



City of Chestermere  
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Bylaw #034-25

## **Bylaw #034-25**

# **Temporary Signs on Highways Bylaw**

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**A BYLAW OF THE CITY OF CHESTERMERE, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO REGULATE TEMPORARY SIGNS ON HIGHWAYS IN THE CITY OF CHESTERMERE.**

**WHEREAS** the *Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26* authorizes a municipality to pass Bylaws respecting the safety, health, and welfare of people and the protection of people;

**AND WHEREAS** the *Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26* authorizes a municipality to pass Bylaws respecting people, activities, and things in on or near a public place or a place that is open to the public;

**AND WHEREAS** the *Traffic Safety Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. T-6* empowers a Council to pass Bylaws respecting the use of Highways;

**AND WHEREAS** it is desirable to regulate temporary Signs placed on Highways in order to ensure the safety of users of the Highways and maintain the aesthetics of the Community;

**AND WHEREAS** limiting Sign proliferation helps to reduce the visual clutter and allows for more effective communication of information for all Sign users; and

**NOW, THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTERMERE, DULY ASSEMBLED, HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

**1. TITLE**

**1.1** This Bylaw may be cited as the “Temporary Signs on Highways Bylaw”.

**2. DEFINITIONS**

**2.1** “**Candidate**” or “**Candidates**” means an individual who has been nominated to run in a Municipal Election;

**2.2** “**Chief Administrative Officer**” or “**CAO**” means the Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Chestermere, Alberta appointed by Council, or their designate pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c.M-26*;

**2.3** “**City**” means the municipal corporation of the City of Chestermere, in the Province of Alberta, or the area within the City of Chestermere’s corporate limits, as the context requires;

**2.4** “**City Employee**” means any employee of the City of Chestermere engaged in any outdoor maintenance, roads maintenance, construction or waste collection and includes seasonal employees;

- 2.5 “City Property”** means any structure, equipment, fence, or things owned by the City which are on or boarder a Highway;
- 2.6 “Council”** means the duly elected Mayor and Councillors of the City of Chestermere;
- 2.7 “Election Sign”** means any Sign placed by a candidate for any Municipal office or a Sign placed with a general purpose of supporting any Municipal Election Candidate or Municipal political party, or the general election or by-election at the municipal level of government;
- 2.8 “Highway”** means the same as defined in the *Traffic Safety Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. T-6*, as amended, or replaced from time to time;
- 2.9 “Light Standard”** means any device intended to illuminate a Highway, where operable or not, and includes a Light Standard that is under the control of a Community developer;
- 2.10 “Owner”** means any Person who is described on a Sign, whose name or address or telephone number appears on a Sign, who created a Sign, who installed a Sign, who is in lawful control of a Sign or who is the subject of or otherwise benefits from the message on the Sign, and, for the purposes of this Bylaw, there may be more than one Owner of a Sign;
- 2.11 “Peace Officer”** means a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a member of the Police of Jurisdiction, a Peace Officer as defined in the *Peace Officer Act, SA 2006, c. P-3.5* and the regulations thereof, as amended or replaced from time to time and a Bylaw Enforcement Officer as defined in the *Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26*, as amended from time to time;
- 2.12 “Person”** means an individual or any business entity including an association, company, corporation, firm, partnership, or society;
- 2.13 “Poster”** means a Sign which is not self supporting and is attached with its entire back surface in contact with a pole, wall, or structure;
- 2.14 “Premises”** means the external surface of all buildings and the whole or part of any parcel of real property, including the land immediately adjacent to any building or buildings;
- 2.15 “Public Place”** means any place, including privately owned or leased property to which the public reasonably has or is permitted to have access, and shall include for the purposes of this Bylaw any Open Space Area;

