

Election Sign Bylaw Requirements

A General Guide to the Placement
of Election Signs Upon
Public/Highway and Private
Properties



DISCLAIMER

This Guide has been prepared for candidates running in a municipal, provincial or federal election. Its contents are not meant to cover all information regarding the election sign bylaw. It is intended only as a guide to certain bylaw provisions and to note the most common bylaw infractions incurred by candidates in previous elections. Candidates should refer directly to Article II of Chapter 693 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code for specific provisions and additional details.

Candidates must satisfy themselves, through their own determination or with the assistance of their own legal counsel, of the various legal requirements relating to election signs.



Chapter 693 of the Toronto Municipal Code Respecting Signs

The Election Sign Bylaw is available on-line by searching www.toronto.ca/elections and following the “Bylaws Municipal Code and Procedures” link on the left hand side of the screen (located under the main heading “Candidates Information”) or is also available at the Election Services desk at the time that the Election Sign Deposit Fee is paid. **See page 8**



Contact Information

Questions/Complaints/Enquiries/Form Requests

Before, during and after the election should be directed by:
telephone to the **Election Sign Hotline @ 416-395-7010** OR
fax at **416-397-5463**

Before and during the election as well as up to October 18, 2008 only, complaints may also be submitted to the e-mail address below:

mlselectionsigns@toronto.ca



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Election Signs shall not be illuminated, except:
When displayed on an illuminated billboard that is installed under the authority of a permit issued under the applicable sign bylaw
- Election Signs shall not be attached to trees
- No Person shall wilfully damage, pull down or remove a lawfully erected election sign on either private or public properties
- Generally, for the purposes of the bylaw highways include the City of Toronto streets and boulevards – **also see page 9**
- The erection of election signs on highways require an “Election Sign Deposit” of \$250.00-cash, certified cheque or money order – **see page 8**
- Even though the candidate may have paid the required \$250 election sign deposit fee for placing election signs on City streets and boulevards, a contravention to the bylaw may still exist

See Highlights commencing on page 9



HIGHLIGHTS OF ELECTION SIGNS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

- The installation of election signs on public property must adhere to Section 693-7, Election Signs of the Toronto Municipal Code



SECTION 693-7 A. ELECTION SIGNS PUBLIC PROPERTY

- Locations of election signs on public property as defined by the bylaw

EXAMPLE

- This election sign has been erected on a City of Toronto park

THE CONTRAVENTION

Section 693-7 A

- Election signs are not permitted anywhere on public property
- Exception 1 – a highway or a utility pole on a highway, provided there is compliance with Subsections B(1) & C(1) regarding payment of sign deposits and the Regulations governing signs on highways respectively

- Exception 2 – A structure, bus shelter or municipal garbage container, located on a highway, if permitted by agreement between the owner or operator of the structure and the City or one of its agencies, boards or commissions, provided there is compliance with 693-7 B.(1) and C. (1) (e) to (g) of the bylaw.



REQUIREMENTS FOR SIGNS ERECTED ON PUBLIC HIGHWAY

- A deposit of \$250.00 is required, refundable unless removal fees have been deducted
- Payable to the Treasurer, City of Toronto
- Complete the Election Sign Deposit Form
- The Form and the monies are to be delivered to :
Election Services
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St W, 1st Floor
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
- Copies of the Election Sign Deposit Form are available at Election Services located on the 1st floor of City Hall or by searching www.toronto.ca/elections and following the “Forms and Notices” link on the left hand side of the screen located under the main heading “Candidates Information”



HIGHLIGHTS OF ELECTION SIGNS ON PUBLIC HIGHWAY

The installation of election signs on a highway requires adherence to 693-7 C. Regulations for signs on highways

- Election signs on highways such as the Gardiner, and the Don Valley Parkway are governed by the bylaw
- Election signs may be displayed on highways, subject to Subsection B of the bylaw

