

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GRIMSBY

BY-LAW NO. 26-11

A BY-LAW TO MANAGE AND REGULATE ELECTION SIGNS IN THE TOWN OF GRIMSBY

Whereas Section 11 of the Municipal Act, 2001 authorizes the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby to pass by-laws respecting spheres of jurisdiction that include highways, structures, including fences and signs; and

Whereas Section 63 of the Municipal Act, 2001 authorizes the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby, if it passes a by-law for prohibiting or regulating the placing of an object on a Highway, to provide for the removal of any object placed on a Highway in contravention of that by-law; and

Whereas Section 99 of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides rules which apply to a by-law of a municipality respecting advertising devices, including signs; and

Whereas Section 425 of the Municipal Act, 2001 establishes that any person who contravenes any by-law of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby is guilty of an offence; and

Whereas Section 426 of the Municipal Act, 2001 permits a municipality to establish a system of fines for offences under a by-law of a municipality passed under the Municipal Act, 2001; and

Whereas Section 436 of the Municipal Act, 2001 authorizes a municipality to pass a by-law providing that the municipality may enter onto land at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection to determine compliance with a by-law, direction, order of licence; and

Whereas Subsection 446(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that if a person is directed or required to do a matter or thing, in default of it being done by the person directed or required to do it, the matter or thing shall be done at the person's expense; and

Whereas Subsection 446 (2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 authorizes a municipality to enter upon land at any reasonable time for the purposes of Subsection 446(1); and

Whereas to provide clarity and ease of reference, Council for the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby deems it desirable to outline provisions related to Election Signs; and

Whereas Council for the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby recognize the importance of the right to freedom of expression and recognizes that Election Signs are a protected form of expression under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

Whereas the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby seeks to protect the constitutional right to freedom of expression, subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

Now therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby enacts as follows:

1. Definitions

In this By-law:

“Act” means the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, S.O. 1996., c.32, Sched.

“Advance Voting Day” means one (1) or more days that are designed for electors to cast ballots prior to Voting Day.

“Boulevard” means the portion of the Road between a street line and the edge of the curb, or, where there is no curb, that portion of the Road which is travelled or designed to be travelled by vehicles, and includes medians, bulges and traffic islands.

“By-Election” means an election other than a regular Election.

“Campaign Office” means a building or structure, or part of a building or structure, used by a Candidate, an agent of a Candidate, or a Registered Third Party Advertiser, as part of an Election campaign and is registered with the Town Clerk as the Candidate or Registered Third Party Advertiser’s Campaign Office.

“Campaign Office Election Sign” means a sign displayed at a Campaign Office which displays the name of a Candidate in a municipal or school board Election, or with the name of a Candidate and/or the name and/or logo of a political party in a federal or provincial Election, or the name of a Registered Third Party Advertiser and the location of the Candidate’s or Registered Third Party Advertiser’s Campaign Office in any Election.

“Candidate” means: a candidate within the meaning of the Canada Elections Act, the Election Act (Ontario), or the Act.

“Election” means any federal, provincial, or municipal election, by-election, and any question or by-law submitted to the electors and includes an election to a local board.

“Election Sign” means a sign for an Election or a Registered Third Party Advertiser that promotes, supports or opposes a Candidate, political party, or any question or by-law to the electors under section 8 of the Act.

“Municipal Act” means the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25.

“Municipal Law Enforcement Officer” means a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer appointed by the Town.

“Owner” means a Candidate or Registered Third Party Advertiser who Places or permits the Placing of an Election Sign or any person described on the Election Sign, which, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, shall be deemed to be the person described in or who benefits from the message of the Election Sign.

“Park” means any land or premises under the control and/or ownership of the Town for park and recreational purposes and includes any lane, walkway, or public parking area leading thereto, and also includes any and all buildings, structures, equipment, facilities, and improvements located in or on such land.