- 2.16 “Rights-of-way” or “ROW”** means a Highway, road allowance, Roadway, Alley, Sidewalk, Boulevard or bridge that is under the jurisdiction of the City, excluding fee simple titled property;
- 2.17 “Sign”** means a self-supporting inscribed banner, board, bill, flag, placard, Poster, or any other similar device which is intended to promote anything or inform anyone;
- 2.18 “Sound Attenuation Wall”** means an exterior structure designed to reduce transportation related sound levels in adjacent residential areas and includes those under the control of a Community developer;
- 2.19 “Structure” or “Erection”** means a framework or construction with elements identifiable giving stability and for and able to resist strains and stresses;
- 2.20 “Traffic Control Device”** means any Sign, Signal, marking, or device marked or erected under the authority of the *Traffic Safety Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. T-6* for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic; and
- 2.21 “Violation Ticket”** means a summons violation ticket issued under Part 2 or Part 3 of the *Provincial Offences Procedures Act, R.S.A. 2000, c.P-34*, as amended.

### 3. APPLICATION

- 3.1** Nothing in this Bylaw relieves a Person from complying with any provision of any federal or provincial law or regulation, other Bylaw or any requirement of any lawful permit, order, or license.
- 3.2** Any heading, sub-heading, or table of contents in this Bylaw are included for guidance purposes and convenience only and shall not form part of this Bylaw.
- 3.3** All the schedules attached to this Bylaw shall form a part of this Bylaw.
- 3.4** This Bylaw is gender neutral.
- 3.5** A copy of a record of the City, certified by a deSignated officer as a true copy of the original, shall be admitted in evidence as prima facie proof of the facts stated in the record without proof of the appointment or Signature of the Person Signing it.

## PART “A” – ELECTION SIGN REGULATIONS AND OFFENCE

### 4. ELECTION SIGN REGULATIONS

**4.1** Nothing in this Bylaw shall be interpreted in any way so as to require a Candidate to obtain an exemption permit, as prescribed for in Section 6.8 of the Bylaw, for an Election Sign.

**4.2** Nothing in this Bylaw shall be interpreted in a way as to apply to a private Premises.

**4.3 General Regulations:**

No Election Sign shall

- a. Exceed 1.5 metres squared in highway right-of-way;
- b. Be placed prior to 30 days before an election day
- c. Be allowed to remain in place 3 days after the election day; and
- d. Fail to comply with eligibility criteria in Section 4.6.

**4.4** If a Sign does not comply with these guidelines, a peace officer or an authorized representative, without notice or compensation, may remove and dispose of the Sign.

**4.5** No liability lies against a Peace Officer or City Employee who exercises their authority under Section 4.4.

**4.6 Eligibility Criteria**

No Election Sign shall:

- a. display an intermittent flashing, rotating or moving light;
- b. emit any sound;
- c. display video;
- d. be floodlit which could distract drivers;
- e. have any moving or rotating parts;
- f. imitate the wording of a standard or commonly used highway traffic Sign, such as stop, stop ahead, yield, or any other traffic control device;
- g. imitate or resemble a traffic control device, such as a stop Sign;
- h. include associated yard lights, area lighting and other lights that, are excessively distracting to the public or create a traffic hazard;
- i. include or contain the City’s logo or any insignia or branding owned or protected by the City;
- j. contain content that is obscene, discriminatory, or defamatory; or
- k. contain content that violates any other Municipal Bylaw or violates a Provincial or Federal Statute or Regulation.

#### 4.7 Location Regulations:

- a. When placing Election Signs a Candidate shall ensure that:
  - i. Signs are placed no closer than 2 metres from the edge of pavement
  - ii. in the case of gravel roads, no closer than 2 metres from the shoulder of the road);
  - iii. during winter conditions, no less than 6 metres from the road to prevent damage or the covering of the Election Sign; and
  - iv. a Candidate, representative, or volunteer of said Candidate may not place Municipal Election Signage on the Premises or within 50 metres of any Voting Station during Advance Voting or Election Day.
- b. No Election Signs shall be:
  - i. within the median of a divided provincial Highway;
  - ii. mounted on any traffic control device;
  - iii. placed on a tree in a Public Place;
  - iv. placed in any Open Space Area as defined in the *Community Standards Bylaw*, as amended or replaced from time to time;
  - v. Placed on any City owned Premises, Structure or Erection, including those found within a road Right of Way;
  - vi. placed in or within 500 metres of construction zones; and
  - vii. placed in any manner that obstruct a driver's view of an Intersection in an urban area;
  - viii. placed within 15 metres of an intersection controlled by traffic signals or railway crossing in an urban area;
  - ix. placed within 250 metres of an intersection in a rural area; and
  - x. placed within 5 metres of a fire hydrant.

