Thursday July 25, 2019

To: All Federal Candidates and Federal Candidate Offices

FROM: Steven Lund, County Engineer/Director of Operations

SUBJECT: Erection of Federal Election Signs along County of Huron Road Allowances

The Canada Elections Act does not deal with political signs outside federal election periods. During a federal election, as per Section 325 of the Canada Elections Act the following rules apply:
- Government agencies may remove signs that do not respect provincial or municipal laws, after informing the person who authorized the posting of the sign that they plan to remove it.
- If the sign is a safety hazard, government agencies may remove it without informing the person who authorized the posting of the sign.

The County of Huron regulates erection of Federal Election Signage on County Road allowances in accordance with County of Huron Bylaw 53-1989 - A bylaw of the Corporation of the County of Huron to Regulate the Erection of Signs or Overhanging County Road Allowances.

In reference to the upcoming Federal Election, election signage shall be placed in accordance with the following:

1) Small election signs placed by, or on behalf of, a candidate or a political party and signs designated to encourage citizens to vote, may be placed on the right-of-way of a county road, but should not be placed closer than 5 metres from the outer edge of the gravel shoulder for roadside maintenance purposes. Larger signs (e.g. greater than 1.2m X 2.4m) generally requiring two posts for support shall be placed at the outer limits of the right-of-way, generally 15m from the centreline of the paved roadway. Any signs interfering with maintenance operations will be removed.

2) An election sign must not be affixed to a permanent or an official sign or to the guide rail or other highway structure or facility and must not be placed where it may interfere with an official sign or with traffic signals or other safety devices. If the above occurs, the election signs will be removed.

3) Locate information must be obtained by the candidate to ensure that no damage occurs to any underground utility.

4) All Municipal, Provincial and Federal Laws, Acts, Regulations and Standards must be obeyed, including, but not limited to the most current versions of the Ontario Health and Safety Act and Regulations and the Ontario Traffic Manual Temporary Conditions (Book 7).

5) Portable read-o-graph sign trailers are prohibited on the right-of-way of a
highway. Such read-o-graph sign trailers may be utilized providing they are erected on private property and meet the requirements of the Ministry of Transportation for portable read-o-graph signing. No lights are permitted with these signs.

6) Candidate committees, or workers shall be allowed three (3) working days after Election Day in order to remove candidate advertising (election signs) from the right-of-way. Signs not retrieved by this time shall be picked up by the County patrol forces.

The County Public Works Department has concerns regarding distractions to driver visibility, roadway safety and completing our roadside maintenance operations such as grass cutting, shouldering etc. The County of Huron Public Works would appreciate if all candidates would respect our requirements on the above issues.

Public Works staff has been instructed to remove any election signs that do not conform to County election signage requirements or interfere with driver visibility, road safety or maintenance operations in order to help minimize public risk and liability during election time.

Please contact Huron County Public Works at 519-524-8394 ext. 3504 should you have any questions or require further information.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and making our County Road network safer for all.

cc: Meighan Wark, CAO
    Susan Cronin, County Clerk
    Municipal Clerks