



BYLAW NO. 12-2020

TOWN OF VEGREVILLE

THIS BYLAW NO. 12-2020 OF THE TOWN OF VEGREVILLE, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS FOR ELECTION SIGNS.

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 7 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26, Council may pass bylaws respecting:

- (a) the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;
- (b) people activities and things in, on or near a public place or place that is open to the public; and
- (c) the enforcement of bylaws made under the *Municipal Government Act* or any other enactment;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 8 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26, a Council may in a bylaw passed under this Division:

- (a) regulate and prohibit

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 18 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26, a municipality has the direction, control, and management of all roads within the municipality.

AND WHEREAS Section 13 of the *Traffic Safety Act*, RSA 2000 Chapter T-6, authorizes Council of a municipality to make bylaws with respect to a highway under its direction, control and management which are not inconsistent with the Act.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Town of Vegreville enacts as follows:

1. SHORT TITLE

- 1.1 This Bylaw may be cited as the **Election Signage Bylaw**.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Bylaw, all definitions and interpretations of the *Traffic Safety Act* and *Local Authorities Election Act* and all subsequent regulations will apply, unless otherwise defined in this Bylaw, as follows:

- 2.1 **Candidate** means a person officially nominated as a candidate at an Election and their authorized agent.
- 2.2 **Election** means a Federal, Provincial, Municipal or School Board general election or by-election held pursuant to the *Canada Elections Act*, S.C 2000, Chapter 9, *Elections Act*, RSA 2000 Chapter E-1, or the *Local Authorities Election Act*, RSA 2000 Chapter L-21 [LAEA].
- 2.3 **Election Day** means the day identified as such pursuant to the *Local Authorities Election Act*, RSA 2000, Chapter L-21 as amended.
- 2.4 **Election Sign** means any free-standing sign connected with an Election including, but not limited to, signs describing or promoting the Election process, a Candidate or party seeking Election, a referendum or plebiscite.

- 2.5 **Enforcement Officer** means a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a Community Peace Officer appointed in accordance with the *Peace Officers Act*, RSA 2006, c. P-3.5.
- 2.6 **Nomination Day** means the day identified as such pursuant to the *Local Authorities Election Act*, RSA 2000, Chapter L-21 as amended.
- 2.7 **Notice of Election** means the declaration that an election will be held by the Returning Officer, 24 hours after the close of Nomination Day.
- 2.8 **Permanent sign** means a permanent sign approved by the Town of Vegreville in accordance with the Land Use Bylaw.
- 2.9 **Person** means any individual or corporate entity including firm, joint venture, proprietorship, association, corporation, organization, partnership, society, political party, and any other legal entity.
- 2.10 **Polling Station or Voting Place** means the entire building where Election voting will occur and the property associated with the building, including assisted living facilities for Institutional voting.
- 2.11 **Portable sign** means a temporary sign approved by the Town of Vegreville in accordance with the Land Use Bylaw.
- 2.12 **Sign Owner** means the Candidate or Person having the use or major benefit of the Election Sign.
- 2.13 **Town Manager** means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Vegreville as appointed by Town Council.

3. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Federal, Provincial, Municipal or School Election signs must comply with the following:

- 3.1 Election Signs may be posted only between:
- (a) For all Municipal and School elections, Election Signs may be posted after 12:00 noon on the day when an election is officially called (Notice of Election) and must be removed within 48 hours after the closing of polling stations on Election Day pursuant to the LAEA; or
 - (b) For Federal and Provincial elections, Election Signs may be permitted to be posted for 28 days prior to Election Day and must be removed within 48 hours after the closing of polling stations on Election Day, pursuant to federal and provincial legislation.
- 3.2 A permit is not required for Election Signs
- 3.3 Elections signs must not:
- (a) be no larger than 0.6 m² (6.5 ft²) in residential areas or 2.0 m² (20 ft²) in non-residential areas
 - (b) emit any sound, display any video, or be illuminated in any way
 - (c) have rotating or moving parts, or any additional parts attached to them
 - (d) have more than two sign faces

- (e) promote intolerance, hatred, or ridicule of any race, religion, or other segment of society
- 3.4 No Election Sign may imitate or resemble the appearance of a traffic control device or sign.
- 3.5 Election Signs must be kept neat and clean in appearance
- (a) The Sign Owner is responsible for removing their damaged or vandalized Election Signs immediately
 - (b) The Sign Owner is liable for all damages, loss and expenses resulting from the removal of any Election Sign which is installed or erected in breach of this Bylaw
- 3.6 No person will deface, remove, or willfully cause damage to a lawfully erected Election Sign.

