
BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO ENCOURAGE THE EFFECTIVE USE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION SIGNS AS A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION IN A MANNER THAT ENSURES SAFETY AND AESTHETICS AND THAT WILL BE EQUITABLY APPLIED AND ENFORCED.

A Bylaw of the Town of Blackfalds, in the Province of Alberta, pursuant to the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA), being Chapter M 26.1 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000 and amendments thereto, for the purpose of regulating the placement of Municipal Election Signs within the Town of Blackfalds.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7 of the MGA, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, authorizes Council to pass Bylaws for the safety, health, and welfare of people, and the protection of people and property, as well as for people, activities, and things in, on or near a public place or place that is open to the public;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 8 of the MGA, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, Council is authorized to regulate and prohibit, as well as to impose fines and penalties for infractions;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 18 of the MGA, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, a municipality has the direction, control, and management of all roads within the municipality;

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 13 of the *Traffic Safety Act*, Council is authorized to make Bylaws with respect to a highway under its direction, control, and management; and

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of the Town of Blackfalds, duly assembled hereby enacts:

PART 1 – TITLE

- 1.1 That this Bylaw shall be cited as the “**Municipal Election Sign Bylaw**”.

PART 2 – DEFINITIONS

2.1 In this Bylaw:

- (a) “**Advance Vote**” means a vote taken in advance of Election day.
- (b) “**Candidate**” means an individual who has been officially nominated to run for Election in a municipal, or school board Election.
- (c) “**Council**” means the duly elected Council of Town of Blackfalds and includes the Mayor, and all Councillors.
- (d) “**Town**” means the Town of Blackfalds.
- (e) “**Court**” means a Court of competent jurisdiction in the Province of Alberta.
- (f) “**Education Act**” means the *Education Act*, RSA 2000, c E-0.3, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- (g) “**Election**” means a general election, by-election, and a vote on a Bylaw or question as administered by the Town of Blackfalds under the *Local Authorities Election Act*, and a school board election under the *Education Act*.
- (h) “**Election Sign**” means a sign:
 - a. Used to promote a Candidate for an Election administered by the Town under the *Local Authorities Election Act* and school board Elections under the *Education Act*;
 - b. With a maximum sign face dimensions not exceeding 3.0 m² (32 ft²);
 - c. May be either 1 sided or 2 sided;
 - d. That is not illuminated; and
 - e. That indicates the name of a nominated Candidate or Registered Third Party.

- (i) **“Enforcement Officer”** means a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), a Community Peace Officer appointed by the Solicitor General of Alberta in accordance with the *Peace Officers Act*, and a Bylaw Enforcement Officer employed by the Town in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*.
- (j) **“Land Use Bylaw”** means the Town of Blackfalds Land Use Bylaw currently in force, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- (k) **“Local Authorities Election Act”** means the *Local Authorities Election Act*, RSA 2000, c L-21, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- (l) **“Municipal Government Act”** means the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- (m) **“Person”** means a natural person or a corporate body and includes a partnership or a group of persons acting in concert or an association.
- (n) **“Registered Third Party”** means a third party that has been registered with the Town or the provincial registrar for third party advertising referred to in section 163 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.
- (o) **“Roadway”** means the portion of the Road Right-of-Way intended for use by vehicular traffic, pedestrians, cyclists, or other modes of transportation, and includes paved or gravel shoulders, medians, traffic circles, and roadway structures, including but not limited to bridges, guardrails, retaining walls, or concrete barriers.
- (p) **“Road Right-of-Way”** means land that is under the direction, control, and management of the Town and is:
 - a. Shown as a road on a plan of survey that has been filed or registered in a land titles office; or
 - b. Used as a public road and includes a bridge forming part of the public road, together with any structure incidental to the public road or road allowances including, but not limited to, boulevards, ditches, swales, fences, retaining walls, sidewalks, pathways, trails, streetlights, traffic control devices, and traffic control signals, and which may or may not contain a developed road.
- (q) **“Town”** means the Town of Blackfalds as a municipal corporation and the geographical area within its jurisdictional boundaries, as the context requires.
- (r) **“Sign Owner”** means a Person who is indicated on an Election Sign, who created an Election Sign, who installed the Election Sign, who is in lawful control of the Election Sign or who is the subject of or otherwise benefits from the message of the Election Sign; for the purposes of this Bylaw, there may be more than one Sign Owner.
- (s) **“Traffic Safety Act”** means the *Traffic Safety Act*, RSA 2000, c T-6 as amended from time to time.
- (t) **“Violation Ticket”** means a ticket issued pursuant to Part 2 of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, RSA 2000, c P-34, as amended from time to time.
- (u) **“Voting Station”** means the entire building where Election voting will occur, and the property associated with the building; also known as a polling place, polling station, or voting place.