#### 4.8 Candidate Safety Regulations:

A candidate shall take precautions when installing Election Signs to ensure the safety of the Candidate and their staffers and prevent driver distraction:

- a. the employee of a Candidate or a volunteer for a Candidate working near a Highway shall wear reflective vests and bright clothing;
- b. Election Signs can only be installed during daylight hours;
- c. vehicles used for transporting Election Signs must:
  - i. be parked to minimize the impact to drivers (preferably on an approach), as far as possible from the travel lanes; and
  - ii. have 4-way hazard warning Signals operating at all times.

#### 4.9 Sign Removal Regulations:

a. Candidates shall ensure that their Election Signs are removed within 3 days after the election day. The candidate is responsible for installing and removing Election Signs.

i. Removal includes:

1. the Sign panel;

2. supporting structure; and

3. any tie wiring used to install and support the Sign.

Signs that pose an immediate hazard to the public will be removed immediately by City Employees without notification.

b. When the removal of an Election Sign is necessary due to safety or operational concerns, the City Roads Manager will notify the responsible candidate office to take the required action:

i. failure to respond within the specified time will result in the Sign being removed;

ii. Signs will be stored at the City Community Operations Yard in accordance with *Section 610 of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c.M-26; and*

iii. the Candidate will be notified to arrange to have the Signs picked up.

#### 4.10 Offences

a. No Person shall remove an Election Sign;

b. Despite Section 4.10(a), a Candidate or person authorized by a Candidate who is the Owner of an Election Sign may remove their Election Sign at any time;

c. No Person shall tamper with or deface an Election Sign; and

d. No Candidate shall fail to comply with any regulation as prescribed in Section 4 of this Bylaw as it pertains to an Election Sign.

## PART “B” – NON-ELECTION SIGN PROHIBITIONS AND PERMITTING

### 5. GENERAL OFFENCES

- 5.1 No Person shall place a Sign on a Highway within the City.
- 5.2 No Person shall place a Poster on any City Property, Light Standard, Traffic Control Device or Sound Attenuation Wall within the City.
- 5.3 No Owner of Sign shall fail to remove a Sign from a Highway.
- 5.4 No Owner of a Poster shall fail to remove a Poster from any City Property, Light Standard, Traffic Control Device or Sound Attenuation Wall.
- 5.5 No Person shall obstruct a Peace Officer investigating a complaint made under or exercising their authority pursuant to this Bylaw.
- 5.6 No Person shall fail to comply with the direction of a Peace Officer to remove a Sign or Poster from a Highway, City Property, Light Standard, Traffic Control Device or Sound Attenuation Wall.

### 6. AUTHORITY OF THE CITY

- 6.1 A Peace Officer or City Employee may remove any Sign located on a Highway within the City without notice to the Owner of the Sign.
- 6.2 A Peace Officer or City Employee may remove any Poster from any City Property, Light Standard, Traffic Control Device or Sound Attenuation Wall without notice to the Owner of the Poster.
- 6.3 A Peace Officer or City Employee may immediately dispose of any Sign or Poster removed under Section 6.1 and 6.2.
- 6.4 Despite Section 6.3, a Peace Officer or City Employee may retain any Sign or Poster and return it to the Owner, at their discretion.
- 6.5 Despite Section 6.3, a Peace Officer or City Employee may retain any Sign or Poster that is unusual in nature or is of significant value.
- 6.6 Any Sign retained pursuant to Section 6.5 is subject to Section 610 of the *Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26*, as amended or replaced from time to time.

