

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LANGLEY
ELECTION AND POLITICAL SIGNS BYLAW 2015 NO. 5034

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bylaw 2015 No. 5034 sets out the rules and regulations regarding the posting of election and political signs on both public and private property within the Township of Langley.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LANGLEY

ELECTION AND POLITICAL SIGNS BYLAW 2015 NO. 5034

WHEREAS it is deemed necessary and desirable to regulate the placement of political and election signs in the Township of Langley;

NOW THEREFORE, the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Township of Langley, in Open Meeting Assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Township of Langley Election and Political Signs Bylaw 2015 No. 5034".

Part 1 Duration and Requirements / Restrictions for Election and Political Signs

Duration

- 1.0 A person shall not place, or permit to be placed, an election or political sign on **public or private** property, except in relation to:

Elections / By-Elections:

- 1.1 Federal elections and by-elections, from the time the writ of election is issued until four (4) days after general voting day;
- 1.2 Provincial elections and by-elections, from the time the writ of election is issued until four (4) days after general voting day; and
- 1.3 Local Government and School District No. 35 (Langley) Elections and by-elections, from the first day of the nomination period until four (4) days after general voting day.

Referendum or Plebiscites:

- 1.4 Federal or Provincial referendum or plebiscites, from the day that the text of the question is approved by the Federal Parliament or by the Provincial Legislature, as the case may be, until four (4) days after general voting day;
- 1.5 Local Government and School District No. 35 (Langley) referendum or plebiscites, from the day that the text of the question is approved by Council or a regional board by bylaw or by resolution, as the case may be, until four (4) days after general voting day; and
- 1.6 Provincial recall or initiative campaigns, from the day that an application for recall or initiative is approved by the Chief Electoral Officer for BC until four (4) days after the final disposition of the matter.

Part 2 Requirements / Restrictions for Election or Political Signs

- 2.0 Election or political signs do not require a sign permit, but **all** election or political signs must adhere to the following requirements and restrictions:
- 2.1 must have no more than two sign faces;
 - 2.2 each sign face must be no larger than **3 square metres** (32.3 square feet) in area nor exceed a **maximum height of 1.8 metres** (6 feet);
 - 2.3 must not use the Township of Langley or the School District No. 35 logos, heraldic emblems or similar corporate identifiers for the purpose of any candidate's campaign activities;
 - 2.4 must not be animated, illuminated, rotating, flashing or have moving lights or other electrical features;
 - 2.5 must not have attachments such as balloons, kites, an electronic message centre or inflatable devices;
 - 2.6 must not resemble traffic control devices referred to in the *Motor Vehicle Act* and Regulations under that *Act*;
 - 2.7 must not be placed in such a way as to create a potential hazard to vehicular, pedestrian or cyclist traffic, and must not obstruct the view of any portion of a traffic control device, signal or intersection;
 - 2.8 are not permitted on centre medians, traffic islands, traffic circles or roundabouts;
 - 2.9 must be self-supporting and cannot be attached to any Township property such as fences, benches, bus shelters, trees, street light poles or traffic signal poles;
 - 2.10 must not be located within 100 metres of a voting place, fronting a public park or facility owned or operated by the Township, or within 5 metres of a fire hydrant;
 - 2.11 For Local Government elections or other voting opportunities, election or political signs for candidates running in jurisdictions other than the Township of Langley and School District No. 35 (Langley) shall only be erected within a six (6) meter radius of the Fraser Highway and the boundaries of:
 - the City of Langley;
 - the City of Abbotsford; and
 - the City of Surrey.

Part 3 Placement on Township of Langley Property

- 3.0 Election or political signs must adhere to the requirement listed under Parts 1.0 and 2.0 of this Bylaw and are permitted on highways without requiring a permit, provided that:
- 3.0.1 for Local Government elections, only election or political signs for Local Government candidates running for office in the Township of Langley or for membership on the Board of School District No. 35 shall be permitted within the boundaries of the Township;
 - 3.0.2 for Provincial and Federal elections the candidates must be running in a riding which includes lands within the Township of Langley; or
 - 3.0.3 the voting opportunity is for a Federal, Provincial, Local Government or School District referendum, plebiscite or recall.
- 3.1 No election or political signs shall be placed within or on any property owned, leased or operated by the Township that is not a highway.

Boulevards

- 3.2 Election or political signs are allowed on Township boulevards if placed in the following manner:
- 3.2.1 a minimum two (2.0) metres from the curb or from the nearest driving lane if no curb exists);
 - 3.2.2 a minimum one (1.0) metre from any Township sidewalk or pathway;
 - 3.2.3 the top of the sign must be less than 1.8 metres above ground level; and
 - 3.2.4 a minimum twenty (20) metres from any intersection.

Part 4 Placement on Private Property

- 4.0 Election or political signs may be erected on private property in all zones, including single family, two family, multi-family zones, institutional, commercial, and industrial, and any lot in a Rural zone, provided that:
- 4.1 no election or political sign shall be erected on private property without the consent of the property owner or occupant.

Part 5 Enforcement of Election or Political Sign Regulations

- 5.0 If, in the opinion of the Township Engineer, or designate, at his or her sole discretion, an election or political sign erected on a highway constitutes a hazard to the safe and efficient movement of vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or otherwise violates any of the above requirements, the Engineer or designate may, immediately and without notice, remove the sign.

