

SUBJECT: ELECTION SIGNS ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY	
DATE OF ISSUE: JANUARY 4, 2000	ORIGIN: LEGISLATIVE DIVISION
AMENDED: SEPTEMBER 19, 2005	
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008	
AUGUST 22, 2014	
APRIL 14, 2017	
NOVEMBER 23, 2020	

In order to protect public safety and public amenities in the District of Saanich, 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 1.22 metres by 1.22 metres (4 feet by 4 feet)
- Signs must not be visible from 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 (29 days before general voting day). 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, Saanich's policy will be revised for consistency.
- Election signs for provincial or federal elections or by-elections are permitted only within the respective election period, beginning from the time the writ of election is issued.
- Election signs for the purposes of a federal, provincial, local government or school district referendum are permitted beginning twenty-nine (29) days before the date of the referendum vote.
- 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 Saanich 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.

GENERAL ENFORCEMENT

- Candidates must supply the Legislative Division with their campaign election sign contact information should a complaint be received. Legislative Division staff will post the supplied contact information on the District's election website page.
- Signs installed in prohibited areas will be removed by Saanich staff if not removed or relocated within 24 hours' notice to the applicable candidate or campaign office.
- Where there are immediate safety concerns or damage to municipal property, Saanich staff will immediately remove the signs and then contact the candidate or campaign office.
- Saanich will assume no responsibility for any damage to election signs where they are removed by Saanich staff in prohibited locations.

ADDITIONAL CANDIDATE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Persons installing signs on municipal property must be aware of the risk of damage to underground utilities. A call must be made by the candidate or their agent to **1-800-474-6886** at least 48 hours in advance of the installation in order to confirm that the location chosen is safe. Any damage to underground utilities or services as a result of election signs being placed on municipal property is the responsibility of the candidates and their agents.
- Candidates and their agents are liable for any damage done to Saanich property in placement of election signs on municipal property.
- Candidates and their agents should also reference applicable Provincial and Federal statutes and regulations for additional restrictions or requirements.