

From: S Lee

Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 9:12 AM

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Cc: Clerks Richmondhill clerks@richmondhill.ca

Subject: SRCS.23.14 - Sign By-law Amendments for Digital Displays, Highway and Election Signs - (CW Item11.6) - (Proposed By-laws 62-23 and 63-23)

I write with disappointment that the council approved the election sign by law in the committee of the whole.

Clearly, it shows that this council is catering instead of governing. It passes bylaws without understanding the intent or the spirit of the by law. Instead, it is a knee jerk reaction and willing to pass a poorly thought out and written bylaw that is totally premature to be passed. The right step is to get the York Region to address the issues at the York region council and have them fix the problems that are the source of the residents' complaint including that of the real estate signs before fixing the City of Richmond Hill sign bylaw. You are putting the cart before the horse! It is a waste of the city resources and council's time.

There were 3 elections within 12 months (the Federal, the provincial and the local and each level of government have different election sign bylaws that govern their election) and people are tired of seeing those signs when the local elections are held in October. I get that. But you in council must see beyond that.

The City of Toronto clearly spelled out the intent and spirit of the election signs, "An election sign is any sign advertising or promoting a candidate in an election, OR, intended to influence persons to vote for, or against, a candidate."

What does that tell you? If it is not clear enough, I will spell it out for you!! IT IS A PUBLIC SERVICE!

When you limit candidates' exposure, especially non-incumbents, you are protecting yourself as name recognition in local elections is the reason why incumbents get voted in election after election. Further, new candidates are not afforded the same kind of chances to place their signs in homes. Your actions limit and clearly are creating an injustice to anyone running except for the incumbents. You talk the talk but do not walk the walk.

Let me remind you that, in my previous correspondence to the council, I stated very clearly that the issues from the survey of election signs are the problems created by the York Region election signs by forcing signs in a small corner of the intersection and when we have many candidates, everyone competes for space. (3 of the 4 problems are a result of that)

On the issue of too many signs by a candidate, a 10-minute search would have found many election bylaws that would have addressed it. Milton does not allow another sign within 10 meters of the same candidate in urban areas and 50 meters in others. Adopting similar laws would solve the last issue from the survey.

I am writing to the council once again to rethink your actions on the election signs and to consider what I have written here and previously. You need to foster a climate where it makes it attractive for business to thrive. Cut red tape. Make bylaws simple and easy to understand. Work efficiently.

This council makes it a perception that bylaw officers are not doing their job and are blaming them on their lack of action when in fact they have no authority over the region bylaw regardless of the real estate signs or the election signs. The residents must be told. Please do not shame our bylaw officers.

ps: attached bylaw signs placement from city of Toronto and a screen capture of their website for your view. The reason why Toronto does not have the problems listed in Richmond Hill's survey is because they know how to do it right.

Sigmund Lee

20 Hamills Crescent

Election Signs

Election signs advertise or promote candidates in federal, provincial, or municipal elections (including elections for local board or commissions). This includes signs, balloons, blimps, vehicle wraps, mobile signs on vehicles or trailers and bumper stickers intended to influence a person to vote for or against any candidate.

Election signs in Toronto must comply with the Toronto Municipal Code [Chapter 693, Article II – Election Signs](#). The bylaw provides rules for election signs on private and public properties, outlines when election signs can be displayed and when they must be removed, and provides rules for campaign office signs.

