

## **Candidate Information Session**

**June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

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- In June 2016, the Provincial government passed Bill 181, the *Municipal Elections Modernization Act, 2016*, amending the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA)*.
- Among the changes to the MEA, new rules were introduced to regulate third party advertising.
- Various amendments to the City's Election Signs Bylaw (*Chapter 693, Signs, Article II, Election Signs*) were also adopted by July 4-7, 2017 City Council.
- Changes were made to align with the changes to the MEA and to address identified issues with the Bylaw.
- Specific to third party advertising, provisions were added to the City's Election Signs Bylaw to ensure that election signs displayed by registered third party advertisers are subject to the same conditions and limits as election signs displayed by candidates.

# Time Period for the Display of Election Signs

- **Election signs may be displayed:**
  - › *For federal or provincial elections, from the day the writ of election is issued*
  - › *For municipal elections, 25 days prior to voting day*
- **Election signs must be removed:**
  - › 72 hours after completion of voting on election day

- **Election signs cannot be larger than 1.2 square metres in area and higher than 2 metres above ground level, except:**
  - › on campaign offices;
  - › on TTC dedicated advertising spaces;
  - › on street installation dedicated advertising spaces;
  - › on third party advertising spaces (e.g., billboards); and
  - › when displayed indoors.

- **Election signs cannot:**
  - › be illuminated  
*(unless on TTC, street installation and third party advertising spaces)*
  - › be attached to trees
  - › obstruct visibility or block sightlines for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists
  - › contain the City of Toronto logo

# Placement on Private and Public Property

- **On private property, election signs may be displayed:**
  - › if consent has been provided by the owner/occupant of the property.
  
- **On public property, election signs may be displayed:**
  - › on streets or public utility poles on streets;
  - › on bus shelters, garbage and recycling containers, and street installation dedicated advertising space;
  - › on TTC dedicated advertising space;
  - › as sign copy on a third party sign; and
  - › on vehicles or trailers.

- **On streets, election signs cannot be displayed:**
  - › within 1.5 metres of the curb;
  - › within 0.6 metres of either side of a sidewalk;
  - › within 15 metres of an intersection of a collector or arterial road\*;
  - › within 3 metres of an intersection of a local road\*;
  - › on a median or island;
  - › adjacent to a voting place, City park or a facility owned or operated by the City; and
  - › without the consent of the owner/occupant of the abutting property.

\* *Link to City of Toronto Road Classification System:*

<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/streets-parking-transportation/traffic-management/road-classification-system/maps-and-indices/>

# Storage and Disposal of Election Signs Removed by the City

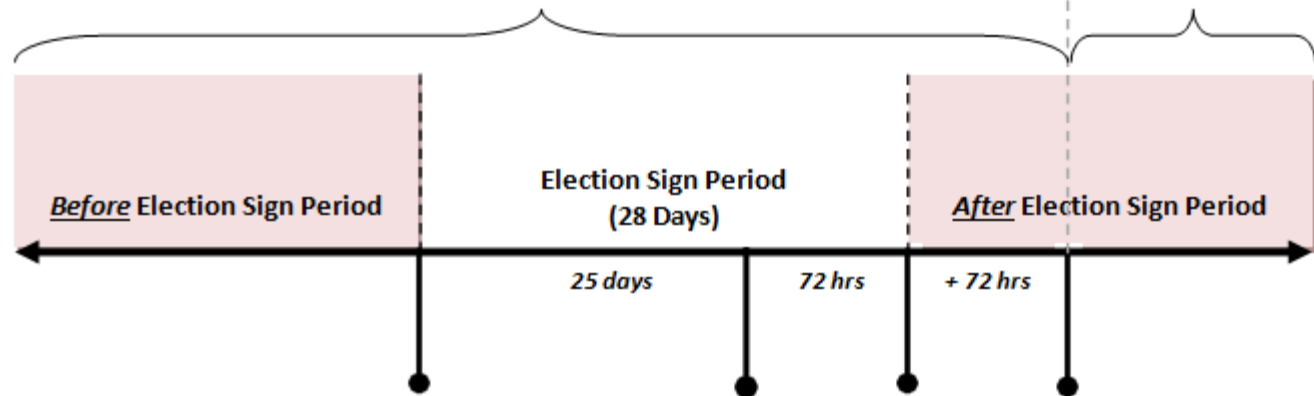
- Election signs that have been removed by City Officials for being improperly displayed, will be stored for the duration of the Election Sign Period, plus an additional 72 hours after.
- Notice will be provided to candidates and third party advertisers (via email\*, phone or personal delivery) within 24 hours from the time of removal.
- Candidates and third party advertisers may retrieve their election signs at designated locations\* during designated dates/times\*, during the Election Sign Period and 72 hours after.
- Any signs not retrieved may be recycled or disposed of by the City.



# Overview of Timeframes Related to the Display of Election Signs

Candidates are no longer required to pay an election sign deposit in order to display election signs.

- No fees will be charged for the City's removal/storage of improperly displayed election signs.
  - Candidates/Third Party Advertisers will be notified via email, mail, personal delivery, or fax of sign(s) removed within 24 hours.
  - Candidates/Third Party Advertisers will have an additional 72 hours after the Election Sign Period to retrieve their sign(s).
  - Any signs not retrieved may be recycled, destroyed or otherwise disposed of without notice and without compensation to the Candidate/Third Party Advertiser.
- No fees will be charged for the City's removal/storage of improperly displayed election signs.
  - Signs will be recycled, destroyed or otherwise disposed of without notice and without compensation to the candidate.



For the 2018 Municipal Election:

<p><b>Sep-27-2018</b> Election signs may be displayed (25 days prior to Election Day)</p>	<p><b>Oct-22-2018</b> (9:00 p.m. close) Election Day</p>	<p><b>Oct-25-2018</b> by 9:00 p.m. Election signs must be removed (72 hours after the completion of voting on Election Day)</p>	<p><b>Oct-28-2018</b> Seized election signs must be retrieved from storage (72 hours after the Election Sign Period)</p>
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\*Timeline not to scale

# Election Signs Displayed by Third Party Advertisers

- Election Signs displayed by third party advertisers must comply with the City's election signs regulations.
- Third party advertisers must:
  - › register with the City Clerk prior to being permitted to display election signs
  - › include valid and up-to-date contact information on their election sign(s) to identify at least one individual responsible for the display of the sign(s)