PART 3 – ELECTION SIGN INSTALLATION AND ERECTION GUIDELINES ON PUBLIC LANDS

- 3.1 Election Signs may be placed on Town owned property provided they are placed only in the following pre-determined locations, as shown on Schedule “A”:
 - 3.1.1 East side of Broadway Avenue in front of water reservoir only.
 - 3.1.2 Along the west side of Grigg Street.
 - 3.1.3 South Street east of the Leung Road intersection, on either side of South Street up until the Bark Park vehicular access point.

- 3.1.4 Along the west side of Vista Trail from the intersection with South Street north to the northern property line of 4308 South Street, approximately 228.0 m (748.03 ft.) from the intersection.
 - 3.1.5 Along the east side of Vista Trail from the intersection with South Street north until the intersection with Womacks Road.
 - 3.1.6 Along either side of Blackfalds Crossing Way, setback a minimum of 30.0 m (98.43 ft.) away from Highway 2A.
 - 3.1.7 South of Park Street adjacent to the Town of Blackfalds location signage.
 - 3.1.8 West side of Parkwood Road north of Panorama Drive, setback a minimum of 30.0 m (98.43 ft.) away from Highway 2A east asphalt edge.
 - 3.1.9 West side of Parkwood Road and C&E Trail extending 30.0 m (98.43 ft.) each direction from the intersection with Cottonwood Drive.
- 3.2 Election Signs shall not be placed in a manner that obstructs Election Signs placed by other Candidates.
 - 3.3 Election Signs shall not be placed within 20.0 m (65.62 ft.) of another Election Sign from the same Candidate.
 - 3.4 Election Signs shall not be placed within 2.0 m (6.56 ft.) from the edge of Roadway pavement.
 - 3.5 Election Signs shall be a maximum of 3.0 m² (32 ft²) in size and 3.6 m (12 ft) in height and shall not be illuminated.
 - 3.6 Enforcement Officers employed by the Town may remove any Election Signs which have been erected, affixed, posted, or placed on any Town property in contravention of this Bylaw.
 - 3.7 Election Signs shall be placed outside of the 6.0 m (19.69 ft.) sight triangles at intersections, as shown in Schedule "B".
 - 3.8 The Sign Owner is responsible for ensuring all Election Signs are kept free from damage and disrepair. Sign Owners are responsible to remove any damaged or vandalized Election Signs immediately.

PART 4 – ELECTION SIGN INSTALLATION AND ERECTION GUIDELINES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

- 4.1 An Election Sign may only be placed on private property with the consent of the property owner.
- 4.2 An Election Signs shall be a maximum of 3.0 m² (32ft²) in size and 3.6 m (12 ft) in height and shall not be illuminated.
- 4.3 Election Signs shall be placed outside of the 6.0 m (19.69 ft.) sight triangles at intersections, as shown in Schedule "B".
- 4.4 Notwithstanding section 4.1 of this Bylaw, all other forms of signage on private property are subject to the requirements of the *Land Use Bylaw*.
- 4.5 An Election Sign placed on private property pursuant to this Bylaw does not require a development permit.

PART 5 – ELECTION SIGN ERECTION AND REMOVAL TIMES

- 5.1 Election Signs may be erected at any time starting:
 - 5.1.1 45 days prior to a municipal general Election; or
 - 5.1.2 After nomination day for a municipal by-Election.
- 5.2 Election Signs shall be removed within 72 hours after the close of the Voting Station or polls on Election Day.
- 5.3 Subject to 5.1 of this Bylaw, Election Signs on private property that are not removed will no longer be deemed an Election Sign under this Bylaw and will be subject to enforcement provisions under the *Land Use Bylaw*.

