

BYLAW 1534/21
ELECTION SIGNAGE BYLAW
STURGEON COUNTY, MORINVILLE, ALBERTA

A BYLAW OF STURGEON COUNTY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO REGULATE WHEN ELECTION SIGNAGE ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY MAY BE ERECTED

WHEREAS, section 7.6.10 of Sturgeon County’s Land Use Bylaw 1385/17 regulates election signs, including when election signs must be removed after an election, but does not prescribe how far in advance of election day election signs may be erected;

AND WHEREAS, recent amendments to the *Local Authorities Election Act*, RSA 2000, c L-21 modified the nomination period for municipal elections from the Monday four weeks before election day to January 1 of the year of the election;

AND WHEREAS, Council deems it appropriate to pass this Election Signage Bylaw to prescribe when election signs may be erected, in order to balance freedom of speech with the visual aesthetic of the community;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of Sturgeon County, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Title

1.1. This Bylaw may be referred to as the “Election Signage Bylaw”.

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of this Bylaw is to prescribe when municipal, provincial, and federal election signage may be erected in advance of an election.

3. Definitions

3.1. Unless otherwise specified, words used in this Bylaw have the same meaning as defined in the *Local Authorities Election Act*, RSA 2000, c L-21, the *Election Act*, RSA 2000, c E-1, the *Canada Elections Act* SC 2000, c. 9, or Sturgeon County’s Land Use Bylaw 1385/17.

4. Election Signage

4.1. Municipal Elections

(a) Election signs may not be erected before the close of nominations on nomination day.

4.2. Provincial Elections

(a) Election signs may not be erected more than thirty (30) days before election day.

4.3. Federal Elections

(a) Election signs may not be erected more than thirty-six (36) days before election day.

5. Enforcement

5.1. Removal and Disposal of Elections Signs

- (a) Election signs erected in contravention of this Bylaw may be removed and disposed of by a Peace Officer without prior notice or compensation to the owner.

- (b) Election signs impounded and which have not been claimed by the owner within three (3) days of the close of polls on election day may be destroyed without compensation to the owner.

- (c) A person shall not interfere with or attempt to obstruct a Peace Officer in the removal of an election sign pursuant to this Bylaw.

5.2. Fines

- (a) A Peace Officer may fine the owner of an election sign erected in contravention of this Bylaw \$100 for the first offence and \$200 for each subsequent offence.

6. Severability

- 6.1. If any portion of this Bylaw is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed and the remainder of the Bylaw is deemed valid.

7. Effective Date

- 7.1. This Bylaw shall come into force and take effect upon being passed.

Read a first time this 9th day of February, 2021.

Read a second time this 9th day of February, 2021.

Read a third time this 9th day of February, 2021.

"Original Signed"

Alanna Hnatiw
MAYOR

"Original Signed"

Reegan McCullough
COUNTY COMMISSIONER (CAO)

February 11, 2021

DATE SIGNED