

## **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Election Signs**

##### ***What is the ministry's policy regarding election signs on a highway right-of-way?***

The ministry conditionally allows election posters or signs on highway rights-of-way, with the exception of freeways or any major highway structures. Election posters or signs:

- must not be attached to, obstruct or simulate any traffic control device;
- must not be positioned closer to the traveled lanes than standard traffic signs;
- must not be placed and/or constructed in any fashion that may cause a traffic hazard;
- are not allowed until election writ has been dropped.

##### ***Are there any highways where election campaign signs are not allowed to appear?***

The sign policy of the ministry allows the placement of election campaign signs along most provincial highways on a first-come, first-served basis. There are, however, some exceptions. Election campaign signs are not allowed to be placed on some freeways.

##### ***How does the ministry handle the removal of election signs?***

Signs or posters contravening the conditions mentioned in the answers to the previous two questions will be taken down by the ministry.

The next working day after an election, the election signs should be taken down by those who installed them.

# Policy Manual for Supplemental Signs



Ministry of Transportation  
Engineering Branch

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## **Election Signs and Posters Policy (rev Oct 2005)**

### **POLICY**

**The Ministry conditionally allows election signs on highway rights-of-way, with the exception of any major highway structures and highways specified in the policy.**

### **BACKGROUND**

An election sign for Federal and Provincial elections is a sign, poster or other notice posted during the period between the drop of an election writ and election day, by a political candidate or political party registered with Elections BC or Elections Canada.

An election sign for Municipal elections is a sign, poster or other notice posted during the period between the close of candidate nominations and the municipal election day, by a political candidate or political party registered with Elections BC and/or a Municipality. This sign placement period for Municipal elections is 36 days.

### **PROCEDURES**

#### ***Election signs must:***

- Only be installed by political candidate or political party registered with a Municipality, Elections BC or Elections Canada,
- Identify the owner of the sign, and a BC telephone number or BC mailing address at which the owner may be contacted.
- Only be installed following the drop of an election writ, or 36 days prior to a Municipal election and must be removed on the day following the election,
- Be further from the road than standard traffic signs.

***Election signs must not:***

- Obstruct, simulate or be attached to any traffic control device (for example, signs, sign posts or traffic signal poles),
- In any way pose a traffic hazard,
- Be placed on bridges, overpasses, tunnels or other highway structures,
- Be 3<sup>rd</sup> party signs (i.e., any group or individual that is not a political candidate or political party registered with a Municipality, Elections BC or Elections Canada).

**PROHIBITIONS**

***Elections signs may not be placed on:***

- Highways within Provincial Parks,
- Highway 1, from Horseshoe Bay to Hope;
- Highway 5, from Hope to Kamloops;
- Highway 19, from Duke Point Ferry Terminal to Trans-Canada Highway;
- Highway 19 – Nanaimo Parkway, from Trans-Canada Highway to Island Highway;
- Highway 19, Parksville to Campbell River;
- Highway 91 and 91A;
- Highway 99, from the US border to Horseshoe Bay
- Highway 17, from Tsawwassen ferry terminal to Highway 99; and
- Highway 97C, from Aspen Grove to Peachland

**REMOVAL OF SIGNS**

Signs in contravention of this policy will be removed from the highway right-of-way by the ministry. After advising the Regional Director of the number and location of the offending sign(s) and the name of the sign owner, if identified, the District Transportation Manager will contact the owner to discuss the reasons for removal and potential proper placement.

Signs not removed by the owners on the next working day following the election will be removed by maintenance contractors. Maintenance contractors will invoice the identified owner for the cost of removal.

**LEGISLATION**

This policy is supported by the Motor Vehicle Act, Sec. 214 and the Transportation Act, Sec. 62.