- 6.7** No liability lies against a Peace Officer or City Employee who exercises their authority under Section 6.1, 6.2 or 6.3.
- 6.8** Despite Section 6.1 and 6.2, the CAO or their designate may allow the placement of a Sign on a Highway or a Poster on any City Property, Light Standard, Traffic Control Device or Sound Attenuation Wall by way of an exemption permit, the issuance of which is the sole discretion of the CAO or their designate.
- 6.9** A Permit issued pursuant to Section 6.8 shall outline the period of time for which a Sign or Poster is permitted, the specific location at which the Sign will be permitted under the exemption permit, and any other terms and conditions that the Sign or Poster will be the subject of.
- 6.10** The CAO or their designate may revoke any exemption permit issued pursuant to Section 6.8 at any time and without notice for noncompliance with any condition of the exemption Permit.
- 6.11** Where an exemption permit has been revoked for a Sign pursuant to Section 6.10, Section 5 will immediately apply to that Sign.
- 6.12** No liability lies against the CAO or their designate for the revocation of an exemption permit pursuant to Section 6.10.

## **7. REMEDIAL ORDERS**

- 7.1** A Remedial Order may be issued to order compliance with the provisions of this Bylaw.
- 7.2** Every Remedial Order written with respect to this Bylaw shall:
- a.** indicate the Person to whom it is directed;
  - b.** identify the property to which the Remedial Order relates by municipal address or legal description;
  - c.** identify the date that it is issued;
  - d.** identify how the Person or Premises fails to comply with this or another Bylaw;
  - e.** identify the specific provisions of the Bylaw the Person or Premises contravenes;
  - f.** identify the nature of the remedial action required to be taken to bring the Person or Premises into compliance;
  - g.** identify the time within which the remedial action must be completed;
  - h.** indicate that if the required remedial action is not completed within the time specified, the City may take whatever action or measures are necessary to remedy the contravention;

- i. indicate that the expenses and costs of any action or measures taken by the City under this Section are an amount owing to the City by the Person to whom the Remedial Order is directed;
- j. indicate that the expenses and costs referred to in this Section may be attached to the tax roll of the property if such costs are not paid by a specified time; and
- k. indicate that a Person to whom a Remedial Order is directed may seek a review of the order by filing a request for review in writing with the City in accordance with Section 547 of the *Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26*.

**7.3** A Remedial Order written pursuant to this Bylaw shall be served on the Owner by:

- a. delivering the Remedial Order personally to the Person named in the order;
- b. leaving the Remedial Order at the residence of the named Person with a Person who is at least 18 years of age;
- c. posting the Remedial Order in a conspicuous place on the premises known or declared to be the residence of the named Person. The Remedial Order shall be deemed to be served 7 days after the Remedial Order is posted;
- d. sending the Remedial Order by registered mail to the last known address of the Owner, and the Remedial Order shall be deemed to be served upon confirmation of receipt or refusal of the registered mail; or
- e. sending the Remedial Order by regular mail to the last known address of the Owner, and the Remedial Order shall be deemed to be served 7 days after the date of mailing.

**7.4** No Person or Owner of a Sign shall fail to comply with a Remedial order issued under this Bylaw.

## **8. APPEAL OF REMEDIAL ORDERS**

**8.1** A Person to whom a Remedial Order is directed may seek a review of the order by filing a request for review in writing with the City in accordance with Section 547 of the *Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26* and paying a \$100.00 administrative fee.

**8.2** A review requested pursuant to this Section must state the name of the appellant, the municipal address of the property to which the remedial order being appealed from relates, a daytime telephone contact number at which the appellant may be reached, and an address at which documents in relation to the appeal may be delivered.

- 8.3** Upon review of the order, Council may confirm, vary, substitute, or cancel the Remedial Order.
- 8.4** Council or their designated board shall direct Administration to provide their decision in writing to the appellant.
- 8.5** The CAO or designate may serve the decision to the appellant in the same manner as a Remedial Order in Section 7.2.
- 8.6** If a request for review of a Remedial Order is received after the applicable deadline, no review will be scheduled, and the appellant will be informed of such.

