



The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

Staff Report

Report Title: Election Sign By-law Review and Update

Date: Apr. 20, 2026

Report Number: CLK-2026-12

Department: Legislative Services

File Number: C11 CLK 26

Prepared By: Jennifer White, Manager of Election Services

Attachments: Draft Election Sign By-law

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council receive Report CLK-2026- 12 prepared by Jennifer White, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk;

AND FURTHER that the appropriate by-laws be brought forward as a matters arising.

Background:

The Township of Huron-Kinloss regulates signs through By-law No. 2019-140, as amended and election signs specifically through the Election Sign By-law No. 2022-23.

As part of the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election preparations, Staff have reviewed the by-law and recommend updates to the Election Sign By-law and the Sign By-law.

Discussion/Analysis/Overview:

As permitted by the Municipal Act, 2001, the Township has the authority to regulate signs and to regulate election signs on public property. The Township does not have the authority to place an outright ban on elections signs erected on public property. Case law in Ontario, supports election signs as freedom of expression protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (the Constitution Act, 1982.). Modest restrictions in the size, location, timing and placement of election signs during municipal, provincial and federal elections may be provided for, particularly for reasons of pedestrian and road safety.

Following a comparator review of by-laws and case law, Staff are recommending:

- 1) that the Sign By-law No. 2019-140 be updated to include Election Signs as an exemption under Section 4 of the By-law.
- 2) That the Election Sign By-law be repealed and replaced with the updated version attached as "draft Election Sign By-law".

Recommended changes include:

- Updated definitions for clarity
- Administrative numbering changes for clarity (section 3)

- “No person” language to allow for enforcement activity.
- Restrictions on the size of sign permitted within a road allowance
 - greater than 1.5m² (16.15ft²) in sign face area;
 - greater than 1.25 m (4.10ft) in height;
- clarity on the prohibition of signage in areas that may constitute a danger, hazard or obstruct the view of pedestrians or motorists
- update timing to include requirements for provincial and federal elections (section 7)
- inclusion of AMPS enforcement provisions (Section 10.3 and 10.4)
- removal of details of Mandatory Information on Election Signs – generalized to include requirements for Federal and Provincial elections as well.

Financial Impacts:

No additional financial impacts are anticipated from these by-law updates, beyond staff time.

Performance Measurement:

Review by-laws, policies and procedures

Strategic Area:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Municipal Service Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Inclusive Growth | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure Financial Stability |

Strategic Goal: Strive for continuous improvement and increased efficiency

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jennifer White, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

Report Approved By:

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer