



ELECTION SIGNS, CAMPAIGN MATERIALS & CANVASSING

The following is information about election signs and campaign materials including a synopsis of the recent changes to the Town's Election Procedures Bylaw No. 989 covering election signs. Some of this information is found in the Nomination Package – in bylaw or other formats – but is also provided here for ease of reference. You are advised to review the full bylaw(s) for a more complete picture of the information provided below.

Timing of Sign Posting

As per the Town's Sign Bylaw No. 950 (included in the Nomination Package) which regulates signage in the municipality, you do not need a permit to post election signs.

However, please note – election signs can only be put up no earlier than 30 days before the election date and must be removed within 48 hours after the polls close on October 15, 2022.


Types and Siting of Signs

In 2022, the Town's Election Procedures Bylaw No. 989 was amended, changing requirements around the types and siting of election signs.



In brief, the general regulations are as follows:

- Election signs only to be placed for voting events and as noted earlier, they can only be placed no earlier than 30 days before the last voting day and must be removed within 48 hours after the polls close on the last voting day.
- Placement and removal of election signs must not damage public land or infrastructure (for example, pipes, sprinkler heads, etc.) – costs for repair/damage will be invoiced to the responsible party. Please note that removal often causes holes that become safety hazards for pedestrians – please ensure that after the election sign is removed, all holes are repaired by filling them in with clean soil.
- Election signs must be self-supporting and any supporting structures must be no deeper than 0.3 metres (1 foot) below grade.
- Election signs cannot:
 - o be illuminated, animated, rotate, flash, have moving lights, have other electrical features, have attachments (such as balloons, kites, an electronic message centre or inflatable device), or be mobile (be placed on a vehicle or trailer)
 - o obstruct, simulate, or detract from the visibility of regulatory signs or other traffic control devices
 - o interfere with traffic sightlines or the safety of roadway users
 - o have more than two (2) sign faces
 - o be within 0.61 metres (2 feet) from the roadway or five metres (16.4 feet) from a fire hydrant

- Election signs are only permitted on Town land in the ten (10) sign zones identified in Schedule “A” of Election Procedures Bylaw No. 989 (included in the Nomination Package). 
 - o The Bylaw permits up to one (1) Large Sign (defined below) in a large sign area to a maximum of five (5) large signs in the Town
 - A Large Sign is an election sign with each sign face that does not exceed 1.22 metres by 1.22 metres (four (4) feet by four (4) feet) and having a height that does not exceed 2.45 metres (eight (8) feet) as measured from the grade of the site on which it is placed to the top of the sign or its supporting structure, whichever is greater
 - o The Bylaw permits up to three Small Signs (defined below) in each zone to a maximum of thirty (30) small signs in the Town
 - A small sign is an election sign with each sign face that does not exceed 0.61 metres by 0.61 metres (two (2) feet by two (2) feet) and having a height that does not exceed 1.1 metres (3.6 feet) as measured from the grade of the site on which it is placed to the top of the sign or its supporting structure, whichever is greater
- Election signs are permitted on private property with the consent of the owner or occupant of the property and must not overhang Town land
- Election signs may be removed if found to be placed in contravention of Election Procedures Bylaw No. 989. These signs will be stored until one week after general voting day and may be claimed. After that week, the signs will be disposed of without compensation.
- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) regulates sign placement along Provincial highways, medians, bridges, and along major roads that they administer within the Town. Contact the local MOTI office – Vancouver Island District–Saanich Area Office – at 250-952-4515 to discuss the placement of election signs on Provincial highways, medians, bridges, or along major roads under MOTI’s jurisdiction.

Use of the Town’s Logo On Signs & In Campaign Materials

Use of the Town’s logo, or a reasonable likeness of the logo, without prior authorization, is not permitted on election signs or any other campaign material, including social media.

It is fine to use both the name of the Town – as that conveys where you are running – as well as images from around the Town – though images should not include the Town’s logo.

