

Government of Alberta ■ Transportation	ELECTION SIGNS		<i>Issued: SEPT 2004</i>
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RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	PART	HIGHWAY SIGNS	
	SECTION	MISCELLANEOUS SIGNS	
	SUB-SECTION	TEMPORARY	

General

Approximately every four years, a parliament/legislature/council is dissolved and an election is called to form a new government or council.

Each party or candidate competing for an electoral riding then embarks on an election campaign.

During election campaigns, parties and municipal candidates place election signs along the highways to inform the voting public that they represent the constituency.



Guidelines for Use

Policy/Eligibility

All parties and candidates participating in the federal, provincial or municipal elections are eligible to place election signs within the provincial highway rights-of-way.

Sizes of Signs

For signs located within highway rights-of-way, the maximum sign size will be one and a half square metres.

There is no size restriction for signs located on private property.

Provisions for Sign Use

Election signs are temporary signs and are only permitted from the date the election is called until three days after the election.

Provincial Legislation

Alberta Transportation, through the Traffic Safety Act (TSA) and the Highways Development and Protection Act (HDP), has control over the use of traffic control devices along the provincial highways.

Based on the HDP, Highway Development and Protection Regulation (Alberta Regulation 326/2009), Section 15, the following types of signs will not be allowed:

- a) *any sign that displays an intermittent flashing, rotating or moving light;*
- b) *any sign that is flood-lighted in such a manner as to cause visual distraction to the motoring public;*
- c) *any sign that has any moving or rotating part;*

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d) *any sign that bears*

- (i) *a legend giving a command to stop, stop ahead, look, caution or similar command, or*
- (ii) *a legend that in any way imitates a standard or commonly used highway traffic sign.*

Based on the TSA, Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation (Alberta Regulation 304/2002), Section 110, the following regulation will apply:

110(1) A person shall not place, maintain or display in view of persons using a highway any sign, marking or device that

- (a) *purports to be, is an imitation of or resembles a traffic control device,*
- (b) *gives any warning or direction as to the use of the highway by any person.*

110(3) If a sign, marking or device is placed, maintained or displayed in contravention of subsection (1),

- (a) *a peace officer, or*
 - (b) *a person authorized by the road authority,*
- may, without notice or compensation, remove the sign, marking or device.*

110(4) For the purposes of carrying out powers under subsection (3), the person exercising those powers may enter on privately owned land.

Guidelines for Placement

In general, election signs should be placed as far from the shoulder line as practical, always allowing the traveling public to have an unobstructed view of the roadway.

The following specific criteria should be applied when locating election signs along the highway:

- Signs must be placed no closer than two metres from the edge of pavement (or, in the case of gravel roads, no closer than two metres from the shoulder of the road).
- During winter conditions, there is a high probability that signs less than six metres from the road will be either covered with snow or damaged during snow removal and sanding operations.
- No election signs will be allowed within the median of a divided provincial highway.
- No election signs shall be mounted on highway signs or sign posts. These signs will be removed immediately.
- No election signs shall be placed in or within 500 metres of construction zones.
- No election signs shall be placed within 50 metres of an intersection in an urban area and within 250 metres of an intersection in a rural area.

Safety Precautions

Persons installing election signs must use safety precautions so as not to cause vehicle collisions.

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All persons working near the highway should wear reflective vests and bright clothing.

Election signs should be installed during daylight hours only.

Vehicles used for transporting the signs must be parked so as to minimize the impact to the travelling public (preferably on an approach), as far as possible from the travel lanes, and have four-way hazard warning signals operating at all times.

Removal of Election Signs

All election signs should be removed three days after the election has ended. The removal should include the sign panel, supporting structure and any wiring used to install and support the sign.

Sign fragments (i.e., tie wires, posts), when not removed properly, may cause damage to highway maintenance equipment.

When removal of an election sign is necessary due to safety or operational concerns, the appropriate Alberta Transportation district office will notify the campaign office to take the required action.

Usually campaign offices are given a day to respond to the notification. Failure to respond within the specified time will result in the sign being removed. Signs will be stored at the nearest highway maintenance facility or Alberta Transportation district office. The campaign office will be notified to arrange to have the signs picked up.

Signs that pose immediate hazard to the public will be removed immediately by the department maintenance contractors without notification.

Alberta Transportation will not be responsible for any signs damaged during the removal process. The campaign office is responsible for installing and removing election signs.

For more information contact the nearest Alberta Transportation district office listed on the following web page:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/613.htm>