PART 6 – OTHER GUIDELINES

- 6.1 An Election Sign shall not be erected at a Voting Station or within the boundaries of the land on which a building used for a Voting Station is located on Election day or an Advance Vote.
- 6.2 An Election Sign shall not be erected in any place that may obstruct or impede any exit routes, escape routes, or the free access of emergency vehicles.
- 6.3 No Person shall use or display the Town of Blackfalds logo or brand, in whole or in part, on any Election Sign.
- 6.4 Nothing in this Bylaw relieves a Person from complying with any federal or provincial legislation or regulation, other municipal Bylaws, or requirement of any lawful permit, order, or licence.
- 6.5 Specific references to legislation in this Bylaw are meant to refer to the current laws applicable within the Province of Alberta at the time this Bylaw was enacted, as they are amended from time to time, including any successor legislation.
- 6.6 Where any provision regulating an Election Sign under this Bylaw conflicts with any other federal or provincial Election legislation, the federal or provincial legislation prevails to the extent of the conflict.

PART 7 – ENFORCEMENT

- 7.1 Any Election Sign that impedes or interferes with the work of the Town operations may be removed by an Enforcement Officer or any other Town employees without providing notice to the Sign Owner.
- 7.2 Any Election Sign that poses a public safety risk may be removed by an Enforcement Officer or any other Town employee without providing notice to the Sign Owner.
- 7.3 Any Election Sign that an Enforcement Officer finds in breach of this Bylaw may be removed and impounded without prior notice to the Sign Owner.
- 7.4 Any Election Sign impounded for a period of 30-days that has not been claimed by the Sign Owner may be destroyed by the Town without compensation to the Sign Owner.
- 7.5 A Sign Owner is liable for any and all damage, loss, and expense caused by or arising from the erection, maintenance, removal, or destruction of the Election Sign.

PART 8 – PROSECUTIONS AND PENALTIES

- 8.1 Where an Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a Person has contravened any provision of this Bylaw, they may serve upon the Person:
 - 8.1.1 A municipal ticket, allowing a voluntary payment of the penalty for the offence to the Town, which shall be accepted by the Town in lieu of prosecution for the offence if payment is received by the Town within 21 days of service of the municipal ticket; or
 - 8.1.2 A Violation Ticket, allowing voluntary payment of the specified penalty for the offence, or, requiring a Person to appear in Court without the alternative of making a voluntary payment, and the recording of the payment of a penalty made to the Town or the Provincial Court of Alberta shall constitute an acceptance of a guilty plea and conviction for the offence.
- 8.2 When an Enforcement Officer issues a Person a Violation Ticket in accordance with this Bylaw, the Enforcement Officer may either:
 - 8.2.1 Allow the Person to pay the specified penalty established by this Bylaw for the offence by including such specified penalty in the Violation Ticket; or
 - 8.2.2 Require a Court appearance of the Person when the Enforcement Officer believes that such an appearance is in the public interest pursuant to the provisions of Part 2 of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*.

- 8.3 Any Person that violates any provisions of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and is liable, upon conviction, to a maximum fine of \$10,000.00, or, in default of payment of the fine, to imprisonment for a period of not exceeding one year, or to both fine and imprisonment in such amounts.
- 8.4 Any Person who contravenes any section of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and is liable upon conviction to a minimum specified penalty of \$100.00.
- 8.5 No provision of this Bylaw, nor any action taken pursuant to any provision of this Bylaw, shall in any way restrict, limit, prevent, or preclude the Town from pursuing any other remedy in relation to an offence as may be provided by the *Municipal Government Act* or any other law of the Province of Alberta.

PART 9 – SEVERABILITY

- 9.1 Each provision of this Bylaw is independent of all other provisions. If any provision of this Bylaw is declared invalid for any reason by a Court, all other provisions of this Bylaw remain valid and enforceable.

PART 10 – DATE OF FORCE

- 10.1 That this Bylaw shall come into effect, upon the date on which it is finally read and passed and that Bylaw 1280.23 and any amendments thereto are repealed.

READ for the first time this 26th day of August, A.D. 2025.

(RES.222/25)

-Original Signed-

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

-Original Signed-

CAO KIM ISAAK

READ for the second time this 26th day of August, A.D. 2025.

