

Christchurch City Council

General Election Signage 2023

This information summarises the rules applying to temporary election signage (election signage) in the Christchurch District for the 2023 General Elections on 14 October 2023.

Rules relating to election signage for local elections, general elections and referendum are defined within the Christchurch District Plan, and Council and Waka Kotahi by-laws.

The Electoral Act 1993 and Electoral (Advertisements of a Specified Kind) Regulations 2005 include requirements and specific conditions for election signage. Candidates and interested parties should refer to information from the Electoral Commission regarding legislative requirements for election signage [elections.nz](https://www.elections.govt.nz) or 0800 36 76 56 or enquiries@elections.govt.nz

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

For the 2023 general election, advance voting commences on Monday 2 October 2023, election signage that complies with these guidelines is permitted to be displayed from Monday 31 July 2023 and must be removed by midnight on Friday 13 October.

There may be exceptions to the permitted timeframe and size requirements for lawfully established sign frames or billboards, including digital signage, where these have been consented for the display of advertising.

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 Duty Planner phone 03 941 8999 or dutyplanner@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 public Council land or property, such as roads, footpaths and berms, road structures, community buildings, in parks, land areas or on structures or boundary fences facing into a park or reserve. Prior approval in writing is required for any other Council property including social housing.

There are no permitted hoarding/signage areas on Christchurch City Council land for the display of temporary election signage (election signage).

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 31 July 2023 additional signage, being temporary election signage is permitted under the district plan. All election signage must be removed by midnight on 13 October 2023.

A maximum additional area of 3m² of election signage per site may be placed in addition to any other legal signage lawfully established 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.

The area covered in signage on a vehicle may be larger than 3m², provided it complies with all other rules including that such signs do not protrude out from or above the vehicle body.

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.

Waka Kotahi information regarding signs on and visible from the state highway corridor, including electoral signage is available on their website.

- [Waka Kotahi resources](#)
- [Third party signs on and visible from the state highway corridor](#)

For further information contact Waka Kotahi: environmentalplanning@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 Council's Compliance and Investigations Team or Waka Kotahi or its agents.

Where electoral signage does not comply with the Electoral Act 1993 or Electoral (Advertisements of a Specified Kind) Regulations 2005 it may be referred to the Electoral Commission.

Reference documents:

- Temporary Election and Referendum Signs – Plan Change 5I:
<https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Plans-Strategies-Policies-Bylaws/Plans/district-plan/Proposed-changes/2020/PC5-Notification/PC5I-Plan-Change-doc.pdf>
- Christchurch District Plan (incorporating Plan Change 5I):
<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>
- 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 – third party signs on and visible from the state highway corridor: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/third-party-advertising-signs/>

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