“Placed” means to attach, install, erect, build, construct, reconstruct, move, display or affix, and “Places” and “Placing” shall have the corresponding meaning.

“Private Property” means real property that is not Public Property.

“Public Property” means real property owned by the Town, the Corporation of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, or the Province of Ontario, and includes any Boulevard or Road.

“Registered Third Party Advertiser” means an individual, corporation, or trade union that is registered in accordance with the requirements for registration in a municipal, provincial, or federal Election or referendum.

“Road” means a common and public highway, street, avenue, parkway, driveway, square, place, bridge, viaduct or trestle, designed and intended for use by the general public for the passage of vehicles and includes all lands lying within the limits of the road allowance or right-of-way which are owned by or under the jurisdiction of the Town.

“Sight Triangle” means a triangular space that is formed by the intersection of the boundaries or two (2) Roads of a corner lot, and a line joining two (2) points that are six (6) metres back from the intersection. Where the two (2) road lines do not

intersect at a point, the point of intersection of the projection of the road lines or the intersection of the angles to the road lines.

"Sign" means any sign, surface or structure and any component or appurtenant parts, used or capable of being used as a visual medium to attract attention to a specific subject matter or to create a design or convey a message, and includes posters, placards, bulletins, notices, and/or signs temporarily affixed to the ground.

"Town" means the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby.

"Town Clerk" means the appointed Town Clerk of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby.

"Vehicle" includes a motor vehicle, a trailer whether or not affixed to a motor vehicle, traction engine, farm tractor, road building machine, bicycle and any vehicle drawn, propelled or drive by any kind of power, including muscular power, but does not include a motorized snow vehicle or a street car (i.e., electric/steam railway) and excludes stationary equipment (i.e., hitch trailer).

"Voting Day" means Voting Day as defined by the Act.

"Voting Location" means a place where electors cast their ballots in an Election as approved by Federal, Provincial or Municipal Election Officials, as applicable.

2. General Administration

2.1. The Town Clerk is responsible for the administration of this By-law.

2.2. In a municipal Election, no Candidate or Registered Third Party Advertiser shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign without obtaining an Election Sign permit and making payment of the prescribed Election Sign deposit.

2.3. The Election Sign permits shall be:

- a) in the form prescribed by the Town; and
- b) accompanied by the prescribed Election Sign deposit as set out in Section 9.

2.4. Subject to subsection 2.3, Election Signs shall only be Placed or permitted to be Placed:

- a) the day following Nomination Day, as defined under the Act; in respect of a municipal Election;
- b) the day following Nomination Day, as defined under the Act, for a By-election; or
- c) in the case of a federal or provincial Election, the day the Writ of Election is issued or any day thereafter.

2.5. Election Signs Placed or permitted to be Placed by a Registered Third Party Advertiser shall include the following information in accordance with the Act:

- a) the name of the Registered Third Party;
- b) the municipality where the Registered Third Party is registered; and
- c) contact information for the Registered Third Party including a telephone number, mailing address and/or an email address.

2.6. Where a person does not register as a Registered Third Party Advertiser in accordance with the Act, *Election Act*, or *Canada Elections Act*, as the case may be, the person shall not be permitted to Place Election Signs.

3. Sign Guidelines

3.1. An Election Sign shall not exceed the following maximum size and height requirements:

- a) Height and width of 5 feet.