EXCEPT

- Election signs cannot be placed upon highways which prohibit use to pedestrians, i.e. **expressways and the expressway on/off ramps** – see 693-7 C. (1)



SECTION 693-7 C. REGULATIONS FOR SIGNS ON HIGHWAYS

- The size and height of election signs are also governed by the bylaw

EXAMPLE

- The photograph indicates a sign on public highway, approximately 2.23 square metres in area and greater than 3 metres in height

THE CONTRAVENTION

Section 693-7 C. (1) (a)

- Election signs are not to be greater than 1.2 square metres in area and cannot exceed a height of 2 metres above the ground
- Height is measured from ground to the top of the election sign



SECTION 693-7 C. REGULATIONS FOR SIGNS ON HIGHWAYS

- Highways without sidewalks – Please refer to diagram on page 21

EXAMPLE

- Note the location of the hydro poles as well as the fire hydrant. These are good benchmarks to discern private / public properties. Even though grass may extend to the curb and appear to be private property these benchmarks can help you in the placement of your sign
- In this instance the larger sign is located to the left of the hydrant towards the curb. Here, the sign is on public highway

THE CONTRAVENTION

Section 693-7 C. (1) (b)

- On highways without sidewalks, the election signs are not to be located within 1.5m of the edge of the curb (outside edge) or the edge of the pavement



SECTION 693-7 C. REGULATIONS FOR SIGNS ON HIGHWAYS

- Highways with sidewalks – Please refer to diagram on page 21

EXAMPLE

- Note the location of this election sign. It is located between the curb and the sidewalk

THE CONTRAVENTION

Section 693-7 C. (1) (c)

- On highways with sidewalks, the election signs are not to be located between the curb (outside edge) and the sidewalk (edge closer to the street)



SECTION 693-7 C. REGULATIONS FOR SIGNS ON HIGHWAYS

- Signs that are near intersections of streets
Please refer to diagram on page 21

EXAMPLE

- Note the intersecting streets. The intersections can be **major** or **minor intersections** and can basically be identified as any two streets meeting at a particular location

THE CONTRAVENTION

Section 693-7 C. (1) (d)

- The election signs are not to be located within 15 metres of an intersection
- All measurements to be taken from the outside edge of the curb



SECTION 693-7 C. REGULATIONS FOR SIGNS ON HIGHWAYS

- The Traffic Median

EXAMPLE

- Note the median as identified by the traffic sign in the middle
- Displayed you will note three signs placed in the 'median'

THE CONTRAVENTION

Section 693-7 C. (1) (e)

- The election signs are not to be located in a median or island installed within a highway



SECTION 693-7 C. REGULATIONS FOR SIGNS ON HIGHWAYS

- Broken and/or non-secured signs

EXAMPLE

- Note the sign in the top picture. The wooden stakes are broken. The unsecured sign as well as the stake could present a hazard to the public
- Note the sign already on the ground in the bottom picture. This sign is also considered a hazard as winds can throw signs into traffic or onto pedestrians

THE CONTRAVENTION

Section 693-7 C. (1) (f)

- The election signs cannot interfere with the safe operation of vehicles or with the safety of pedestrians



SECTION 693-7 C. REGULATIONS FOR SIGNS ON HIGHWAYS

- Signs **adjacent** to a voting place, City park or a facility owned or operated by the City

EXAMPLE

- The election sign depicted in this picture is located on public highway and adjacent to the lands owned by the City of Toronto that house a water tower

THE CONTRAVENTION

Section 693-7 C. (1) (g)

- Signs are **NOT** to be erected **ADJACENT** to a voting place, City park or a facility owned or operated by the City.
- **Voting Place** is the location designated by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction to house public voting on the day of election or designated days set aside for advanced voting



HIGHLIGHTS OF ELECTION SIGNS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

- The installation of election signs on private property must adhere to Section 693-8, Election Signs of the Toronto Municipal Code



