol, or writing to advertise, announce the purpose of, or identify the purpose of a person or entity, or to communicate information of any kind to the public.

"**Structure**" means a bridge, overpass, guardrail, retaining wall, fence, concrete barrier, fire hydrant, street light pole, utility pole and crosswalk pole.

"**Voting days**" means advance polling days and general voting day under the City of Castlegar *Local Government Election and Assent Voting Bylaw, Local Government Act, School Act (BC) or Election Act (BC), Canada Election Act, whichever is applicable.*

3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- a. Sign permits are not required.
- b. On advance polling days and general voting day NO ELECTION SIGNS may be posted within 100 metres of an active polling station.
- c. Signs must meet the requirements of the *Local Election Campaign Financing Act*.
- d. Election signs for the purposes of a local government or school district election, by-election or referenda are permitted only within the municipal election period.
- e. Election signs for the purposes of a federal or provincial election are permitted only within the respective election period.
- f. Signs must be removed within four days after the election or assent voting vote.

4. SIGNS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

- a. 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 facilities or structures, parks, and playing/sports fields, including the adjoining boulevard area.
- b. 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.
 - Are placed in a manner that may constitute a hazard to pedestrians, cyclists or vehicles.

5. SIGNS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Elections signs may not be placed on private property without the approval of the property owner or occupant, or the strata corporation in the case of a parcel containing strata lots.

6. GENERAL ENFORCEMENT

- a. Signs installed in prohibited areas will be removed by City staff if not removed or relocated within 24 hours notice to the applicable candidate or campaign office.
- b. Where there are immediate safety concerns or damage to municipal property, City staff will immediately remove the signs and then contact the candidate or campaign office.
- c. The City will assume no responsibility for any damage to election signs on municipal property or where they are removed by city staff in prohibited locations.

7. CANDIDATE RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Persons installing signs on municipal property must be aware of the risk of damage to underground utilities:
 - If the sign requires subsurface disturbance a call must be made by the candidate or their agent to the City at least 48 hours in advance of the installation to confirm that the location chosen is safe.
 - Candidates or their agents are responsible for submitting BC One Calls if necessary to determine underground utilities.
- b. Any damage to underground utilities or services as a result of election signs being placed on public and municipal property is the responsibility of the candidates and their agents.
- c. Candidates and their agents are liable for any damage done to property in placement of election signs on municipal property.
- d. Candidates and their agents should reference applicable Provincial and Federal statutes and regulations for additional requirements.

READ A FIRST TIME this 16th day of May, 2022.

READ A SECOND TIME this 16th day of May, 2022

READ A THIRD TIME this 16th day of May, 2022

ADOPTED this 13th day of June, 2022



 Mayor



 Director of Corporate Services