

# COUNCIL POLICY LG549

## ELECTION SIGNAGE

KEY FOCUS AREA LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

### Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a framework for the controls and standards for the placement of Election Signs for Federal, State and Local Government elections.

### Definitions

**Authorised Person** means a person authorised by a candidate for the purposes of assisting the candidate's campaign.

**Election Period** means the period between two months prior to election day and two days after election day.

**Election Sign** means any advertisement for the purposes of promoting a registered candidate or political party or relating to an election which is displayed during the Election Period.

**Polling Place** means any building or structure in which the polling in a Federal, State or Local Government Election is appointed to take place and includes a pre-polling location available for electors to cast their vote prior to election day.

### Policy

This Policy is based on the principle that guidelines for election signs are to be applied consistently and equitably to all political parties and candidates, whilst ensuring public safety and the visual amenity of the Town is maintained.

This Policy applies to all Election Signs on private property, on property under the care, control and management of the Town of Claremont, including all roads, except Stirling Highway. The management of signs on Stirling Highway is the responsibility of Main Roads WA.

#### *Private Property*

Election Signs placed on private property must:

- Have the consent of the owner/s.
- Be temporary in nature and be displayed only during the Election Period.
- Not be illuminated, move, flash, rotate or otherwise cause distraction to road users, within 50m of a signalised intersection.
- Not pose a health or safety risk.

#### *Public Property*

Election Signs posted, affixed or erected on property under the care, control or management of the Town for the purposes of candidate promotion during an election, must comply with the following:

- Election Signs must be temporary in nature and be displayed only during the Election Period.
- Contain clear and legible writing or symbols.
- A candidate or candidate's Authorised Person may place an individual sign/s to a minimum distance of 500m between each sign or pair of signs.
- Election Signs must be robustly made and securely placed, without posing a health or safety risk to people, vehicles, animals or property.

- Election Signs must be regularly maintained during the Election Period.

Election Signs must not be placed or affixed:

- On any park or reserve.
- On a carriageway, driving strip, traffic island, roundabout or within 50m of a signalised intersection or pedestrian activated crossing.
- On or adjacent to any municipal building.
- Within 10m of an intersection or junction, or any other location that may pose a health or safety risk or obstruction to motorists or pedestrians.
- On a verge adjacent any property without the consent of the owner/occupier.
- In a location on a pole or fence to aid the climbing of the fence or pole.
- To restrict the line of sight of other traffic signs and traffic devices.
- To any building, tree, pole or infrastructure including any street sign, traffic direction sign, parking sign or other signs.
- So as to cause any damage to a fence, wall, tree or shrub.

Election Signs must not:

- Be more than 1.5m<sup>2</sup> in area; be higher than 1.2m above the natural ground level; or have a maximum vertical or horizontal dimension greater than 1.2m. Note: a back-to-back sign facing in two directions may have the dimensions on both sides.
- Be illuminated, move, flash, rotate or otherwise cause distraction to road users, within 50m of a signalised intersection.
- Be constructed of materials or installed in a manner that may have an adverse effect on the health, safety or convenience of a person, traffic or land.
- Be self-adhesive.
- Advertise any organisation or person other than a registered candidate or registered political party.

#### *Election Signs on Vehicles*

Vehicle exhibiting Election Signs must comply with the *Road Traffic Code 2000* and the Town of Claremont Parking Local Law 2016.

#### *Polling Places*

The placement of Election Signs at Polling Places by a candidate or a candidate's Authorised Person, must be in accordance with the relevant electoral legislation and any instructions of the Returning Officer or other person/s in charge of the Polling Place and in accordance with this Policy.

#### *Enforcement*

The Town will take appropriate action where an Election Sign located under the care, control or management of the Town is non-compliant with this Policy or the Town of Claremont Activities on Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2003.

Enforcement action may include issuing a caution with a request that the sign be moved or altered, impounding or confiscating the sign, issuing an infringement or prosecution.

The Town will take appropriate enforcement action, including removal, if an Election Sign located on private property poses a health or safety risk to any person.

### *Election Promotion*

The Australian Electoral Commission and Western Australian Election Commission may promote an election by the placement of signs on land under care, control or management by the Town or relevant Federal or State agency with its consent.

<b>Document Control Box</b>			
<b>Legislation:</b>	<i>Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia Western Australian Constitution Local Government Act 1995 Electoral Act 1907 Main Roads Act 1930 Main Roads (Control of Advertising) Regulations 1996 Road Traffic Code 2000</i>		
<b>Organisational:</b>	Town of Claremont Parking Local Law 2016 Town of Claremont Local Government Property Local Law 2000 Town of Claremont Activities on Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2003		
<b>Version #</b>	<b>Decision:</b>	<b>OCM Date:</b>	<b>Resolution Number:</b>
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