

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NIPIGON

By-law No. 2041

A by-law to regulate election signs.

WHEREAS sections 8, 9, 11 and 128 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, authorize municipalities to regulate matters respecting highways, municipal property, and the health, safety and well-being of persons;

AND WHEREAS Council considers it desirable to regulate the placement of election signs within the Township of Nipigon in a manner that protects public safety, municipal infrastructure and property, while ensuring the fair and equitable treatment of all candidates and third-party advertisers;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Nipigon hereby enacts as follows:

1. Definitions

In this By-law:

“Candidate” means a person whose nomination has been certified under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the *Election Act (Ontario)*, or the *Canada Elections Act*, as applicable.

“Chief Administrative Officer” means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Township of Nipigon or designate.

“Election” means a municipal, provincial or federal election, including a by-election, conducted in accordance with the applicable legislation.

“Election Sign” means any sign, poster, placard, banner or other advertising device intended to promote, oppose or identify a candidate, registered third party advertiser, political party or ballot question.

“Registered Third Party Advertiser” means a person or entity registered under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* to incur expenses for third party advertisements.

“Municipal Property” means land, buildings or other property owned or controlled by the Township.

“Road Allowance” means a highway or road allowance under the jurisdiction of the Township.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this By-law is to regulate the placement and removal of election signs in a manner that promotes public safety, protects municipal property and infrastructure, and ensures the fair and equitable treatment of all candidates and registered third party advertisers.

3. Application

This By-law applies to all election signs erected within the Township of Nipigon.

Nothing in this By-law regulates the content of an election sign except as required by applicable legislation.

4. Permitted Election Sign Period

Election signs may be erected:

- a) for a municipal election, on or after Nomination Day;
- b) for a provincial or federal election, on or after the issue of the writ.

Every election sign shall be removed within seven (7) days after Voting Day.

5. Permitted Locations

Election signs may be erected:

- a) on private property with the consent of the owner or occupant;
- b) within a municipal road allowance provided the sign:
 - does not interfere with municipal operations;
 - does not obstruct sight lines;
 - does not interfere with drainage;
 - is securely installed; and
 - complies with this By-law.

6. Prohibited Locations

No person shall erect or display an election sign:

- a) on or within a municipal building;
- b) within a municipal park or playground;
- c) on a bridge, guardrail or traffic control device;
- d) on a tree or municipal street furniture;
- e) within a traffic island, median or roundabout;
- f) where it obstructs a sidewalk, trail or accessibility feature;
- g) where it interferes with pedestrian or vehicular traffic;
- h) within one hundred (100) metres of the entrance to a voting place while voting is taking place;
- i) on any utility pole, hydro pole or telephone pole;

7. Standards

Every election sign shall:

- a) be securely installed;
- b) be maintained in good repair;
- c) not contain flashing lights;
- d) not emit sound;

- e) not create a hazard to persons or property;
- f) not obstruct the visibility of any traffic control device.

8. Removal of Election Signs

The Township may remove any election sign that:

- a) has been erected contrary to this By-law;
- b) creates a safety hazard;
- c) interferes with municipal operations;
- d) remains after the removal deadline.

Where practicable, the Township shall make reasonable efforts to notify the candidate or registered third party advertiser before removing a sign. Removed election signs may be stored by the Township for a period of thirty (30) days before being disposed of.

The Township may recover its reasonable costs associated with the removal of an election sign from the candidate or registered third party advertiser responsible for the sign.

9. Administration

The Chief Administrative Officer or designate shall be responsible for the administration of this By-law.

The Chief Administrative Officer or designate may authorize Township employees or agents to remove election signs erected contrary to this By-law.

10. Offences

Every person who contravenes any provision of this By-law is guilty of an offence and, upon conviction, is liable to the penalties provided for in the *Provincial Offences Act*.

11. Severability

If any provision of this By-law is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall continue in force.

12. Effective Date

This By-law shall come into force and take effect on the date of its passing.

ENACTED and passed this 18 day of August, 2026.


MAYOR


CLERK