

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

BY-LAW NUMBER 2026-014-RE

BEING A BY-LAW to amend By-law 2018-050-RE, being a by-law to regulate Election Signs.

WHEREAS subsection 11(3), paragraph 7 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended authorizes The Corporation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville to pass by-laws respecting signs; and

WHEREAS it is deemed advisable to amend the existing Election Sign By-law for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in order to ensure public safety on its Highways during an election period.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That By-law 2018-050-RE is hereby amended by adding the following to Section 1 - Definitions:

“Election Sign Deposit Fee” means the amount of money held by the Town, without interest, for the duration of the Election period in the amount stipulated within the Town’s Fees and Charges By-law, as amended;

2. That By-law 2018-050-RE is hereby amended by deleting Section 2 f) and replacing it with the following new Section 2 f):

An Election Sign shall only have a maximum:

- i. Sign Area of 1.49 square metres (16 square feet);
- ii. Height of 1.22 metres (4 feet), including the distance from ground level to the top of the sign;
- iii. Length (or width) of 1.22 metres (4 feet).

3. That By-law 2018-050-RE is hereby amended by adding the following to Section 2 – General Prohibitions:

g) xii. Be supported by anything other than wooden stakes or posts.

l) iii. Display, post, or cause to be displayed any sign, message, or advertisement, including, but not limited to, those on vehicles or trailers, containing the words “elect,” “vote,” “election,” or similar election-related language on any premises used as a Voting Place for elections, or on any Highway adjacent to the Voting Place.

m) No person shall park or display Vehicles or trailers displaying advertisements that include election-related language such as “elect,” “election,” or “vote” at Town-owned facilities.

4. That By-law 2018-050-RE is hereby amended by deleting Section 3 a) and replacing it with the following new Section 3 a):

a) Subject to the General Prohibitions in Section 2, Election Signs are permitted at the designated intersections noted in Schedule A, but

not on or within any Public Property or other Highways owned or maintained by the Municipality.

- i. Councillor Candidates may place Election Signs only at the designated intersections within the ward for which they are a candidate.
- ii. Mayoral Candidates may place Election Signs at any of the designated intersections listed in Schedule A.

5. That By-law 2018-050-RE is hereby amended by deleting Section 3 c) i. and replacing it with the following new Section 3 c) i.:

No higher than 1.22 metres (4 feet), including the distance from ground level to the top of the sign;

6. That By-law 2018-050-RE is hereby amended by deleting Section 4 – Election Signs on Private Property and replacing it with the following new Section 4:

4. ELECTION SIGNS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

- b) Subject to the General Prohibitions in Section 2, Election Signs are permitted on private property:

- iii. Only with the consent of the owner or occupant of the property; and
- iv. Not erected or installed so as to create an unsafe obstruction or visual impairment for pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

- c) Signs identifying a Campaign Office are governed by the provisions of the Town's Signs (Portable Signs) By-law 2016-165-RE and the Town's Signs and Advertising Devices By-law 2016-012-RE and are not considered Election Signs, provided they do not include words or symbols such as *elect*, *vote*, *re-elect*, *support*, *campaign for*, or any similar wording that promotes voting for or against a Candidate.

- d) Where a sign located at a Campaign Office includes such wording, it shall be deemed an Election Sign and subject to the provisions of this By-law.

7. That By-law 2018-050-RE is hereby amended by deleting Section 5 c). and replacing it with the following new Section 5 c):

Despite Sections 5a) and 5b), Election Signs may be erected on campaign offices once the Candidate has filed his or her nomination papers and paid the required filing fee. Further, Election Signs for certified candidates may be erected on any other private property, that is not a Campaign Office, beginning on Nomination Day.

8. That By-law 2018-050-RE is hereby amended by deleting Section 6 a). and replacing it with the following new Section 6 a):

All fees, including the Election Sign fee, are to be paid in accordance with the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Fees and Charges By-law, as amended. The Election Sign fee covers the entire campaign period for all signs placed on Regional or Municipal land.

9. That By-law 2018-050-RE is hereby amended by deleting Section 7 a). and replacing it with the following new Section 7 a):

Municipal Law Enforcement Officers or any other individuals designated by the Clerk shall immediately remove any Election Signs erected, installed or displayed in violation of this By-law, without notice and destroy said signs, and/or take any further action as provided within this By-law. The Town shall not be liable for, nor provide any compensation for, the removal or destruction of such Election Signs. Applicable sign removal fees shall apply in accordance with the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Fees and Charges By-law.

10. That By-law 2018-050-RE is hereby amended by adding the following section before the existing Section 10:

10. ELECTION SIGN PERMIT & DEPOSIT PROGRAM

- a) No person shall place, or permit to be placed, an Election Sign within the Town without first obtaining an Election Sign Permit and paying the Election Sign Deposit Fee.
- b) Election Sign Permit applications shall be:
 - i. Completed by the Candidate or the Registered Third Party advertiser in a form provided by the Town; and
 - ii. Accompanied by the Election Sign Deposit Fee.
- c) Any Election Sign displayed in violation of this By-law, within a Town or a Regional road allowance that is removed by the Town will result in a deduction from the Election Sign Deposit Fee, in the amount as outlined in the Town’s Fees and Charges By-law, as amended, and the sign will be disposed of forthwith by Town staff, without an option for the Candidate to claim the sign.
- d) A Candidate or the Registered Third Party advertiser will be refunded their Election Sign Deposit Fee within sixty (60) days after Voting Day, minus any deductions that have occurred during the election period for the removal of any Election Sign by Town staff.

11. That By-law 2018-050-RE is hereby amended to add the following table to Schedule A.

Designated Intersections for Election Signs	
Ward	Intersection
1	Bethesda Road and Ratcliff Road
1	St John’s Sideroad and Woodheath Lane
1	Vandorf Sideroad and McCowan Road
2	Lakeshore Road and Windsor Drive
2	Ninth Line and Legendary Trail
2	Ninth Line and St John’s Sideroad
3	Hoover Park Drive and Tenth Line
3	Main Street and Mohawk Gate
3	Tenth Line and Bethesda Sideroad
4	Hoover Park Drive and Mostar Street

4	Hoover Park Drive and Ninth Line
4	Main Street and Mostar Street
5	Forsyth Farm Drive and Flute Street
5	Millard Street and Park Drive/Ironwood Crescent
5	Tenth Line and Forsyth Farm Drive
6	Hoover Park Drive and Cabin Trail Crescent/Ida Jane Grove
6	Hoover Park Drive and Thicketwood Boulevard
6	Tenth Line and Busato Drive

12. That this By-law shall come into force and effect on the date of passage by Council.

READ a first and second time this 18th day of February, 2026.

READ a third time and passed this 18th day of February, 2026.

Iain Lovatt, Mayor

Jennifer Peplinski, Deputy Clerk