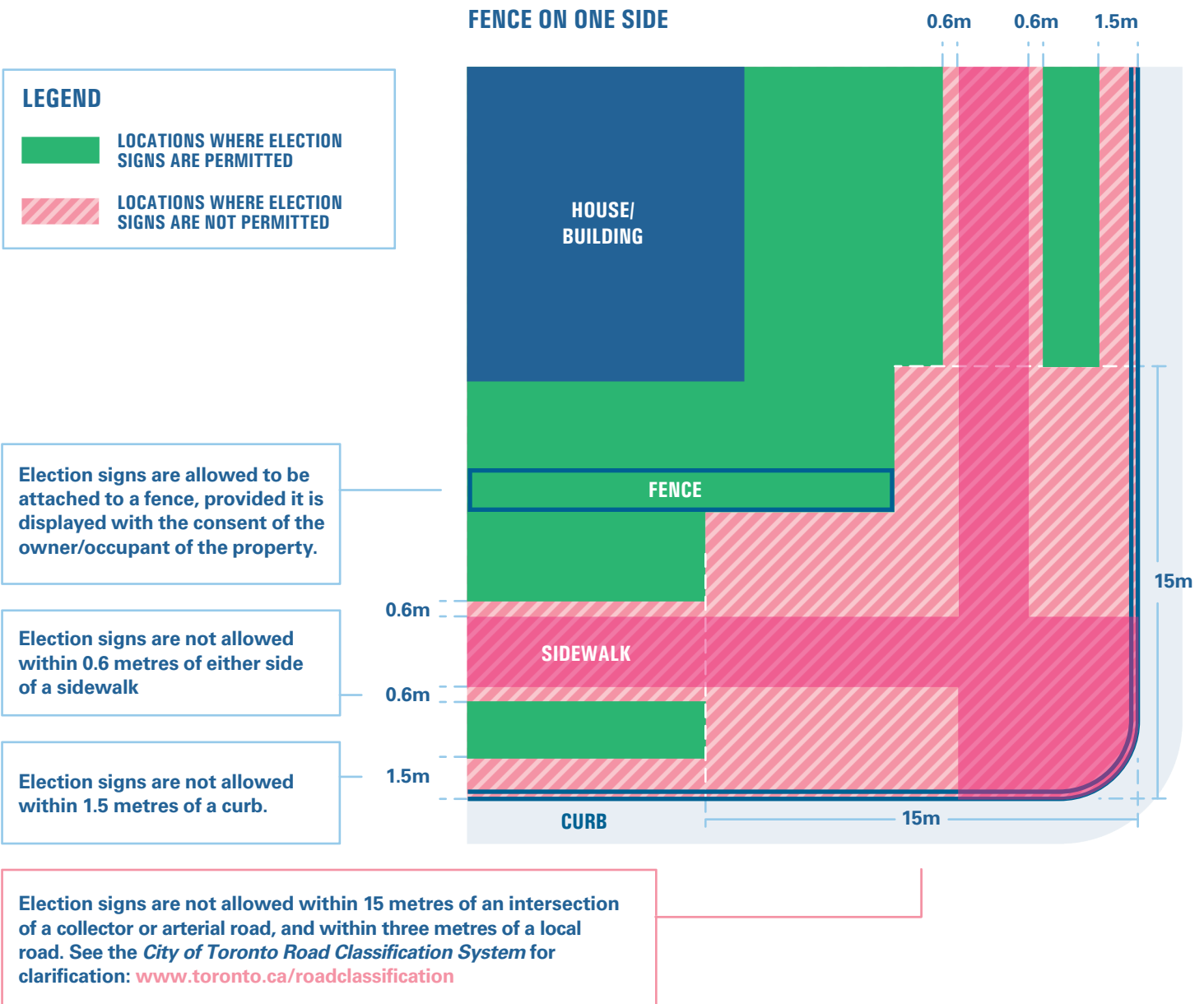
Residents can [contact 311](#) to report election signs that are in conflict with the bylaw.