SECTION 693-8 ELECTION SIGNS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

- Height, Area, Safety and Owner Consent
Please refer to diagram on page 21

EXAMPLE

- The election signs depicted have been **attached/fastened to the fences** delineating property lines
- These signs meet the criteria of the election sign bylaw on private property
- The signs are not larger than 1.2 square metres in area and not higher than 2 metres measured from the ground to the top of the sign
- The signs do not interfere with the safe operation of vehicular traffic or with the safety of pedestrians AND
- The signs were erected with the consent of the owner or occupant of the property

In Addition (Not depicted Here)

Signs up to 1.2 square metres in area can be placed **more than 2 metres above ground** provided they are displayed to the outside from **indoors, e.g. apartments**



SECTION 693-8 ELECTION SIGNS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

- Sight Obstruction Considerations

EXAMPLE

- The election sign depicted has been **attached/fastened to the fence which delineates property lines**
- This sign **does not** meet the criteria of the election sign bylaw on private property
- The sign was erected with the consent of the owner or occupant of the property, **however** it was considered to interfere with the **safe operation of vehicular traffic** or with the **safety of pedestrians** as the sign obstructs the view of what may be approaching around the bend, from the seat of a vehicle or to a pedestrian



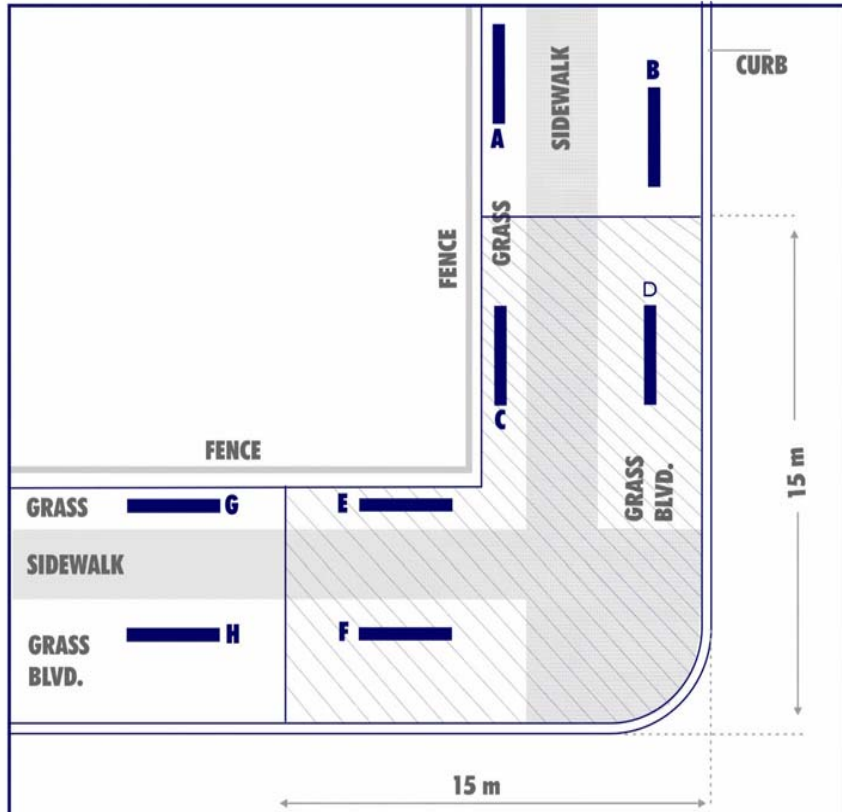
Highlights of Sign Removal

See 693-10 A. Removal of Unlawful Signs & 693-10 B. Cost for Removal and Storage of Signs