4. General Prohibitions

- 4.1. No Owner or Person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign except in accordance with this By-law.
- 4.2. No Candidate in a municipal Election shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign in any ward or geographic area which the Candidate has not been nominated for office in respect of.
- 4.3. No Owner shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign that:
- a) displays a logo, crest, trademark or official mark, in whole or in part, owned or licensed by the Town;
 - b) is illuminated, has flashing lights, or rotating parts;
 - c) simulates any traffic sign, traffic signal, any other sign that directs the movement of traffic, or any official sign;
 - d) uses words such as "stop", "look", "one way", "danger", "yield" or any similar phrases, symbols, lights or characters in such a manner as to tend to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic;
 - e) is in a state of disrepair or is located where it is a general hazard to public safety;
 - f) impedes or obstructs the Town's maintenance operations;
 - g) impedes or obstructs the passages of pedestrians where they are reasonably expected to walk;
 - h) is affixed to public utility poles, telephone poles, hydro poles, light standard or any other utility infrastructure;
 - i) is Placed on, painted on, attached to, or supported by a tree, stone or other natural object;
- 4.4. Two (2) Election Signs may be displayed on or in a Vehicle provided:
- a) the display of such Election Sign complied with the other provisions of this By-law;
 - b) such Election Sign, if on the exterior of the Vehicle, is mounted flush on the body of the Vehicle;
 - c) such Election Sign is not displayed so as to contravene provisions of sections 73 (1) or 74 (1) of the *Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.H.8.*
- 4.5. Election Signs, including signs attached to Vehicles, are not permitted to be Placed in any way on Public Property, including but not limited to, municipal offices, Town parks, cemeteries, arenas, libraries, and fire halls.
- 4.6. No person shall deface or willfully cause damage to a lawfully erected Election Sign.
- 4.7. The Town or any of its employees, agents or contractors will not be responsible for investigating or prosecuting for any acts of vandalism-to or theft-of Election Signs.

5. Public Property and Roads

- 5.1. In addition to the limitations in subsection 4.2, an Owner shall not Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign on Public Property that is not in accordance with this By-law, and where applicable, the Ministry of Transportation's requirements.
- 5.2. With respect to Public Property and Roads, no Owner shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign that:
- a) is within a Park;
 - b) interferes with the safe operation of vehicular traffic or the safety of pedestrians, including the visibility of warning devices and traffic signals;
 - c) impedes, hinders or prevents parking of Vehicles on private or public

- lands, or on a Road;
- d) is on a Road, except as otherwise permitted by this By-law;
- e) is on or within any Public Property, including any structures or items legally placed within the Public Property;
- f) is located 1.8 metres (6 feet) away from the face of the curb or edge of pavement of a Road and where there is a Sidewalk, not within 0.6 metres (2 feet) of such Sidewalk;
- g) clause 5.2 (f) does not apply when the Sidewalk is less than 0.6 metres (2 feet) from the main wall of an adjacent building, in which case the Election Sign shall be placed at the furthest distance possible from the Sidewalk or from the face of the curb or edge of pavement;
- h) is anywhere between the curb or edge of pavement of a Road and the Sidewalk, where there is a Sidewalk;
- i) be Placed on a boundary fence line or noise attenuation wall which is located on Public Property;
- j) no Owner shall dig, drill or drive into asphalt, concrete, brick or any other hard improved surface on a Road when placing an Election Sign;
- k) is within a Sight Triangle;
- l) is less than 3 metres (9.8 feet) from or within a Community Safety Zone designated by the municipality.

6. Private Property

6.1. Subject to subsection 4.2, Election Signs are permitted on Private Property, provided that:

- a) the property owner, tenant, or occupant of the property consents to the Placement of the Election Sign; and
- b) no Election Sign shall be located so as to obstruct or impede any fire escape, fire exit, door, window, scuttle, skylight, flue or air intake or exhaust nor so as to prevent or impede the free access of emergency personnel to any part of the building including, but not limited to, emergency water connections, or fire hydrants.

6.2. No Owner or Person shall be permitted to Place or permit to be Placed more than three (3) Election Signs per Candidate and/or Registered Third Party Advertiser on any one parcel of land that is Private Property bearing the following zoning categories under the Town's Zoning By-law No. 14-45, as amended, provided that the Election Signs are a minimum of one (1) metre apart: Rural And Agricultural; Commerical; or Employment.