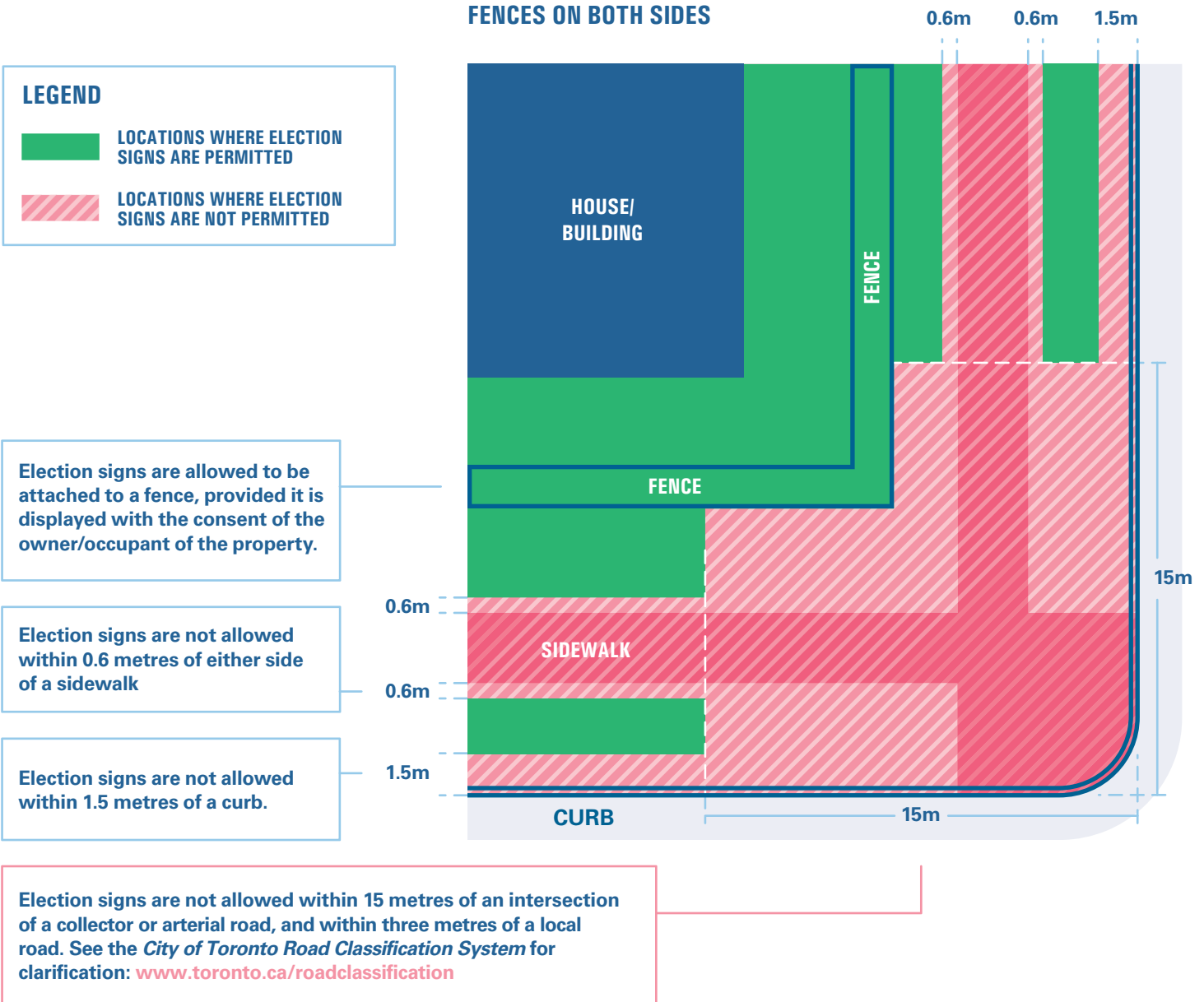
Expand All +

Collapse All -

General Rules	+
Guidelines On Sign Placement	+
Display Period	+
Removal And Disposal	+
Campaign Office Signs	+
Outsider Election Signs	+
Reporting Election Signs	+
Fines For Bylaw Violation	+