- Election Signs erected or displayed contrary to the bylaw may cause the sign to be removed **without notice**
- Election Signs removed are stored for a **minimum of 30 days from the date of removal**:
 - Election Signs that are of **paper or light weight material** may be destroyed or disposed of immediately upon removal
- Election Signs can be retrieved by the candidate or his/her agent after paying what is owed for signs removed (**cash, certified cheque or money order**) – **See page 4 for contact information**
- Generally, **each sign taken has a fee of \$25** (can be deducted from the refundable portion of the election sign deposit) plus storage costs as stipulated in the bylaw
- Any election sign removed and stored **for more than 30 days** may be destroyed or disposed of **without notice and compensation** to the owner of the sign



DIAGRAMS



Signs A and G

Permitted, not within 15m of intersection and not between sidewalk and curb

Signs B and H

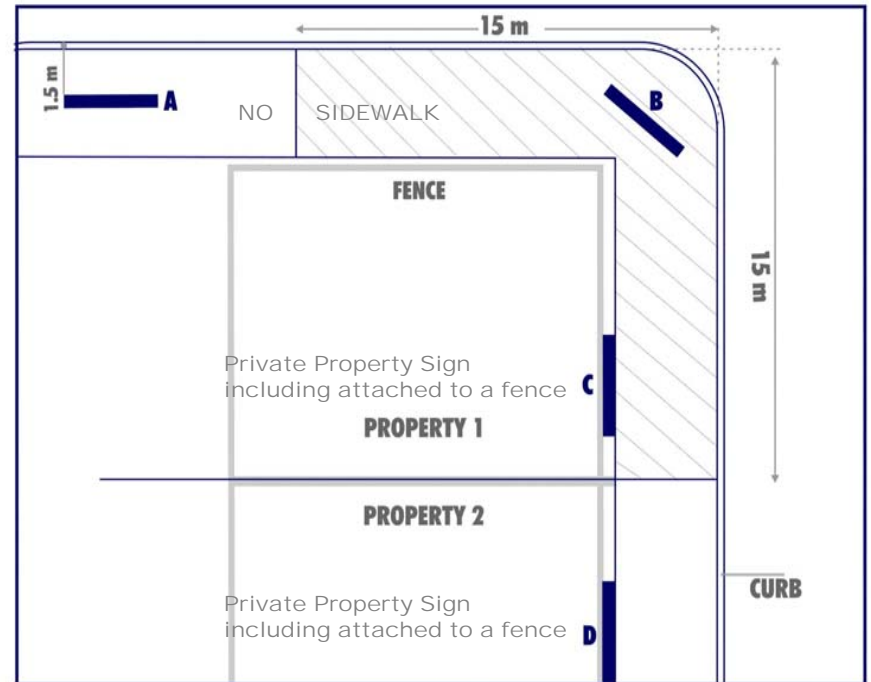
Not permitted to be placed between sidewalk and curb

Signs C, D, E, and F

Not permitted as the signs are within 15m of an intersection



No
Intersection
Zone



Sign A

Permitted provided sign is placed 1.5 m back from the outside of the curb

Sign B

Not permitted as the sign is within 15m of an intersection

Sign C

Signs attached to fence are permitted as being located on private (no deposit required) however, if the sign obstructs the vision of pedestrians or vehicles rounding the bend it is considered a hazard and shall be removed

Signs C and D

On private property or fence (no deposit required), however, if sign installed without permission from land owners of Property 1 and Property 2 the signs will be removed at the request of the owners

IMPORTANT DATES

- Election Signs can be erected on the day the writ is issued for Federal and Provincial Elections
- Federal Election Specifics
 - October 14, 2008 – Election Day
 - October 17, 2008 – Removal of all Election Signs from public/private properties by days end



WILL THE CITY OF TORONTO REMOVE UNLAWFUL ELECTION SIGNS?

- The City of Toronto will remove signs that pose a threat to the safety of the public and to reduce the effects of visual blight in the surrounding areas. The authority for the removal of signs is found under Section 693-10 of the bylaw



Don't get frustrated. Plan ahead of time...get elected with lawfully placed signs