



# Policy G9 – Election Signs and Mobile Information Centres during Election Campaigns

## 1. Policy Intention

- (a) To provide broad guidance to generally manage temporary advertising material and information centres during statutory election campaigns to support the democratic process for elections under the Australian Constitution and to recognise the need to actively engage with the voting public; and
- (b) To recognise that a balance must be achieved to ensure that election signage displayed and information centres do not adversely impact public safety, cause unreasonable inconvenience or create situations where damage may be caused to local government owned or controlled property, infrastructure and/or the environment.

## 2. Policy

### 2.1 Mobil Information Centres

One mobile information centre is permitted for each candidate for a maximum period of one month prior to a State or Federal election. The only sign permitted on a mobile information centre shall only describe the name of the political party with the words “Information Centre” and the sign is to be no greater than one square metre in size. Mobile information Centres, when stationary, are required to park in accordance with the relevant Shire of Murray Local Laws.

### 2.2 Election Signage on Thoroughfares – Local Government Managed and Controlled

Election promotional signs for candidates:

- being less than 1m x 1m in size, free standing or timber picket type, (core flute or light weight timber construction) that comply with the requirements of section 187 of the *Electoral Act 1907* (the Act);

may be being displayed on Shire of Murray (Shire) managed and controlled thoroughfares within 14 days of polling day and for no more than 3 days afterwards, subject to not being:

- illuminated, moving, flashing, rotating or reflective so as to be an undue distraction to drivers;
- placed on dividing or median strips, traffic island or roundabout, footpaths, cycleway, dual use paths or within (50) metres of any pedestrian crossing;
- placed within six (6) metres of any intersection, junction or a private driveway, or in any other location that may pose a safety hazard or obstruction to pedestrians or road users;

- attached or affixed to any street name, traffic direction or parking sign or to street infrastructure, such as power poles/lights, street furniture or on any verge tree;
- within 2 metres of the constructed portion of a carriageway that is used or may be used by vehicles.

In the case of the road verge of a thoroughfare, immediately adjacent to a residential, special residential, special use, industrial or commercial property. The consent of the adjoining landowner or occupier should be obtained.

The use of star pickets to support signs is not permitted, given the potential risk of injury.

### **2.3 Local Government Property**

In the case of local government property such as, but not limited to the Shire of Murray (Shire) Administration Office, Murray Aquatic and Leisure Centre, Community Halls, Reserves (including unvested or unmanaged land), Parks, Recreation Grounds, Sporting Facilities and other property owned in fee simple. The Shire will not support the display of any election material whatsoever.

This position supports neutrality in the election process. The exception is where local government property is to be used by the Electoral Commission, as polling place. In this case political parties or candidates are permitted to erect candidate or political party signs within the property boundary, subject to the Act, on polling day only. Signs should be removed immediately after the close of polling. Signs placed on polling day should not to interfere with the public access to the facility or cause an obstruction.

### **2.4 Main Roads WA Property**

Election signs on main roads continue to be managed by Main Roads WA, under their Roadside Advertising Guidelines for temporary signs. For reference a copy of the guidelines can be obtained from [mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://mainroads.wa.gov.au), clause 4.4 deals with temporary signs.

### **2.5 Private Land**

Shire Planning consent is not required for election signs on private land in the immediate lead up to an election or within 48 hours afterwards. Candidates are encouraged to engage with landowners when proposing to place elections signs on private land and ensure the removal of signs after election.

### **2.6 Insurance and Public Liability**

Candidates and parties are reminded of the risks associated with the display of an election signs. Full responsibility remains with the owner of the sign and/or the person who placed the sign in the case of volunteers acting on behalf of candidates or parties. The Shire accepts no liability whatsoever for any claims associated with election signs.

## 2.7 Other

Election signs placed or displayed on local government property, unless at an approved polling place in accordance with clause 2.3 will be removed without prior advice. Election signs placed contrary to the guidance provided on local government managed thoroughfares will be dealt with as a contravention of Regulation 6 of the *Local Government (Local Uniform Provisions) Regulations 1996*. This may include removal and impounding and penalties.

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Policy Detail		
<b>Responsible Directorate</b>	Office of the CEO	
<b>Responsible Department</b>	Governance and Strategy	
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Manager Governance and Strategy	
<b>Next Policy Review / Schedule</b>	2025 (3-yearly)	
<b>Council Adoption</b>	<b>Date / Resolution</b>	1 December 1998 (SCM98/0344)
<b>Amendment Record</b>	<b>Date / Resolution</b>	30 June 2011 (OCM11/099)
		26 July 2012 (OCM12/149)
		23 June 2022 (OCM22.070)

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