

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA

BYLAW NUMBER 2018.17

A BYLAW TO REGULATE MUNICIPAL, SCHOOL BOARD AND REGISTERED THIRD PARTY ADVERTISER ELECTION SIGNS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA

WHEREAS the Municipal Act, R.S.O. 2001, Section 11 provides that a Council of a municipality may pass bylaws to regulate structures including fences and signs;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Township of Ramara deems it necessary to have a bylaw regulating Municipal, School Board and Registered Third Party Advertiser Election Signs;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ramara enacts as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Bylaw:

- 1.1. "Candidate" means, in relation to an election in a municipality or school board, an individual that is registered in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and the Education Act, 1990*.
- 1.2. "Clerk" means a person appointed by Council under the *Municipal Act* or designate, and who is the person responsible for conducting the election in the lower-tier municipality in accordance with *the Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended.
- 1.3. "Election Sign" means any sign, poster, mobile sign or other advertising device posted by or on behalf of municipal council candidates, registered third party advertiser, or school board trustee candidates.

- 1.4. "Municipal Road Allowance" with respect to this bylaw, does not include roadway.
- 1.5. "Public Property" means real property owned by or under the control of the Township, including a Park, Library, Community Centre, or any of its agencies, local boards, commissions or corporations but, for the purposes of this by-law, does not include a Street.
- 1.6. "Registered Third Party Advertiser" means, in relation to an election in a municipality, an individual, corporation or trade union that is registered in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended.
- 1.7. "Roadway" means the part of a Street that is improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic and includes a shoulder.
- 1.8. "School Board" means the English Public, French Public, English Catholic and French Catholic school boards having authority within The Township of Ramara.
- 1.9. "Sidewalk" means any municipal walkway, or that portion of a Street between the Roadway and the adjacent property line, primarily intended for the use of pedestrians.
- 1.10. "Voting Location" means a building or other facility where voting is conducted and includes Voter Help Centres
- 1.11. "Ward" means the geographic location for which a candidate is running or the Township boundaries for Mayor or Deputy Mayor Candidates.

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 2.1. No landlord, condominium corporation or their agents shall prohibit residential lessees, condominium owners or tenants from displaying election signs on the residential unit.
- 2.2. Only candidates, registered third party advertisers, or their agents are permitted to erect election signs.
- 2.3. No election sign shall be posted on private property without the express consent of the owner.

- 2.4. All third party advertising (including signs) shall identify the name of the registered third party, the municipality where the third party is registered and contact information such as telephone number, address or email address.
- 2.5. No election sign or advertising device shall be located on any voting location property, including the parking lot and road allowance in front of or adjacent to any voting location property.
- 2.6. No vehicle displaying any election sign is permitted to be parked at or adjacent to any Township facility or voting location.
- 2.7. No election sign shall be erected or displayed outside of the ward in which a candidate is registered.
- 2.8. No election sign shall be posted in the Township of Ramara for a candidate in another municipal jurisdiction.
- 2.9. No election sign shall be erected more than sixty (60) days prior to election day, or forty-five (45) days prior to Voting Day in the case of a by-election.
- 2.10. No election sign shall be placed on a utility pole or light standard.
- 2.11. No election sign or advertising device shall be placed on any municipal property, including but not limited to, roadways, bridges, parks, trails, or sites with municipal buildings, with exception of municipal road allowances.
- 2.12. No election sign shall be placed so as to:
 - a) Obstruct the visibility of any pedestrian or driver,
 - b) Obstruct the visibility of any traffic sign or device,
 - c) Interfere with vehicular traffic in any manner;
 - d) Obstruct openings required for light, ventilation, ingress, egress, or fire or medical emergencies;
 - e) Constitute a danger or hazard to the general public.
- 2.13. No election sign or third party advertising shall incorporate the Township logo or crest or Township election logo.

- 2.14. All other provisions included in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended* shall apply. It is the responsibility of candidates and registered third party advertisers to ensure compliance with applicable legislation.

3. SIGN DEPOSIT

- 3.1. Prior to any election sign being erected within the Township of Ramara, candidates as well as registered third party advertisers shall file a deposit fee of \$100.
- 3.2. Deposits must be submitted to the Clerk and may be in the form of cash, debit or certified cheque payable to the Township of Ramara.
- 3.3. Sign deposits are due and payable at the time of the filing of nomination papers/registration papers and prior to the erection of any signs for any municipal or school board candidates.
- 3.4. Election signs must be removed within three (3) days following a municipal election. If not removed within this time frame, the Clerk may direct that the signs be removed and the deposit retained by the municipality.
- 3.5. The Clerk's decision to retain the deposit shall be final and not subject to review.
- 3.6. In the event that the deposit is not retained, the Clerk shall direct the Treasurer to refund the deposit paid under this Bylaw upon satisfactory removal of all election signs.

4. ENFORCEMENT AND RESTRICTIONS

- 4.1. The Clerk, Provincial Offences Officers, Bylaw Enforcement Officers and any other person designated by the Clerk are hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this Bylaw.
- 4.2. Where election signs have been posted in contravention of this Bylaw, the Clerk may notify the owner, candidate or their agent to remove the sign and take the necessary action to ensure that the sign complies with the provisions of this Bylaw within 24 hours of notice.

- 4.3. Where action is not taken under Section 4.2, the Clerk may direct that the signs be removed and the sign deposit forfeited.
- 4.4. Where election signs have been posted in contravention of this Bylaw and pose a hazard to pedestrians or vehicles, the Clerk or designate may immediately remove the sign and notify the owner or candidate to pick up the sign within 7 days or the sign will be disposed of and the sign deposit is forfeited.

5. ENACTMENT

- 5.1. THAT this Bylaw shall come into force and take effect on the date of passing.

BYLAW READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 12TH DAY OF MARCH 2018.



BASIL CLARKE, MAYOR



JENNIFER CONNOR, CLERK