## **9. PENALTIES**

- 9.1** Any Person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Bylaw by doing any act or thing which the Person is prohibited from doing is guilty of an offence.
- 9.2** Any Person who is convicted of an offence pursuant to this Bylaw is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.00.
- 9.3** Where there is a specified penalty listed for an offence in schedule "A" of this Bylaw, that amount is the specified penalty for the offence.
- 9.4** Where there is a minimum penalty listed for an offence in schedule "A" of this Bylaw, that amount is the minimum penalty for the offence.
- 9.5** If a Person is convicted twice of the same provision of this Bylaw within a 24-month period, the minimum penalty for the second conviction within a 24-month period shall be twice the amount of the specified penalty found in schedule "A".
- 9.6** If a Person is convicted a third time of the same provision of this Bylaw within a 24-month period, the minimum penalty for the third conviction within a 24-month period shall be three times the amount of the specified penalty found in Schedule "A" but not more than \$10,000.00 dollars.
- 9.7** No Person shall fail to comply with or fail to do anything that a Person is required to do pursuant to the provisions of this Bylaw.

## 10. VIOLATION TICKETS

- 10.1** Where a Peace Officer believes that a Person has contravened any provision of this Bylaw, they may commence proceedings by issuing a violation ticket in accordance with the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-34*.
- 10.2** This Section shall not prevent any Officer from issuing a violation ticket requiring the court appearance of the defendant, pursuant to the provisions of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-34*, or from relaying information instead of issuing a violation ticket.

## 11. INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS

- 11.1** A Peace Officer may, at their discretion, refuse to investigate or take any action on a complaint if the Officer believes that:
- a. the complaint is frivolous, vexatious, without merit or not in the public interest;
  - b. the complaint falls outside the scope of this Bylaw;
  - c. the complaint is not supported by evidence or information; or
  - d. the complaint is more appropriately dealt with by another authority or agency.
- 11.2** A Peace Officer who refuses to investigate or take any action on a complaint under this Section shall not be held liable for any damages or losses arising from the refusal, unless appealed, unless otherwise provided by law.
- 11.3** Nothing in this Section shall limit or affect the right of any Person to seek redress or relief through any other legal or administrative process.

## 12. SEVERABILITY

- 12.1** If any Sections or parts of this Bylaw are found in any court of law to be illegal or beyond the power of Council to enact, such Section or parts shall be deemed to be severable and all other Section or parts of this Bylaw shall be deemed to be separate and independent there from and to be enacted as such.
- 12.2** This Bylaw shall come into full force and effect upon the date of the third and final reading.

**READ A FIRST TIME:** July 22, 2025  
**READ A SECOND TIME:** September 9, 2025  
**READ A THIRD TIME:** September 9, 2025


**RESOLUTION NUMBERS:**

250722-43  
250909-31  
250909-32



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Mayor, Shannon Dean



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Chief Administrative Officer, Kent Edney

**SCHEDULE "A"**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Minimum Penalty</b>	<b>Specified Penalty</b>
4.10 (a)	Person removes an Election Sign	\$250.00	\$500.00
4.10 (c)	Person tamper with or deface an Election Sign	\$250.00	\$500.00
4.10 (d)	Failing to comply with Election Sign regulation in Section 4	\$1500.00	\$2500.00
5.1	Place a Sign on the Highway	\$150.00	\$300.00
5.2	Place a Poster on any City Property, Light Standard, Traffic Control Device or Sound Attenuation Wall	\$100.00	\$200.00
5.3	Failing to remove a Sign from a Highway	\$150.00	\$300.00
5.4	Failing to remove a Poster from any City Property, Light Standard, Traffic Control Device or Sound Attenuation Wall	\$100.00	\$200.00
5.5	Obstructing a Peace Officer	\$500.00	\$1000.00
5.6	Failing to comply with direction of Peace Officer	\$250.00	\$500.00
6.4	Failing to comply with a Remedial Order	\$1500.00	\$2500.00
8.7	Failing to Comply with the provision of this Bylaw	\$50.00	\$100.00