

## ELECTION SIGN GUIDELINES

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# Municipal Government Election in Alberta

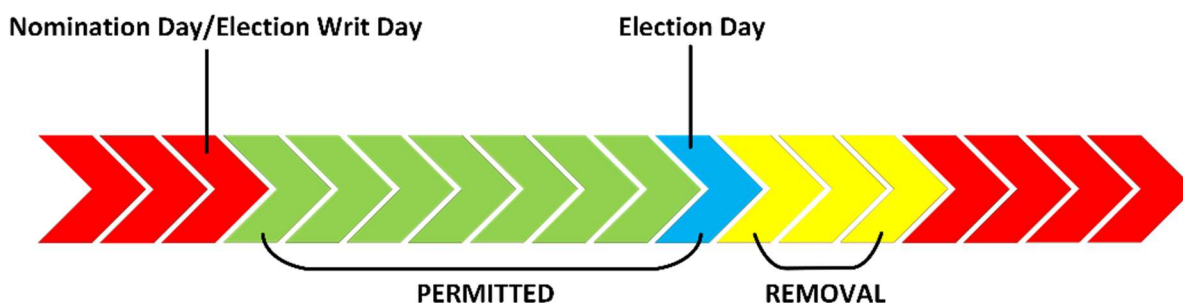
The Town of Edson understands that Election signage is an essential aspect of campaigns for campaign visibility and voter outreach. Election Sign placement, size, and content are regulated to encourage effective use of election signs as a means of communication that ensures public safety, maintains community standards and promotes fair campaigning. These regulations are designed to be equitably applied and enforced based on the Town of Edson *Election Sign Bylaw No. 2319*, the *Canada Elections Act*, *Election Act*, *Traffic Safety Act*, and *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)*.

**Disclaimer:** *This Guide is designed to assist with the interpretation and requirements of the Election Sign Bylaw. Graphics may not be to scale and maps may not have exact measurements. It is the candidate's responsibility to be familiar with, and adhere to, all requirements of the Election Sign Bylaw.*

## General Regulations

### Timeframe

	Start Date for Sign Posting	Deadline for Sign Removal
<i>Municipal &amp; School Board</i>	Close of Nomination Day (4 weeks before Election Day)	Within 3 days after polls close
<i>Federal &amp; Provincial</i>	Election Writ Day (28 or 36 days before Election Day)	Within 3 days after polls close



# Placement Regulations

## Permitted Locations

- Private Property (with owner's consent)
- Public Property and within boulevards

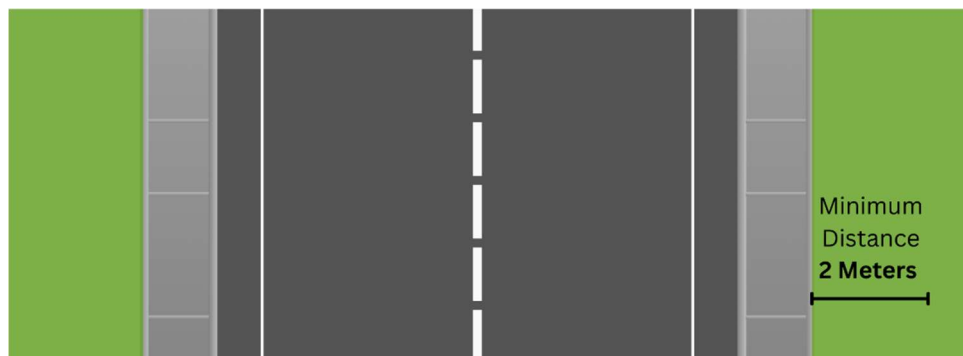
## Prohibited Locations

- Town-owned properties and facilities:
  - Airport
  - Civic Centre
  - Edson Fire Department
  - Edson Glenwood Cemetery
  - Galloway Station Museum and Travel Centre
  - Griffiths Park
  - Public Works
  - RCMP Centennial Park
- Voting station buildings or grounds on any Election Day
- Highways and related structures
- Trees, utility poles, light poles, waste bins, traffic control devices



## Highways and Intersections

- Applies to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 25<sup>th</sup> Street in Edson
- Must adhere to all Alberta Transportation Recommendations found [here](#)
  - Signs must not obstruct sightlines or interfere with traffic control devices.
  - Signs cannot be placed within 50 m of intersections in urban areas or 250 m in rural areas.
  - Signs must be placed minimum 2 m from the edge of pavement, sidewalk or gravel edge of roadway along the Highway 16 corridor (2nd and 4th Ave).



