

## Christchurch City Council Elections – 12 October 2019

### GUIDELINES FOR TEMPORARY LOCAL ELECTION SIGNAGE

This information summarises rules applying to candidate and party temporary local election signage. These rules come from a number of sources including the Christchurch District Plan, the Local Electoral Act 2001, Christchurch City Council and New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) bylaws, and the resource consent for the erection of temporary local electoral signage. Please refer to these documents for further detail.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 (section 113) details the requirements that all electoral advertising, including signage, must comply with. Temporary election signs must include a statement of authorisation or endorsement setting out:

- The true name of the person or persons for whom or at whose direction the sign has been erected and the address of his or her residence or place of business; and
- The true name of the organisation or body that has endorsed the erection of the sign and the address of the place of business of that organisation or body.

In 2019 polling day is Saturday 12 October. Temporary local electoral signage ( which might otherwise exceed the District Plan limits on size or number of signs) is permitted within the limits specified below for a period of nine weeks before polling day and must be removed by midnight before polling day. Therefore, this additional signage is authorised from Saturday 10 August until midnight Friday 11 October 2019.

It is the responsibility of the owner of each election sign to ensure that their sign and any supporting structure adhere to the legislation and rules. Council's Regulatory Compliance Unit may remove any sign that does not comply.

Questions regarding the content of local electoral signage and advertising should be made to the Electoral Officer 03 941 8581, [elections2019@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:elections2019@ccc.govt.nz)

#### Landowner permission to display election signage

All signage displayed in any location must have the permission of the landowner (not the occupier) of the property on which it is displayed. This includes private, public, Council and Crown-owned land, and NZTA roads (motorways and state highways).

Signage without permission is not permitted to be erected on Council land, including roads, footpaths and berms, road structures and trees or in parks.

#### Requirements for election signage

The District Plan has rules that control the area, height and number of all signs including temporary local election signs.

In the nine weeks leading up to polling day, from 10 August 2019, additional signage is authorised by a resource consent as summarised in this information. Queries regarding resource consent requirements if the following requirements are not met should be made to the Duty Planner, available on 03 941 8999, [dutyplanner@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:dutyplanner@ccc.govt.nz)

Temporary local election signs may not be:

- ReflectORIZED, illuminated, or have any moveable parts.
- Flashing or digitised unless they are on existing legally established billboards or digital displays.
- Similar to or the same as any traffic sign or controls in shape or colour.
- Captive balloons or blimps.
- An imitation or replication of a voting paper.

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In the nine weeks leading up to polling day, the total number of temporary election signs per site is permitted within the maximum area and size of signs set out below:

- A maximum additional area of 3m<sup>2</sup> of signage per site may be placed in addition to any other legal signage existing, consented or permitted by the District Plan.
- In zones where more than 3m<sup>2</sup> of signage per site is permitted by the District Plan (e.g. some commercial or industrial zones), temporary election signage may be placed up to the normal signage area limit or 3m<sup>2</sup> whichever is greater.
- The maximum height for any part of the sign is 4m above ground level or the façade height of any building, fence or structure it is attached to whichever is lower. Building consent is required for signs over 3m above ground level whether freestanding or attached to a building.
- No new individual temporary election sign may be more than 3m<sup>2</sup> in area.
- Election signage on protected heritage items or in heritage settings must meet more restrictive standards regarding placement, size and use of protective material.

### Location

When considering where to put election signage, there are certain restrictions that must be complied with:

- Election signage must not obscure or distract from traffic signals or other traffic safety signs and controls.
- Where a temporary sign, including a flag, extends over part of the road reserve, the lowest part of the temporary sign must be at least 2.6m above the ground.
- Election signs affixed to or on verandas or projecting from the face of a building must meet additional height and location controls.
- Signs cannot be affixed to any significant tree as defined in the District Plan and restrictions apply on earthworks for signage constructed within 10m of a significant tree.
- Freestanding temporary election signs may not be erected in certain areas identified in the District Plan as having special environmental or cultural values (for example, wahi tapu, sites of ecological significance, outstanding landscape features, etc.). Specific details of these areas are detailed in the District Plan.

### Election advertising on vehicles

Temporary party/candidate signs for the 2019 election on a vehicle are considered temporary local electoral signage. Election advertising on vehicles is permitted when the vehicle is being used for day-to-day transportation, and is being used in accordance with the Council's Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2017 and other traffic legislation.

Use of a vehicle as a sign, i.e. parked up for the purpose of electoral advertising as opposed to transportation, requires compliance with these temporary local electoral signage rules and the Council's Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2017 and Public Places Bylaw 2018.

Signage may be painted on or attached flush to vehicles, but should not protrude out from or above the vehicle body.

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### Election signs on or adjacent to state highways

Restrictions apply to election signs erected on or adjacent to state highways under the control of the NZTA and within Christchurch district boundaries. Under NZTA bylaws signs will not be permitted on a motorway or state highway road reserve where the speed limit is 70km/hour or above.

Contact NZTA with any questions about state highway requirements:

Jude Ward, New Zealand Transport Agency  
Network Technician/Corridor Manager, System Design & Delivery  
Phone 03 964 2813, email [jude.ward@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:jude.ward@nzta.govt.nz)

### Reference documents:

- District Plan: <https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/plans-strategies-policies-and-bylaws/plans/christchurch-district-plan/>
- District Plan Property Search website for any location where signage is proposed: <https://districtplan.ccc.govt.nz/PropertySearch/PropertySearchContainer.html>
- Areas identified by the District Plan with special values
- Public Places Bylaw: <https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/plans-strategies-policies-and-bylaws/bylaws/public-places-bylaw-2018/>
- Traffic and Parking Bylaw: <https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/plans-strategies-policies-and-bylaws/bylaws/traffic-and-parking-bylaw-2017/>
- New Zealand Transport Authority State Highway Bylaws: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/roads-and-rail/highways-information-portal/technical-disciplines/state-highway-bylaws/>
- Guidelines for Temporary Local election signs and signage - Technical references: <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/How-the-Council-works/Elections-2019-GUIDELINES-FOR-TEMPORARY-LOCAL-ELECTION-SIGNS-AND-SIGNAGE-Technical-references.pdf>