



ELECTIONS AND ASSENT VOTE (REFERENDUM) SIGNS AND ADVERTISING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

This information is provided as general guidance for candidates, elector organizations, sponsors and referendum participants. Individuals are responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable federal, provincial and local government legislation, bylaws and policies.

ADVERTISING BLACKOUT PERIOD

Under Section 323(1) of the *Canada Elections Act*, no person shall knowingly transmit election advertising to the public in an Electoral Area on voting day before the close of all the voting places in the Electoral Area. No Provincial legislation has been enacted to vary the provisions of the *Canada Elections Act* as it relates to a local government election and, therefore, no election promotional broadcasts will be permitted on Election Day.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO SIGN REQUIREMENTS

The Regional District of Nanaimo regulates the placement of signs in electoral areas.

Election signs and related support structures placed on behalf of a candidate must be located entirely on private property and not on property owned by the Regional District of Nanaimo or the Province.

For information regarding sign regulations in Electoral Areas, refer to "[Regional District of Nanaimo Sign Bylaw No. 933, 1995](#)".

SIGNS ON PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAYS

The Ministry of Transportation and Transit regulates elections and referendum signs placed on provincial highway rights-of-way.

The Ministry conditionally permits election and referendum signs on some highway rights-of-way, except on major highway structures and highways identified in its Policy Manual for Supplemental Signs and most recent Election and Referendum Signs and Posters Policy circular.

Restrictions apply regarding:

- who can install signs;
- identification of sign owners;
- when signs may be installed and removed;
- eligible locations;
- size, placement and safety requirements; and
- highways where election signs are prohibited.

Signs that do not comply with Ministry requirements may be removed by the Ministry.

For current requirements, consult the Province's Policy Manual for Supplemental Signs and most recent Election and Referendum Signs and Posters Policy circular, available at www.gov.bc.ca/electionsigns.

SIGNS NEAR VOTING PLACES

Election advertising and campaign materials are restricted at voting places.

Provincial legislation prohibits election advertising and other materials identifying candidates, elector organizations, or voting positions within the restricted area surrounding a voting place, unless specifically authorized by the Chief Election Officer.

Specifically, Section 163(4) of the *Local Government Act*, a person must not do any of the following **at** or **within 100 meters** of a building, structure or other place where voting proceedings are being conducted at that time:

- (a) canvass or solicit votes or otherwise attempt to influence how an elector votes;
- (b) display, distribute, post or openly leave a representation of a ballot marked for a particular result in the voting;
- (c) post, display or distribute election advertising, or any material that identifies a candidate or elector organization, unless this is done with the authorization of the chief election officer;
- (d) carry, wear or supply a flag, badge or other thing indicating that the person using it is a supporter of a particular candidate, elector organization or result in the voting.

UTILITY POLES AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

BC Hydro and telecommunications providers prohibit signs, posters and notices from being attached to utility poles and related infrastructure. Attaching signs to utility poles creates safety hazards for utility workers who climb poles to perform maintenance and repairs, and signs may be removed by the utility owner. Candidates should not attach election signs to utility poles or other infrastructure.