Highway with Adjacent Sidewalk

## Election Sign Design & Size

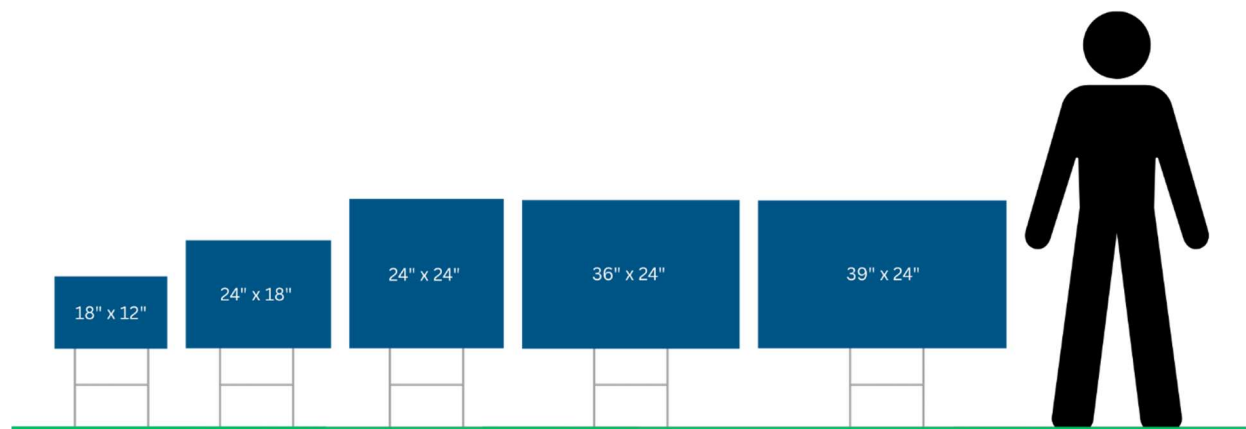
	Max Sign Face Area	Max Height	Notes
<b>Residential Private Property</b>	0.6 m <sup>2</sup> (6.45 ft <sup>2</sup> )	1 m (3.28 ft)	Freestanding
<b>Rural Residential (R1-R)</b>	2.97 m <sup>2</sup> (32.0 ft <sup>2</sup> )	2 m (6.5 ft)	Freestanding
<b>Non-Residential</b>	2.97 m <sup>2</sup> (32.0 ft <sup>2</sup> )	2.43 m (8 ft)	Freestanding
<b>Fences or External Building Walls</b>	2.97 m <sup>2</sup> (31.96 ft <sup>2</sup> )	Must not extend beyond wall or fence perimeter	All Property Types
*Signs may be installed to a maximum depth of 30cm below grade			

### Residential

Maximum Height: 1m

Maximum Face Area: 0.6m<sup>2</sup>

Maximum Depth Below Grade: 30cm



## R1-R Rural Residential

Maximum Height: 2m

Maximum Sign Face Area: 2.97m<sup>2</sup>



## Non-Residential

Maximum Height: 2.43m

Maximum Sign Face Area: 2.97m<sup>2</sup>



## Private Buildings and Fences

Maximum Height: Must not extend beyond wall or fence perimeter

Maximum Sign Face Area: 2.97m<sup>2</sup>



## Prohibited Features

### Election Day Restrictions

- Election Sign related materials, including posters, handbills, placards, or advertisements, cannot be placed within voting stations or within the boundaries of the land on which a building used for a voting station.



### Safety Standards

- Signs must be securely installed and not obstruct sightlines for drivers or pedestrians.
- Installation must ensure stability during adverse weather conditions.
- Candidates must obey all regulations set out within the Traffic Bylaw and/or Traffic Act when parking to place or remove Election Signs.
- Signs must not:
  - Be illuminated or flashing
  - Have moving parts, balloons, or inflatables
  - Resemble a ballot
  - Obstruct other candidates' signage



### Prohibited Locations

- Election signs may not be attached to or placed on:
  - Utility poles, light poles, trees, benches, or waste receptacles.
  - Bridges, guardrails, retaining walls, or concrete barriers.
  - Traffic control devices or locations that obstruct, detract from, or may be confused with such devices





# Maintenance and Removal

## Candidate Responsibilities

- Ensure signs are securely erected.
- Repair or replace damaged or vandalized signs within 24 hours of notification.
- Remove all signs, including stakes and wiring, within three days after Election Day.

# Enforcement and Penalties

## Owner Liability

- Candidates are responsible for damages, loss, or expenses caused by the improper installation, maintenance, or removal of their signs.

## Penalties

- Any person who commits a second or subsequent offense under any provision of Bylaw No. 2319 is liable to penalty of minimum \$200.