- 5.1 Bylaw No. 5034 allows the Township of Langley to immediately remove signs in violation of the Bylaw.

For election or political signs on private property, please contact Legislative Services at 604.533.6100 or email legservicesinfo@tol.ca.

For signs on streets or public property, please contact Bylaw Enforcement at 604.532.7551 or Engineering at 604.533.6006 or email enginfo@tol.ca.

- 5.2 Election or political signs removed pursuant to section 5.0 will be stored at a Township facility and may be claimed by a candidate or candidate representative, or a person authorized by a candidate or candidate representative.
- 5.3 Election or political signs removed pursuant to section 5.2, and not claimed within four (4) days after the period set out in Part One of this bylaw, become the property of the Township and may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by the Township, without notice to any person.
- 5.4 Defacing, damaging or pulling down election or political signs is a criminal offence under the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

Part 6 Severability

- 6.0 If any part, section, sub-section, clause, or sub-clause of this bylaw, for any reason, is held to be invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision does not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this bylaw.

Definitions:

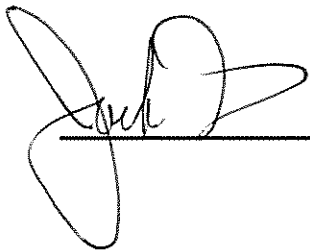
Boulevard	means: a) where there is no curb and gutter, the area between the shoulder of the road and the adjacent property line. b) Where there is curb and gutter, the area from the back of the curb to the adjacent property line; c) Where there is curb and gutter and a sidewalk, the area from the back of the sidewalk to the adjacent property line.
Candidate	means a person who is a candidate for election pursuant to the <i>Local Government Act</i> , the <i>School Act (BC)</i> , the <i>Election Act (BC)</i> , or the <i>Canada Elections Act</i> , or a person represented as a candidate on a political sign.
Candidate Representative	means a person who is appointed by a Candidate as a candidate representative for the purposes of the <i>Local Government Act</i> , the <i>Election Act (BC)</i> or the <i>Canada Elections Act</i> .
Centre Median	means an area designated for the segregation of lanes of traffic on a roadway, designated either by lines or landscaping.

Chief Election Officer	means the person appointed by Council as the Chief Election Officer pursuant to the <i>Local Government Act</i> , or the Deputy Chief Election Officer in the absence of the Chief Election Officer.
Council	means the Council of the Township of Langley.
Election or Political Sign	is a temporary sign designed or intended to be displayed in connection with Federal, Provincial, Local Government or School District No. 35 (Langley) elections, by-elections, referendum or plebiscites.
Engineer	means the General Manager of Engineering of the Municipality or the authorized representative.
General Voting Day	means polling day under the <i>Canada Elections Act</i> or general voting day under the <i>Local Government Act</i> , <i>School Act (BC)</i> or <i>Election Act (BC)</i> , whichever is applicable.
Highway	means a common and public highway, street, avenue, road, lane, road allowance, bridge, and viaduct, which is intended for or used by the general public for the passage of vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists, but does not include a private right-of-way on private property.
Park	means Township-owned land or right-of-way used for passive or active recreation including open space, sports fields, pitch and putt golf courses playgrounds, walkways, trails, nature reserves, natural areas, wildlife sanctuaries, greenbelts, conservation areas, buffers, nature interpretation areas, and similar land uses.
Person	includes a property owner, strata corporation, candidate, candidate representative, political organization, or any other person under the direction of such an individual or organization.
Place	means place, erect, affix or attach.
Political organization	includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) an "elector organization" within the meaning established in the <i>Local Government Act</i>;(b) a "campaign organizer" within the meaning established in the <i>Local Government Act</i>;(c) a "political party" within the meaning established in the <i>Election Act (BC)</i> or <i>Canada Elections Act</i>;(d) any incorporated or unincorporated organization which promotes or opposes the election of a candidate;(e) any incorporated or unincorporated organization which approves or disapproves of a course of action advocated by a candidate or another political organization;(f) any incorporated or unincorporated organization which promotes or opposes an issue that is the subject of a

referendum or plebiscite; and
(g) any incorporated or unincorporated organization which promotes or opposes a recall or initiative campaign.

- Public Property** means all property owned by the Township of Langley and School District No. 35, which are not occupied for residential purposes, excluding all highways.
- Roadway structure** means a bridge, overpass, guardrail, retaining wall, fence, concrete barrier, fire hydrant, street light pole, utility pole, and crosswalk pole.
- Shoulder** means where there is no curb and gutter, the area between the edge of the road and a line two metres, fifty centimetres (2.5 m) parallel to the edge of the road.
- Sign Face** means the display areas of a political sign on which letter, symbols or pictures appear.
- Structure** means a construction of any kind whether fixed to or supported by or sunk into land or water.
- Township** means the Corporation of the Township of Langley.
- Traffic Control Device** means a sign, line, meter, marking, space, barrier, or device that is painted, placed or erected to guide, regulate, warn, direct, restrict, control or prohibit traffic.

READ A FIRST TIME the 14 day of December , 2015
READ A SECOND TIME the 14 day of December , 2015
READ A THIRD TIME the 14 day of December , 2015
RECONSIDERED AND ADOPTED the 11 day of January , 2016



Mayor



Deputy Township Clerk