4. SIGN LOCATIONS

- 4.1 Election Signs are permitted to be placed on private property, or on the public boulevard directly adjacent to a private property, with the permission of the property owner.
- 4.2 Election Signs are not permitted to be placed in any location where they may:
- (a) Interfere with the safe and orderly movement of pedestrians or vehicles
 - (b) Interfere with the sightlines of pedestrians or vehicles, or
 - (c) Obscure, cause confusion with, or distract from a traffic control device.
- 4.3 Election Signs are not permitted to be placed:
- (a) Closer than 3.0 m (9.8 ft) from the edge of the pavement of a road or 1.5 m (5.0 ft) of a public sidewalk
 - (b) On a median of a divided highway
 - (c) Within 7.0 m (23.0 ft) of another Election Sign on public lands
 - (d) Or attached to fences, trees, planters, benches, waste receptacles, mailboxes, utility poles, light poles, utility boxes, fire hydrants, or other similar municipal fixtures and infrastructure.
 - (e) Within 50 m of a Polling Station or Voting Place on any Election Day

5. ENFORCEMENT

- 5.1 The Town of Vegreville may remove any Election Sign that it deems to be in contravention of this Bylaw without prior notice or compensation.
- (a) The Sign Owner is liable for all damages, loss and expenses resulting from the removal of any Election Sign which is installed or erected in breach of this Bylaw
 - (b) Election Signs removed by the Town may be claimed by the Sign Owner, the organization, or their representative at the Landfill Office.

6. OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

- 6.1 Any Person who violates any provision of this Bylaw has committed an offence.
- 6.2 The Town may issue a penalty as per Schedule 'A' for every contravention of this Bylaw, when, in the opinion of the Town Manager, the contraventions are of a deliberate and repetitive nature. Any penalty issued for contravention in this Bylaw must be paid prior to reclaiming the removed Election Sign(s).
- 6.3 The Town Manager or delegate have sole discretion in determining when Election Signs are in contravention of this Bylaw are to be removed.
- 6.4 Election Signs not removed 48 hours after the election will incur a penalty as per Schedule 'A' for each sign remaining.

7. SEVERABILITY

- 7.1 Should any provision of this Bylaw be invalid, then the invalid provision must be severed, and the remainder of the Bylaw will be maintained.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE

- 8.1 This Bylaw will come into effect upon third and final reading.

READ for a first time this 14th Day of December , 2020 A.D.

READ for a second time this 14th Day of December , 2020 A.D.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT RECEIVED FOR THIRD AND FINAL READING

READ for a third time this 14th Day of December , 2020 A.D.



TIM MACPHEE, Mayor



CLIFF CRAIG CLGM, Town Manager



SCHEDULE 'A'
PENALTIES

<u>Section</u>	<u>Description of Offence</u>	<u>Specified Penalty</u>
3.1 (a)	Erect sign prior to 12:00 noon when election is called [municipal or school]	\$100.00
3.1 (b)	Erect sign prior to 12:00 noon when election is called [Federal or Provincial]	\$100.00
3.3 (a)	Sign exceed 0.6m ² in residential or 2.0m ² in non-Residential	\$100.00
3.3 (b)	Sign emits a sound, displays a video, or is illuminated	\$100.00
3.3 (c)	Sign has rotating or moving parts or additional parts attached	\$100.00
3.3 (d)	Sign has more than two faces	\$100.00
3.3 (e)	Sign promotes intolerance, hatred, or ridicule of any race, Religion or other segment of society	\$100.00
3.4	Sign resembles a traffic control device	\$100.00
3.5	Sign Owner fails to remove damaged/vandalized sign	\$100.00
3.6	Willfully deface/remove/cause damage to a sign	\$100.00
4.1	Place sign on private property without owner consent	\$100.00
4.2 (a)	Sign interferes with the safe and orderly movement of Pedestrians and vehicles	\$100.00
4.2 (b)	Sign interferes with the sightlines of pedestrians or vehicles	\$100.00
4.2 (c)	Obscure, cause confusion with, or distract from a traffic control device	\$100.00
4.3 (a)	Sign is closer than 3.0 m (9.8 ft) from the edge of the pavement of a road or 1.5 m (5.0 ft) of a public sidewalk	\$100.00
4.3 (b)	Sign is on a meridian of a divided highway	\$100.00
4.3 (c)	Sign is within 7.0 m (23.0 ft) of another Election Sign	\$100.00
4.3 (d)	Sign is attached to fences, trees, planters, benches, waste receptacles, mailboxes, utility poles, light poles, utility boxes, fire hydrants, or other similar municipal fixtures and infrastructure.	\$100.00
4.3 (e)	Sign is within 50 m of a Polling Station or Voting Place on any Election Day	\$100.00