## Town Authority

- A Peace Officer, without prior notice or compensation to the Owner may remove signs that:
  - Poses an imminent danger to persons or property;
  - Impedes or interferes with Town operations;
  - Contravenes this Bylaw or any other Bylaw or enactment;
  - Impedes sightlines for safe pedestrian and/or vehicular movements; or
  - Obstructs a traffic sign.
- Any Election Sign impounded, and which has not been claimed by the Owner within 10 days of the close of polls on Election day, may be destroyed by the Town without compensation to the Owner.


## Contact

### Returning Officer – Town of Edson

Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Email: [elections@edson.ca](mailto:elections@edson.ca)

Phone: 780-723-4401 ext. 104

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			Revised: APR 2022
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<b>RECOMMENDED PRACTICES</b>	PART	HIGHWAY SIGNS	
	SECTION	MISCELLANEOUS SIGNS	
	SUB-SECTION	TEMPORARY	

## General

Approximately every four years, a parliament/legislature/council is dissolved and an election is called to form a new government or council.

Each party or candidate competing for an electoral riding then embarks on an election campaign.

During election campaigns, parties and municipal candidates place election signs along the highways to inform the voting public that they represent the constituency.



## Guidelines for Use

### *Policy/Eligibility*

All parties and candidates participating in the federal, provincial or municipal elections are eligible to place election signs within the provincial highway rights-of-way.

### *Sizes of Signs*

For signs located within highway rights-of-way, the maximum sign size will be one and a half square metres.

There is no size restriction for signs located on private property.

### *Provisions for Sign Use*

Election signs are temporary signs and are only permitted from the date the election is called until three days after the election.

### *Provincial Legislation*

Alberta Transportation, through the Traffic Safety Act (TSA) and the Highways Development and Protection Act (HDP), has control over the use of traffic control devices along the provincial highways.

Based on the HDP, Highway Development and Protection Regulation (Alberta Regulation 326/2009), Section 15, the following types of signs will not be allowed:

- a) *any sign that displays an intermittent flashing, rotating or moving light;*
- b) *any sign that is flood-lighted in such a manner as to cause visual distraction to the motoring public;*
- c) *any sign that has any moving or rotating part;*

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d) *any sign that bears*

- (i) *a legend giving a command to stop, stop ahead, look, caution or similar command, or*
- (ii) *a legend that in any way imitates a standard or commonly used highway traffic sign.*

Based on the TSA, Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation (Alberta Regulation 304/2002), Section 110, the following regulation will apply:

*110(1) A person shall not place, maintain or display in view of persons using a highway any sign, marking or device that*

- (a) purports to be, is an imitation of or resembles a traffic control device,*
- (b) gives any warning or direction as to the use of the highway by any person.*

*110(3) If a sign, marking or device is placed, maintained or displayed in contravention of subsection (1),*

- (a) a peace officer, or*
- (b) a person authorized by the road authority,*

*may, without notice or compensation, remove the sign, marking or device.*

*110(4) For the purposes of carrying out powers under subsection (3), the person exercising those powers may enter on privately owned land.*

### Guidelines for Placement

The following specific criteria should be applied when locating election signs along the highway:

- Signs must be placed no closer than two metres from the edge of pavement (or, in the case of gravel roads, no closer than two metres from the shoulder of the road).
- During winter conditions, there is a high probability that signs less than six metres 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 immediately.
- No election signs shall be placed in or within 500 metres of construction zones.
- No election signs shall be placed within 50 metres of an intersection in an urban area and within 250 metres of an intersection in a rural area.

### Safety Precautions

Persons installing election signs must use safety precautions so as not to cause vehicle collisions.

All persons working near the highway should wear reflective vests and bright clothing.

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Election signs should be installed during daylight hours only.

Vehicles used for transporting the signs must be parked so as to minimize the impact to the travelling public (preferably on an approach), as far as possible from the travel lanes, and have four-way hazard warning signals operating at all times.

### **Removal of Election Signs**

The removal should include the sign panel, supporting structure and any wiring used to install and support the sign.

Sign fragments (i.e., tie wires, posts), when not removed properly, may cause damage to highway maintenance equipment.

When removal of an election sign is necessary due to safety or operational concerns, the appropriate Alberta Transportation district office will notify the campaign office to take the required action.

Usually campaign offices are given a day to respond to the notification. Failure to respond within the specified time will result in the sign being removed. Signs will be stored at the nearest highway maintenance facility or Alberta Transportation district office. The campaign office will be notified to arrange to have the signs picked up.

Signs that pose immediate hazard to the public will be removed immediately by the department maintenance contractors without notification.

Alberta Transportation will not be responsible for any signs damaged during the removal process.

For more information contact the nearest Alberta Transportation district office listed on the following web page:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/613.htm>