

Ngā Tohu Pōti Election Signs



This information summarises the rules applying to temporary election signage (election signage) for the 2022 Christchurch City Council elections. These rules come from a number of sources including the Christchurch District Plan and related Plan Changes, the Local Electoral Act 2001, Christchurch City Council and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

The Local Electoral Act 2001, section 113 - 114 details the requirements that all electoral advertising material, including signage, must comply with. All signage must include a clearly readable statement of authorisation or endorsement setting out:

- The true name of the person, persons or organisation at whose direction the signage has been erected.
- The contact details for that person/organisation:
 - a residential or business address; or
 - an email address; or
 - a post office box number; or
 - or a phone number;
 - or a link to an internet site (if the page contains one or more of the above).

**The Local Electoral (Advertising) Amendment Bill enacted in July 2022 has amended the contact details requirement to be met by including one of the five options above. Up until that time contact details were required to be either a physical residential or business address.*

Election signage is only permitted in the period nine weeks before the start of voting and must be removed by midnight the day prior to election day.

For this election signage is permitted, within the limits below, from Friday 15 July 2022 to midnight on Friday 7 October 2022.

It is the responsibility of the owner of each election sign to ensure that their sign and any supporting structure is compliant with the legislation and rules. Compliance action may be undertaken to remove any sign that does not comply.

Questions regarding election signage can be directed to the Electoral Officer, phone 03 941 8581 or elections2022@ccc.govt.nz

Land owner permission to display election signage

All signage displayed in any location must have the permission of the land owner (not the occupier) of the property in which it is displayed. This includes any private, commercial, Council and Crown owned land, and roads under the control of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (motorways and state highways).

Signage is not permitted to be erected on Council land, including roads, footpaths and berms, road structures, buildings, in parks or in areas/structures or boundary fences facing into a park or reserve.



Requirements for election signage

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

In the period nine weeks before the start of voting, from 15 July 2022, additional signage being temporary election signage is permitted under the district plan. All election signage must be removed by midnight on 7 October 2022.

A maximum additional area of 3m² of election 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 3m² of signage per site is permitted by the District Plan (e.g. some commercial or industrial zones), election signage may be placed up to the normal signage area limit or 3m² whichever is greater.

On a property located on a corner, election signage of up to 3m² is permitted on each of the road frontages of the property.

No new individual temporary election sign may be more than 3m² in area.

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.

Election signage on protected heritage items or in heritage settings must meet more restrictive standards regarding placement, size and use of protective material. Detail of this is included in the District Plan.

Freestanding 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, including significant trees etc). Detail of these areas and significant trees is in the District Plan.

There may be exceptions to the permitted timeframe and size requirements on lawfully established sign frames or billboards, including digital signage, where these have been consented for the display of advertising. A candidate is required to confirm this with the owner/supplier of the sign before displaying any election signage.

Temporary election signs may not be:

- Flashing or digitised unless they are on existing legally established and consented billboards or digital displays
- Similar to or the same as any traffic sign or controls in shape or colour
- Erected in a way that impairs visibility of any traffic or regulatory sign
- Erected in a way that impacts on or reduces visibility to a vehicle access or driveway
- An imitation or replication of a voting paper
- Protrude out from or above the body of any vehicle
- Increase or add to the size of any trailer or other structure attached to a vehicle
- Erected on or attached to any Council property or land, including fences, trees, structures and buildings
- Affixed to any significant tree as defined in the District Plan.



Election advertising on vehicles

Candidate or party signage on a vehicle is a temporary election sign. Use of a vehicle as a sign must comply with all rules, including the Council's Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2017 and Public Places Bylaw 2018.

Signage may be painted on or attached flush to vehicles (to a maximum of 10mm), but must not protrude out from or above the vehicle body or obstruct visibility for the driver from any windows of the vehicle.

Election signage on trailers or other structures attached to a vehicle cannot increase the size of trailer or structure.

Vehicles, including trailers, must be parked in accordance with the Traffic and Parking Bylaw and the Public Places Bylaw. This includes being parked legally and compliant with any parking restrictions, including posted duration limits.

Vehicles, including trailers, cannot be parked on a grass berm, or any part of the road separated by a kerb.

Dependent upon the size of the vehicle, the area covered in signage may be larger than 3m², provided it complies with all other rules.

Election signs on or adjacent to state highways and motorways

Restrictions apply to election signs erected on or adjacent to state highways under the control of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency. These restrictions include the following:

- Election signage is not permitted on or adjacent to motorways
- Vehicle mounted signage is not permitted to be parked for the purposes of signage adjacent to state highways with a speed limit of 70km/h
- Election signage be located at least 100m from intersections, bends in highways or other regulatory signage on highways with a speed limit of 70km/h.

All election signage on state highways with a speed limit of 70km/h or under will be managed by the Council, and must comply with all election signage rules.

Waka Kotahi have produced a letter and information for candidates: Electioneering Signs Adjacent to State Highways. This is available from the Electoral Officer and at: <https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/how-the-council-works/council-elections/information-for-candidates>

Candidates can contact Jude Ward, Corridor Manager Canterbury/West Coast, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency directly with any questions about election signage on state highway and motorways.

Phone: 03 364 2813

Email: jude.ward@nzta.govt.nz

Compliance

Any signage not compliant with these rules or legislation must be removed or made compliant by the candidate or owner of the sign.

Compliance action may be undertaken by the Electoral Officer, Council's Regulatory Compliance Team, or Waka Kotahi or its agents.



Reference documents:

Christchurch Replacement District Plan:

<https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Plans-Strategies-Policies-Bylaws/Plans/district-plan/new-christchurch-district-plan/CH6-Nov2018.pdf>

District Plan Property Search website for any location where signage is proposed:

<https://districtplan.ccc.govt.nz/PropertySearch/PropertySearchContainer.html>

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/>

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Bylaws: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/roads-and-rail/highways-information-portal/technical-disciplines/state-highway-bylaws/>

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency - General Election Sign Guidance:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/general-election-sign-guidance/General-election-sign-guidance.pdf>

Please contact the Electoral Officer if you require any further information or direction regarding the rules.

Phone: 03 941 8581

Email: elections2022@ccc.govt.nz