(RES. 223/25)

-Original Signed-

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

-Original Signed-

CAO KIM ISAAK

READ for the third time this 26th day of August, A.D. 2025.

(RES. 225/25)

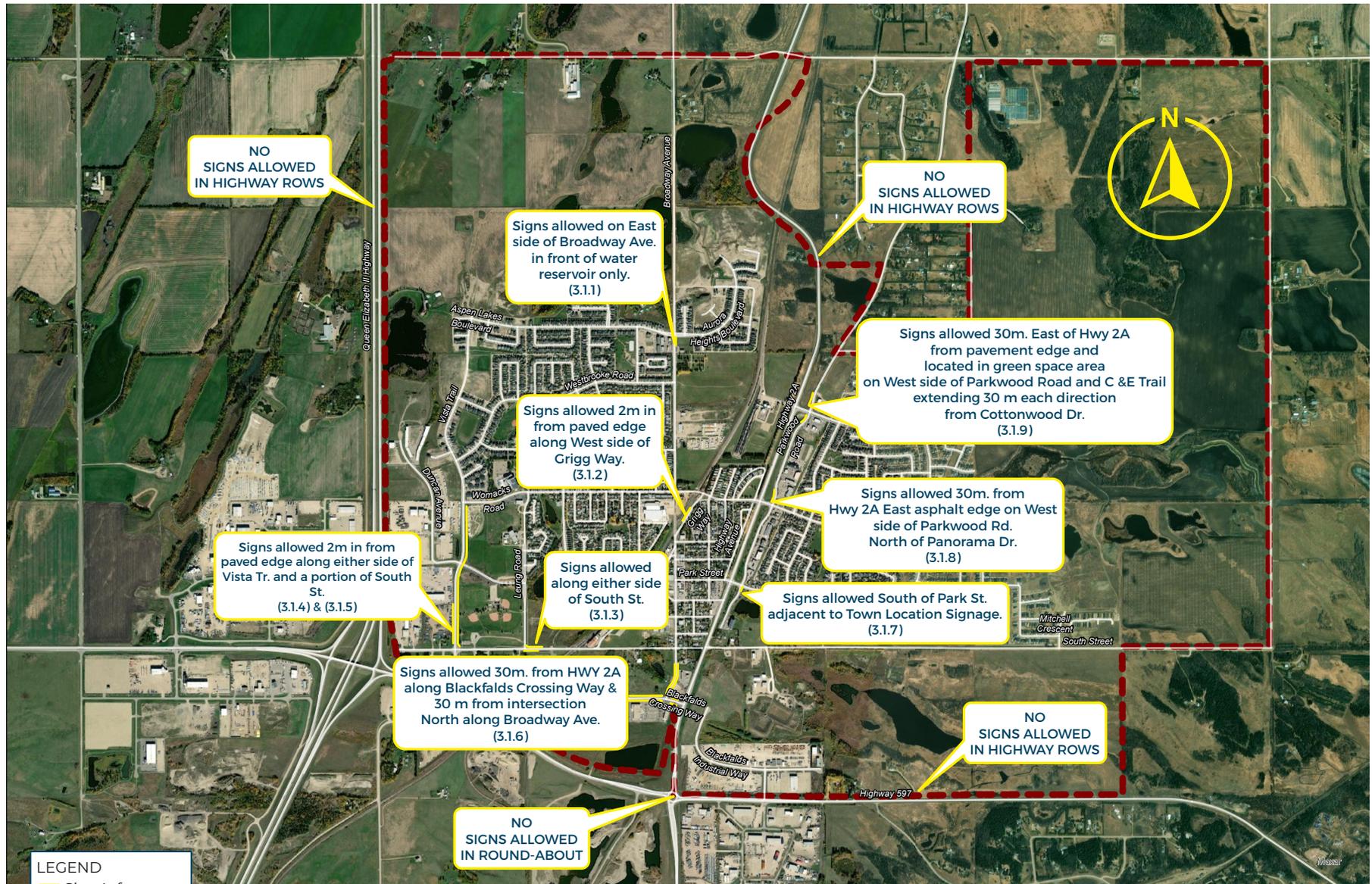
-Original Signed-

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

-Original Signed-

CAO KIM ISAAK

ELECTION SIGN BYLAW 1342.25 SCHEDULE "A"



DATE: 27/08/2025