6.3. On all other parcels of land that are Private Property not referred to section 6.2, no Owner or Person shall be permitted to Place or permit to be Place more than one (1) Election Sign per Candidate and/or Registered Third Party Advertiser, unless the Private Property consists of multiple residential properties, then one (1) Election Sign per Candidate and/or Third Party Advertiser per dwelling unit will be permitted, providing that the Election Signs are a minimum of one (1) metre apart.

6.4. No Owner or Person shall Place or be permitted to Place an Election Sign on or in a Voting Location on the day(s) that location is being used for voting.

7. Removal of Election Signs

7.1. For a municipal Election, every Person, Owner, Candidate or Registered Third Party Advertiser shall remove all Election Signs Placed or permitted to be Placed by the respective Person, Owner, Candidate or Registered Third Party Advertiser from all locations within two (2) days following Voting Day.

7.2. The Town Clerk or Municipal Law Enforcement Officer may remove any Election Sign Placed in contravention of this By-law without notice.

- 7.3. The Town Clerk may make regulations under this By-law prescribing rules and procedures for the retrieval and destruction of Election Signs removed under this By-law, without limitation, the form of and any information required to be provided to the Town Clerk to authorize the release of an Election Sign, dates on or by which an Election Sign may be retrieved or destroyed, and the manner in which notice may be given to an Owner relating to the retrieval and destruction of an Election Sign.
- 7.4. Election Signs that have been removed for contravention of this By-law will be subject to a deduction from the Election Sign deposit outlined in Section 9.
- 7.5. The Town Clerk or designate may destroy any Election Sign which has been removed and not claimed and retrieved by the Owner within ninety (90) days of Voting Day.

8. Power of Entry

- 8.1. The Town may enter on land at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection to determine whether or not the provisions of this By-law are being complied with.
- 8.2. The Town's power of entry may be exercised by an employee, inspector, or agent of the Town or by a member of the police force with jurisdiction, as well by any person under their direction.
- 8.3. No person shall hinder or obstruct, or attempt to hinder or obstruct, a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer who is exercising a power or performing a duty under this By-law.

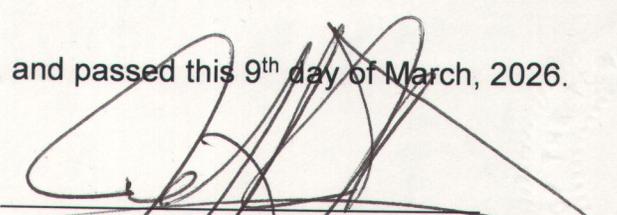
9. Fees

- 9.1. The prescribed Election Sign deposit must be paid by cash, debit or cheque payable to the Town of Grimsby, and is as follows:
 - a) \$250.00 for Mayor and Regional Councillor; and
 - b) \$200.00 for Ward Councillor, Registered Third Party Advertisers, and School Board Trustees; and
- 9.2. Election Sign deposits will be refunded within ninety (90) days after Voting Day, minus any deductions for the removal of any Election Signs by the Town.
- 9.3. Where an Election Sign has been placed in contravention of any provision of this By-law, a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer may remove the Election Sign without further notice at a cost of \$25.00 per Election Sign, which will be deducted from the acquired Election Sign deposit.
- 9.4. If the remaining Election Sign deposit of a Candidate or Registered Third Party Advertiser is insufficient to cover the amount of a deduction under section 9.3, the Town will issue an invoice to the Candidate and Registered Third Party Advertiser, within ninety (90) days of Voting Day.

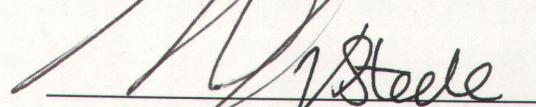
10. Force and Effect

- 10.1. Upon enactment of this By-law, regulations related to Election Signs outlined in By-law 10-48, as amended, be and is hereby repealed.
- 10.2. This By-law shall come into force and take effect on the day of the final passing.

Read a first time, considered, and passed this 9th day of March, 2026.



J.A. Jordan, Mayor



V. Steele, Town Clerk