



Election Sign Procedures

All City of Pickering Municipal Election candidates are requested to review the regulations governing the placement of election signage outlined below and to ensure that any signage erected on their behalf complies with the provisions of the applicable Sign By-laws.

“Election Signs” are signs which promote the election of a candidate or which are intended to influence individuals to vote for or against any candidate or any question submitted to the electors. Election Signs include material such as buttons, t-shirts, hats, pens and signs or images which are painted or otherwise exhibited on any surface, including on a vehicle.

There are two different by-laws in effect which apply to Election Signs in the City of Pickering.

City of Pickering Sign By-law

The City of Pickering’s Sign By-law 6999/09 contains the following requirements:

- a) No Election Sign shall exceed 1.5 m² in area
- b) Election Signs must be located entirely on private property, or on a Regional road in compliance with the Region of Durham Sign By-law
- c) Election Signs cannot be erected until 25 days in advance of election day
- d) Election Signs must be removed within 3 days of election day

Election Signs may only be placed on private property, with the consent of the property owner. The front property line will be behind any utilities, cable boxes, hydrants, etc. Water shut-offs in driveways are also a good indicator of where the property line starts. In most cases, properties with a sidewalk in front have a front property line inset 0.6 m (2 feet) from the sidewalk. Properties without a sidewalk have a municipal boulevard of approximately 5.0 m (16 feet) in width, so signage should be placed behind this.

Municipal Election Signs may only be erected within the candidate’s Ward boundary. Where a road serves as a boundary between Wards, candidates may only place signs on private property on the side of the road within their Ward boundary. On municipal boundary roads, signs may only be placed on private property on the side of the road within the City of Pickering.

Enforcement of Election Signs

City of Pickering Municipal Law Enforcement Officers will remove any Election Signs which pose a sightline or safety issue, as well as Election Signs on City property, municipal boulevards or City road allowances. On Election Day, all election signage regulations will be strictly enforced by City staff. All Election Signs removed by City of Pickering Municipal Law Enforcement Services will be subject to a retrieval fee of \$25.00 per sign.

Region of Durham Sign By-law

The Region of Durham's Sign By-law #22-2014, permits the erection of Election Signs on regional road allowances. Regional roads include Altona Road, Whites Road, Liverpool Road, Brock Road, Bayly Street, Taunton Road, Highway 2, Finch Avenue, Westney Road north of the 5th Concession and south of the 7th Concession, and Durham Road 5 (Central St. Claremont/9th Concession).

The Region of Durham's Sign By-law #22-2014, requires the following:

- a) No person shall erect a sign on a median, traffic island or on any official sign erected and maintained by the Region;
- b) No sign shall be located closer than 1.0 metre from the curb, on the shoulder of a Regional Road or within 2.0 metres of the traveled portion of the Roadway;
- c) No sign shall exceed a height of 1.2 metres or be greater than .8 metres in width;
- d) No sign shall be erected on a sidewalk;
- e) No sign shall exceed a height of 0.6 metres within 20 metres any intersecting Highway, private road, driveway or Regional Road;
- f) Signs shall be removed from Regional Roads within 48 hours of Election Day.

Any person placing a sign on a Regional road must have on their person at the time that the sign is being placed a copy of Schedule "A" to By-law #22-2014, which provides a list of applicable criteria, and all such persons must be familiar with the criteria.

If an Election Sign poses an immediate public safety concern, Regional Works Department staff will remove the sign and store it in a secure facility.

If the sign does not pose an immediate public safety risk but contravenes the By-law requirements, Regional Works Department staff will contact the candidate and request that the candidate remove the sign(s) within the 24-hour compliance period. If the sign has not been removed within the compliance period, Regional Works Department staff will remove the sign and store it in a secure facility.

Signs that have been removed by the Regional Works Department staff and stored for more than 15 days may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by the Region without notice and without compensation.

The charge for removal of a sign by the Region of Durham will be \$50.00 and a charge of \$2.00 per day for storage of the sign. Charges incurred by the candidate are payable to the Region within 30 days of receipt of notice of same.

Election signs on Regional roads will be enforced by Region of Durham staff. Please contact the Regional Works Department – Traffic Engineering and Operations Division for any matters pertaining to election signs on Regional Roads at 1.866.786.8116.

Please keep in mind that signs erected in contravention of either by-law may be removed without notice. Fees for return of the signs are as above, or charges may be laid for contraventions of by-law requirements.

Date for erecting Municipal Election Signs within the City of Pickering

December 31, 2015

Date for Municipal Election Signs to be removed from Regional roads within the City of Pickering

January 27, 2016

Date for Municipal Election Signs to be removed from private property within the City of Pickering

January 28, 2016

Voting Locations

Consistent with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* Election Signs are not permitted at or in the vicinity of Voting Locations on any voting day.

If you have any questions regarding election sign regulations, please contact Kimberly Thompson, Manager, Municipal Law Enforcement Services at 905.420.4660, ext. 2187.

Declaration

In accordance with Section 12(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, I hereby declare that this procedure shall be followed in conducting the 2016 Ward 1 By-Election in the City of Pickering.



Debbie Shields
City Clerk/Returning Officer

November 2015
Date