

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LANGLEY
ELECTION AND POLITICAL SIGNS BYLAW NO. 5834

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bylaw No. 5834 sets out the rules and regulations regarding the placement 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 NO. 5834

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

Part 1 Citation

1.0 This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Township of Langley Election and Political Signs Bylaw No. 5834".

Part 2 Definitions:

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| Advanced Voting Day | means advance polling day under the Canada Elections Act or advance voting opportunity under the Local Government Act, School Act (BC) or Election Act (BC), whichever is applicable. |
| 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; or 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 Local Government Act, the School Act (BC), the Election Act (BC), or the Canada Elections Act, 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 Local Government Act, the Election Act (BC) or the Canada Elections Act. |
| 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 Local Government Act, or the Deputy Chief Election Officer in the absence of the Chief Election Officer. |

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| Council | means the Council of the Township of Langley. |
| Election or Political Sign | means 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 staff authorized by Council to carry out the power and duties outlined in this bylaw. |
| General Voting Day | means polling day under the Canada Elections Act or general voting day under the Local Government Act, School Act (BC) or Election Act (BC), 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 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 Local Government Act;(b) a "campaign organizer" within the meaning established in the Local Government Act;(c) a "political party" within the meaning established in the Election Act (BC) or Canada Elections Act;(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; |

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| | (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. |

Part 3 Duration and Political Processes

3.0 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:

3.1 Federal elections and by-elections for candidates within the riding, in the Township of Langley, from the time the writ of election is issued until four (4) days after general voting day;

3.2 Provincial elections and by-elections, for candidates within the riding, within the Township of Langley, from the time the writ of election is issued until four (4) days after general voting day; and

3.3 Township of Langley Local Government and School District No. 35 (Langley) Elections and by-elections, from 9:00am on the twenty-first (21st) day prior to general voting day until four (4) days after general voting day.

Referendum or Plebiscites:

- 3.4 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;
- 3.5 Local Government and School District No. 35 (Langley) referendum or plebiscites, from 9:00am on the twenty-first (21st) day prior to general voting day, until four (4) days after the general voting day; and
- 3.6 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 4 Placement of Election or Political Signs on Public Property

- 4.0 A person must not place, or permit to be placed, an election or political sign on:
 - a) a highway or right of way;
 - b) a boulevard, centre median, island, or sidewalk;
 - c) any roadway structure or traffic control device;
 - d) a tree, bush, planter, waste or recycling receptacle, newspaper box, mailbox, signpost, bridge or overpass structure;
 - e) any other public property including land, buildings, structures, parks, gardens or equipment; or
 - f) overhanging public property.

Part 5 Placement on Private Property

- 5.0 Election or political signs may be placed 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:
 - 5.1 signs must have the consent of the property owner, occupant, or strata corporation in the case of a parcel containing strata lots, prior to placement.

Part 6 Requirements / Restrictions for Election or Political Signs

- 6.0 Election or political signs do not require a sign permit, but all election or political signs must adhere to the following requirements and restrictions:
 - 6.1 must have no more than two sign faces;

- 6.2 each sign face must be no larger than 3 square metres in area nor exceed a maximum height of 1.8 metres;
- 6.3 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;
- 6.4 must not be animated, illuminated, reflective, rotating, flashing or have moving lights or other electrical features, including machine readable optical labels;
- 6.5 must not have attachments such as balloons, kites, an electronic message centre or inflatable devices;
- 6.7 must not be placed on an existing sign;
- 6.8 must not be located within 100 metres of a voting place, during Federal, Provincial, Local and School District voting days, including but not limited to advance, general, referendum, and plebiscite voting days;
- 6.9 must not resemble traffic control devices referred to in the *Motor Vehicle Act* and Regulations under that Act;
- 6.10 must not be placed within five (5) metres of a fire hydrant;
- 6.11 must not be placed within five (5) metres of a highway where to property is adjacent to an intersection;
- 6.12 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 or movement of motor vehicles, pedestrians, cyclist or any other traffic;

Part 7 Enforcement of Election or Political Sign Regulations

- 7.0 If, in the opinion of the Township Engineer, or designate, at his or her sole discretion, an election or political sign erected 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.
- 7.1 Bylaw No. 5834 allows the Township of Langley to immediately remove signs in violation of the Bylaw.
- 7.2 Election or political signs removed pursuant to Bylaw No. 5834 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.

- 7.3 Election or political signs removed pursuant to Bylaw No. 5834, and not claimed within four (4) days after the period set out in Part Two 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.
- 7.4 Defacing, damaging or pulling down or removing election or political signs is an offence and subject to enforcement under the Canada Elections Act and/or the Criminal Code of Canada.

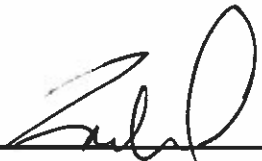
Part 8 Severability

8.0 If any section, subsection or clause of this bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed and the remainder of this bylaw is deemed to have been adopted without the severed section, subsection or clause.

Part 9 Bylaw No. 5034 Repeal

9.0 The Corporation of the Township of Langley Election and Political Signs Bylaw 2015 No. 5034 and all amendments are hereby repealed.

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| READ A FIRST TIME the | 08 | day of | May | , 2023 |
| READ A SECOND TIME the | 08 | day of | May | , 2023 |
| READ A THIRD TIME the | 08 | day of | May | , 2023 |
| ADOPTED the | 29 | day of | May | , 2023 |



Mayor



Township Clerk