Government of Saskatchewan

Election and Political Signs

Highway advertising signs are a popular tool for political parties before, during, and after an election. However, the placement of these signs needs to be balanced with the safety of the traveling public.

Political signs incorrectly placed along the highway can unintentionally become a distraction and a safety hazard for motorists. For this reason, signing regulations have been developed specific to political signage.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure (Ministry) would like to remind your organization of the relevant legislation within *The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997* (the *Act*) and *The Provincial Highway Sign Control Regulations, 2012* pursuant to the *Act*, so that any misunderstandings and adverse impacts to safety are avoided.

The full text of both the *Act* and the pursuant regulations can be found on the Queen's Printer website at: **www.qp.gov.sk.ca**. A summary fact sheet is attached below for your convenience.

If political signage does not adhere to the above noted legislation and regulation, political organizations will be asked to remove their signs. In instances of non-compliance, Ministry officials will remove signs from provincial right-of-ways.

By providing you with this information and by familiarizing yourself with the *Act*, the Ministry hopes to avoid any risks to public safety and limit impacts to your organization's busy schedule.

If you have any questions or are unsure about the position of your signs, please contact the **Traffic Guidance Signing Office** at **306-933-8319** or **info.sign@gov.sk.ca.**

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Summary Fact Sheet

A. Summary of rules for an election sign near provincial highways (*for an election period*)

1. An election sign can be placed and does not require a Ministry permit if it:

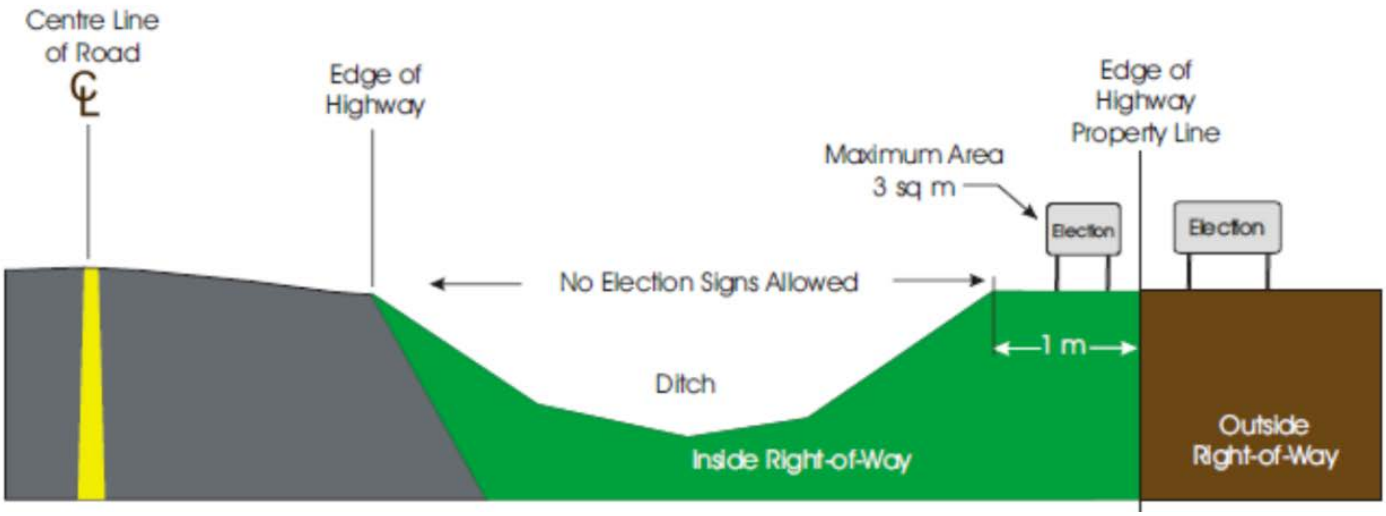
   a) is no larger than three-square metres in area; and
   b) is placed no more than one metre from the edge of the highway property line (edge of the right-of-way), as indicated in the green area of the **diagram below**; or
   c) is outside of the right of way and on private land with the property owner's permission, as indicated in the brown area of the **diagram below**.

2. An election sign requires a permit if it is larger than three square metres, regardless of location or whether it is inside the right-of-way or on private land. A property owner's permission would also be needed, if the permit is requested for an election sign on private land. Permits are obtained through the Ministry's **Traffic Guidance Signing Office** at **306-933-8319** or **info.sign@gov.sk.ca.**
3. An election sign, regardless of size or location, can only be placed after an election writ has been issued and needs to be removed within seven calendar days after the election date.
4. Near a provincial highway, an election sign, regardless of size or location, cannot be placed that:

   a) has one or more flashing lights;
   b) has any moving parts;
   c) resembles an official sign that could cause confusion for motorists;
   d) interferes with the sight lines of motorists at an intersection or railway crossing;
   e) is in a ditch, in a median, on a roadway or on an approach to a provincial highway; or
   f) fails to meet the Ministry's size specifications.

5. Check with local authorities about their bylaws regarding an election sign inside the incorporated limits of a city, town, village or other community.

B. Summary of rules for a political sign near provincial highways (*for a non-election period*)

1. Signs depicting a political party, their members, potential candidates or other material of a similar nature cannot be placed near a provincial highway during a non-election period. These signs, along with most other advertising signs, are not allowed near provincial highways in order to limit the amount of distractions for drivers and to help ensure the general safety of motorists.

2. Billboards or other signs of a political nature may be placed inside the incorporated limits of a city, town, village or other community, if allowed by local bylaws. Please check with local authorities.