

Proposed C-1281-23 Election Sign Bylaw

**Governance and Priorities Committee
April 15, 2024**

Background

- Currently, election signage within the City of Spruce Grove is mandated through an Election Sign Acknowledgement form.
- A standalone Election Sign Bylaw would help control and enforce the placement of election signs.
- The proposed bylaw establishes key components of election signs specific to general regulations, placement, size and number of election signs.
- An amendment to the Land Use Bylaw will be required to remove reference to election signs.
- Does not infringe on the candidates right to freedom of expression.
- Maturing the City's governance processes.

Feedback - January 15, 2024

Governance and Priorities Committee

1. *Change minimum separation distance in medians between same candidate's election signs from 15 m to 30 m.*

Proposed amendment:

Section 5.8 permits election signs in a median (exception of Highway 16A or McLeod Avenue between King Street and Calahoo Road) with a spacing distance of 30 m between the same candidates election signs

This spacing does not apply to Election Signs placed in the opposing boulevards along a highway; that spacing remains at 15 m.

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- 2. Change the permitted election sign height from the ground to the top of the election sign from 6.5 feet to 8 feet based on motion passed by GPC.*

Proposed amendment:

Section 5.3 provides the maximum allowable height of an election sign placed on the ground shall be 2.43 m (8 ft) measured from the ground to the top of the sign.

Section 3.5 ensures candidates securely affix their election signs to the ground to remain upright at all times.

Feedback - January 15, 2024

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- 3. Placement of election signs at voting stations on advance vote and election days.*

Proposed amendment:

Section 5.9 provides election signs shall not be located within 15 m (49.2 ft) of the property line of the parcel of land the Voting Station is located on during an advance vote or on election day.

Section 5.10 provides election signs shall not be affixed to vehicle within 15 m (49.2 ft) of a Voting Station property line during an advance vote or on election day.

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4. Placement of election signs on street frontage of municipal property.

Proposed amendment:

Section 6.1(j) prohibits election signs upon or within any City-owned facility including the site upon which the facility is situated.

Section 6.1(k) prohibits election signs on any fences or street furnishings owned by the City

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5. *Election signs on private property and when election signs can be erected.*

Proposed amendment:

Section 4.1 is specific to election signage on public property as of 12:01 a.m. on nomination day.

Section 4.2 allows for election signs on private property to be erected by or on behalf of a candidate 60 days prior to Election day.

Section 5.5 provides for election signs to be placed on the external side of private buildings.

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6. *Erecting election sign frames prior to the legislated allowance.*

Proposed amendment:

Section 2.6, election sign definition, has been enhanced by adding “including all portions such as the device, fixture, structure, legs and frame”.

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7. *Use of illuminated / megatron signs as an election sign vs advertising.*

Proposed amendment:

Section 3.2 provides the Election Sign Bylaw applies to election signs as defined in Section 2.7 and erected on public property as of 12:01 a.m. on nomination day or private property 60 days prior to Election day.

Election signs that do not meet the definition and are outside the time period, would fall to the City's Land Use Bylaw or other applicable municipal bylaws regarding signage

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8. *Summary of size regulations of an election sign.*

Proposed amendment:

Schedule A was prepared which summarizes the election sign size regulations.

Amendment to Land Use Bylaw

- The Land Use Bylaw currently references the timing of election signage and removal.
 - SECTION 96 SIGNS NOT REQUIRING A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT
 - (2) Election candidate Signs displayed by or on behalf of a candidate participating in any federal, provincial or municipal election, provided such signs are displayed no earlier than 12:01 am on a nomination day/election writ day, and removed within 5 calendar days after the election.
- Proposed Election Sign Bylaw speaks to the timing under s.4.
- Amendment to the LUB will be brought forward to Council for first reading and subsequent public hearing, second and third reading

Questions and Comments?