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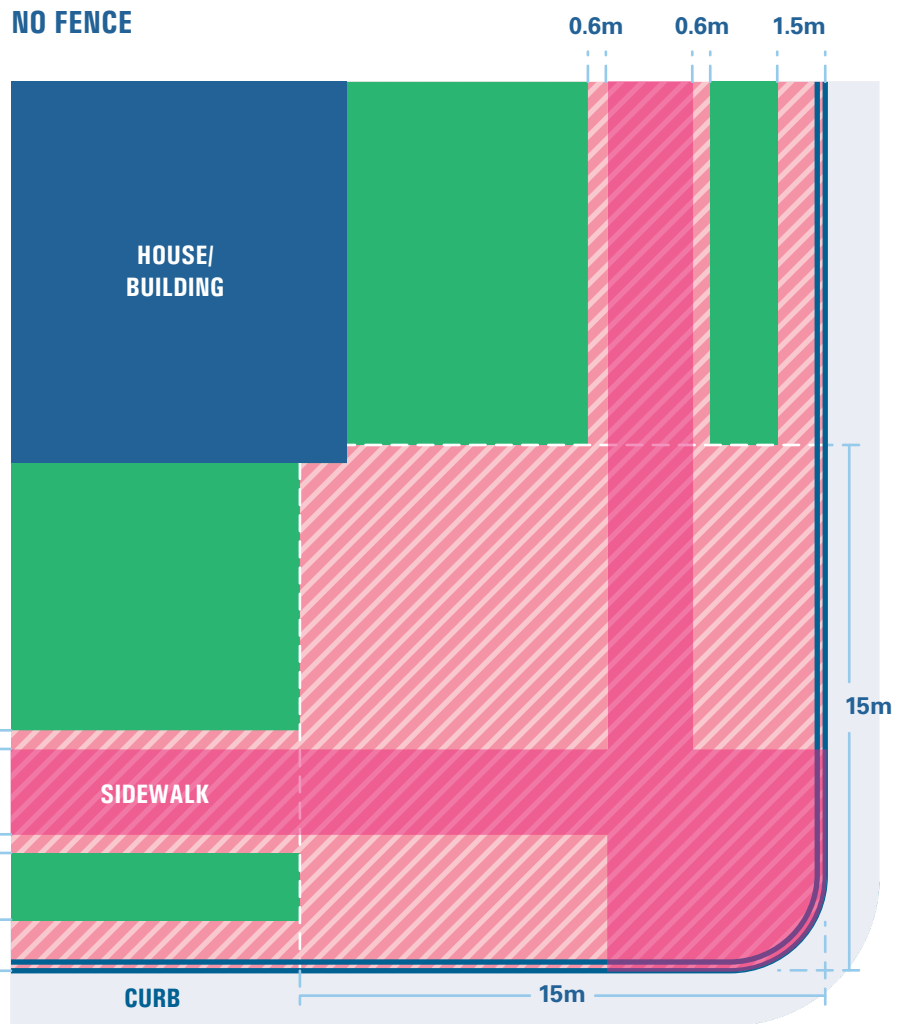