Canvassing

Added in March 2021 is the requirement that candidates (or, if applicable, an elector organization that has endorsed a candidate) must produce government-issued photo identification and either proof of candidacy or the candidate's written authorization when canvassing electors and distributing candidate information at a housing cooperative, rental property, or strata when requested by a resident at one of these types of properties or a representative acting on behalf of the cooperative, rental property, or strata corporation (*Local Government Act*, section 160.1).



The legislation also indicates that access to these properties for purposes of canvassing electors and distributing candidate information must not be unreasonably restricted for candidates or authorized canvassers from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the campaign period.

100-Metre “No Canvassing Zone”

Section 163(4) of the *Local Government Act* sets out the one hundred (100) metre distance in which a candidate is not allowed to canvass/solicit votes or distribute election advertising on voting day (including at both advance voting opportunities as well as on general voting day).

This means the removal of all signs in the 100-metre zone prior to 8 a.m. and no distribution of pamphlets, buttons, flags, etc., within the 100-metre zone between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on voting days on both advance voting days as well as general voting day.

If you are unsure about where the 100-metre line is, a good rule of thumb is if one can see the location from the voting place, it is likely within the “no canvassing zone”. You are encouraged to err on the side of caution and can also confirm with the Chief Election Officer or Deputy Chief Election Officer.

In addition, election officials will monitor whether electors and others entering the voting place are wearing campaign buttons or have campaign bumper stickers on their vehicles which are parked within 100 metres of the voting place. All buttons or bumper stickers will be required to be removed.

Review section 163 of the *Local Government Act* carefully as it lists all other election offences.

Election Broadcast Blackout

Candidates, elector organizations, and advertising sponsors must not sponsor or transmit election advertising on general voting day (October 15, 2022) by publishing it in newspapers or magazines, or on radio, the internet, or television. This prohibition is in effect whether or not the publication is within or outside of British Columbia.

More on general voting day advertising restrictions and advertising generally can be found in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. You are strongly encouraged to read more on these topics.



Town of View Royal Scrutineer Information

Scrutineers may represent a candidate on voting day by observing voting procedures and by scrutinizing the vote counting process. Candidates or their official agent may appoint as many scrutineers as they wish though only one may be in the voting place at any given time.

Please submit a *Scrutineer Appointment Form* to the Chief Election Officer prior to the scrutineer beginning their work. Upon attendance at a voting place, other than being there to vote, scrutineers will be asked to swear a solemn declaration in front of the Chief Election Officer concerning the secrecy of the ballot and non-interference with electors marking a ballot.

Neither the scrutineer, nor anyone else in the voting place, may wear anything that advertises the person as a supporter of a particular candidate. Communication between scrutineers and election officials should only occur during a time when no voters are present at the voting place, unless there is a challenge of an elector before a ballot is issued. If a scrutineer makes a challenge, either because the elector is not entitled to vote or has accepted an inducement for voting, the election official should be asked to note the challenge. Other than the official objection, scrutineers are not permitted to interfere with the routines of the voting place and the duties of voting officials.

Under no circumstances should a scrutineer handle election documents or voting-related questions by the public at the voting place.

GUIDE FOR SCRUTINEERS

Scrutineers **may**:

1. Record the names of voters as they obtain a ballot.
2. Give their candidate's official agent their recordings of voters.
3. Challenge a voter by following the procedure of requesting the election official not to issue a ballot until the scrutineer has the opportunity to put his/her case to the Presiding Officer who will discuss the matter with the voter and decide whether or not the voter is eligible (under certain circumstances a "challenge of voter" may be filled out and the ballot may be then issued and placed in an unmarked envelope which is then placed in an envelope with the voter's

name on it; the envelope to be held until the eligibility of the voter is determined).

4. Sit behind the election officials recording the voter's name and handing out the ballot.
5. Be substituted by another person throughout the day, providing that person has been designated by a candidate to be a scrutineer.

Scrutineers **may not:**

- Have in their possession or operate a cellular phone in the voting place.
- Interfere with the lawful duties of an election official.
- Carry on conversations in the voting place with voters, candidates, campaign agents, election officials or other scrutineers.
- Make critical comments while in the voting place that may be heard by voters or officials.
- Refuse to leave the voting place if requested to do so by the Presiding Officer.