

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TARBUTT
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

POLICY NAME: ELECTION SIGN POLICY DATED: April 2018
DEPARTMENT: ADMINISTRATION – ELECTIONS POLICY NO: EL-01

SCOPE

This Election Sign Policy is being provided in order to ensure public safety on highways during an election period, and to protect the rights of property owners.

Election Signs shall be a self-supporting sign or advertising device including, but not limited to posters, placards, bulletins, banners, notices, pictures or any combination thereof which advertises or promotes a candidate or third party advertiser in a municipal, provincial or federal election or by-election.

Any Election Sign erected or installed in contravention of this policy may be removed by an employee of The Township of Tarbutt under the direction of the Clerk. The candidate may be liable for the cost of removing the signs and any related costs.

It is a criminal offence to remove, deface or wilfully damage a lawfully erected Election Sign.

DEFINITIONS

- a. "Candidate" means a person who has been nominated under Section 33 of the Municipal Elections Act.
- b. "Certified Candidate" means a candidate whose nomination has been certified under Section 35 of the Municipal Elections Act.
- c. "Clerk" shall mean the Clerk of The Township of Tarbutt, as appointed, or their authorized designate.
- d. "Highway" shall have the same meaning as in the *Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990 c.H.8*, as amended.
- e. "Polling Station" means the location where voting will take place.
- f. "Public Property" means property owned by or under the control of the Township or any of its agencies, boards or commissions, including Highways under the jurisdiction of the Province.

- g. "Third Party Advertisement" means an advertisement in any broadcast, print, electronic or other medium that has the purpose of promoting, supporting or opposing a candidate or a question on the ballot.
- h. "Township" means The Township of Tarbutt.
- i. "Township property" means any property owned by or under the jurisdiction of The Township of Tarbutt.

PLACEMENT OF ELECTION SIGNS

In accordance with Sec. 48(2) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, no person shall:

- a. Place an Election Sign, or cause an Election Sign to be placed on any premises used as a voting place for elections, or on any Highway adjacent to the voting place; or
- b. Place or cause to be placed in or on a vehicle that is parked on any premises used as a voting place for elections an Election Sign that is visible from outside the vehicle.

Election Signs shall not be located, erected or displayed:

- a. On any building or structure, any park or open space owned or operated by the Township, save and except along the road allowances;
- b. Which obstructs, impairs, impedes or hinders the movement or sight lines of vehicular or pedestrian traffic or the visibility of warning devices and traffic signs, including day-lighting triangles at intersections;
- c. On any utility pole or box, traffic sign or commercial sign, planter, bench, bridge, light standard, waste receptacle, mail box, or legally placed structure on any Highway;
- d. On any post, pole or support already containing an official or authorized highway sign erected by the Township or the Province of Ontario.

Election Signs shall not:

- a. Display the Township logo or symbol;
- b. Be located within 100 yards (92 meters) of the Polling Station.

- c. Simulate any traffic sign or signal that directs the movement of traffic, nor interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic by using such words as “stop”, “one way”, or “danger”;
- d. Be painted on, attached to, or supported by a tree, stone or other natural object;
- e. Be erected or placed so as to obstruct, impede or interfere with any fire escape, fire exit, door, window, or any means of access to any building by fire fighters or emergency personnel;
- f. Impede, hinder or prevent vehicular traffic or parking on private or public lands, or on a Highway; or
- g. Have flashing lights or be illuminated;
- h. Be mounted on a trailer or other freestanding structure to facilitate its movement from place to place.

PLACEMENT AND REMOVAL OF ELECTION SIGNS

- a. All Election Signs shall be removed no later than five (5) days following Election Day. The Candidate shall be responsible for the removal of his or her Election Signs within the prescribed time frame, and may be liable for the cost of having the signs removed.
- b. Election Signs relating to a Municipal Election shall not be erected or displayed more than 45 days before the Municipal Election (Nomination Day).
- c. Election Signs relating to a federal or provincial election shall not be erected or displayed until the day that the writ of election is issued.