LEGEND

- LOCATIONS WHERE ELECTION SIGNS ARE PERMITTED
- LOCATIONS WHERE ELECTION SIGNS ARE NOT PERMITTED

NO FENCE



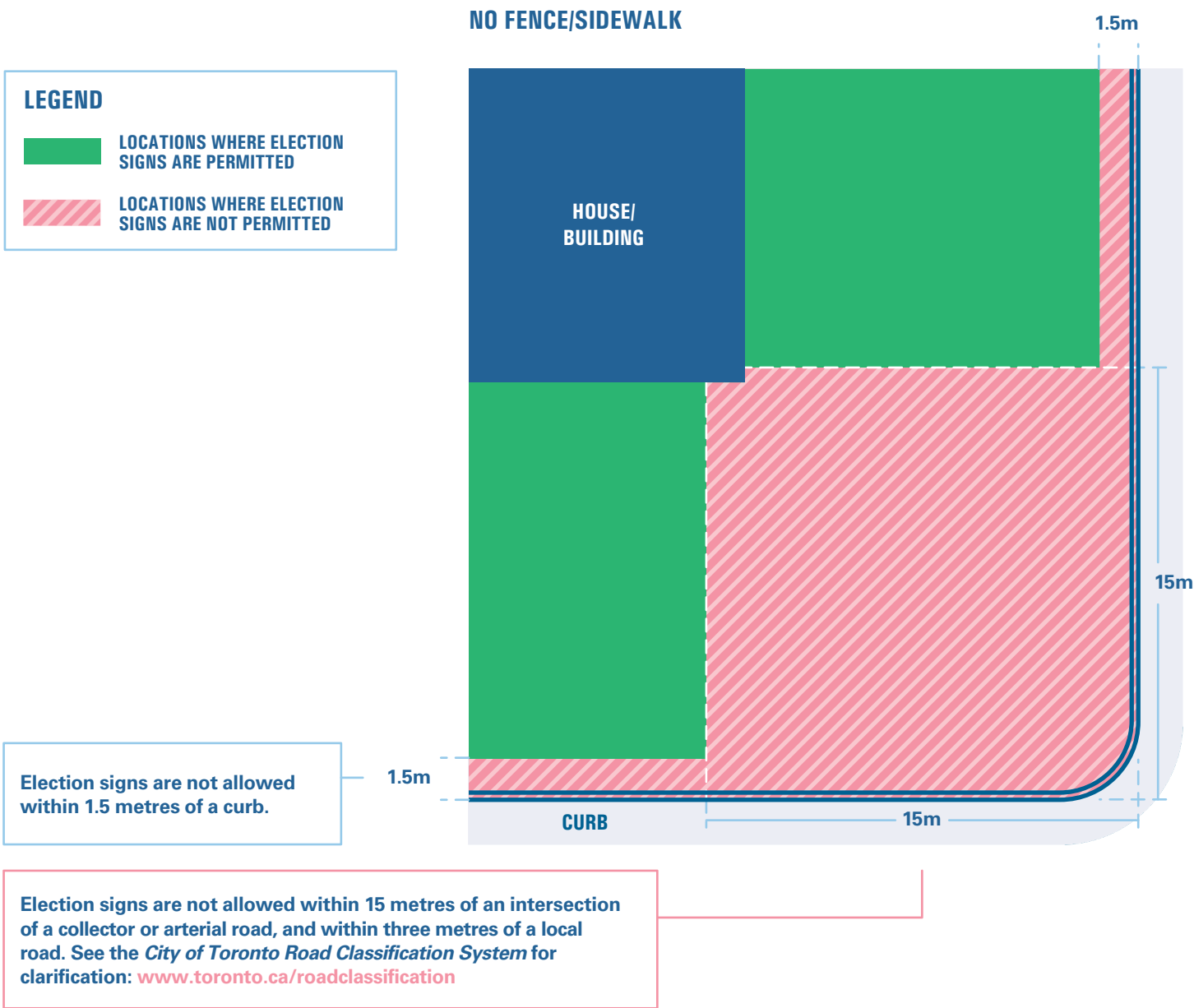
Election signs are not allowed within 0.6 metres of either side of a sidewalk

Election signs are not allowed within 1.5 metres of a curb.

Election signs are not allowed within 15 metres of an intersection of a collector or arterial road, and within three metres of a local road. See the *City of Toronto Road Classification System* for clarification: www.toronto.ca/roadclassification



Call **3 1 1**



Election signs can be displayed:

On private property:

with the consent of the property owner/occupant.

On public property:

- on streets/roads or public utility poles on streets/roads provided that election signs are not:
 - within 1.5 metres of the curb / edge of pavement
 - within 0.6 metres of either side of a sidewalk
 - within 15 metres of an intersection/pedestrian crossover of a collector or arterial road
 - within three metres of an intersection/pedestrian crossover of a local road
 - on a median or island
 - adjacent to a voting place, City park or a facility owned or operated by the City
 - without the consent of the owner/occupant of the abutting property.
- on bus shelters, garbage and recycling containers, and street installation dedicated advertising space
- on TTC dedicated advertising space
- as sign copy on a third party sign
- on vehicles or trailers

If more than one sign are displayed at a location, each sign must be at least one metre apart, unless approved by:

- the property owner/occupant when placed on private property or
- the property owner/occupant of the abutting property when placed on public property

Election signs cannot be larger than 1.2 square metres in area and higher than two metres above ground level, except:

- on campaign offices
- on TTC dedicated advertising spaces
- on street installation dedicated advertising spaces
- on third party advertising spaces (e.g., billboards)
- when displayed indoors
- on windows and balconies

Election signs cannot:

- be illuminated (unless on advertising spaces as per above)
- be attached to trees
- obstruct visibility or block sightlines for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists
- contain the City of Toronto logo

CAMPAIGN OFFICE SIGNS

A campaign office sign is any sign that solely identifies the name of a candidate in an election and the location of a candidate's campaign office, and contains no other message.

Campaign office signs can be displayed if they are displayed in accordance with the requirements of **Chapter 694, Signs** or the applicable sign permit.

Directional signs (to indicate the location of a campaign office) are prohibited.