

Policy Objective

This policy details requirements in relation to the placement of election signs for Commonwealth, State and Local Government elections **only on land or buildings under the care, control or management of the Shire of Manjimup**. Whilst election signs are exempt from the need to obtain planning approval or a sign permit, the landowner's permission is required prior to placement or erection. The purpose of this policy is to outline how the Shire, in granting consent to the placement of election signage, as effective owner of the land, will ensure public safety and public access is not compromised, infrastructure is protected and the Shire of Manjimup has the ability to undertake necessary maintenance on its land when and where required.

Definitions

Authorised Person means a candidate or any person authorised by a candidate for the purposes of assisting the candidate's electoral campaign.

Election Day means the day of a Commonwealth, State or Local Government election.

Election Period for the purpose of this policy means the period between:

- Local Government: the day after closing of candidate nominations, or
- State Government: the issuing of election writs, or
- Commonwealth Government: the issuing of election writs, and two days after election day.

Election Sign means any advertisement for the purpose of promoting a registered candidate or political party or relating to an election which is displayed during the Election Period. Election signs must comply with the requirements of the Australian Electoral Commission, Western Australian Electoral Commission and *Local Government Act 1995*, whichever applicable.

Polling Place (for the purpose of this policy) means any building under the care, control or management of the Shire of Manjimup in which the polling at Commonwealth, State or Local Government elections is designated to take place, and includes a pre-polling location available for electors to cast their vote prior to election day.

Policy Measures

With the exception of a polling place only during pre-polling or on election day, before any election sign is posted, temporarily affixed or erected for the purposes of candidate promotion in an election on property under the care, control, management of the Shire of Manjimup, consent must be obtained prior to the installation of a sign.

Application to the Shire of Manjimup for consent

An authorised person may make application prior to or during the election period for consent to install election signs on land or property under the direct care, control or management of the Shire of Manjimup.

An application must include the name of the candidate, the political party they are representing (if applicable), the name and contact of the authorised person, a brief description of the size and fixing method of the election sign, the proposed location/s (preferably marked up on an aerial photograph such as from Google Earth or similar) and signed by the authorised person.

The application is to be made directly to the Shire's Office of CEO in written form, containing the details above.

Consent of the Shire of Manjimup

Consent for the erection of election signage will not be unreasonably withheld subject to agreement and compliance with any conditions issued in accordance with the objectives of this policy.

Polling place during pre-polling or on election day

At any polling place during pre-polling or on election day, authorised persons may install election signs without Shire of Manjimup consent subject to any sign:

- not restricting the entry or exit pathways to the polling place;
- being no more than 20 metres from the entry to the polling place;
- not being affixed directly to any building wall or window of the polling place or wall or window of an adjoining Shire of Manjimup building;
- being secured or weighed down adequately to ensure the sign can not be dislodged by wind and cause a public safety issue;
- not impede disability access to the building by blocking or restricting access points or impacting the continuity of hand rails; or
- not causing any legitimate public safety risk as a result of its location and type.

The Shire of Manjimup reserves the right at any time to require an authorised person modify election signs at polling places to ensure public safety and access.

All election signs installed at polling places must be removed by an authorised person before the day after election day.

Management of Non-Compliance

The Shire of Manjimup will take the following action in relation to election signs posted, temporarily affixed or erected without prior consent on land or buildings under care, control or management.

1. Attempt to contact the candidate or political party named on the election sign requesting removal of the election sign within a specified time period;
2. If the sign is not removed in accordance with point 1. remove the sign and contact the candidate or political party named on the election sign requesting they collect the election sign within a specified time period from a specified location; and
3. If the election sign is not collected in the specified time in accordance with point 2., dispose of the election sign in accordance with legislation.

Compliance with the provisions of this Policy will be undertaken by the Shire's Ranger and Emergency Services

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED 15 APRIL 2021

NEXT DUE FOR REVIEW APRIL 2025

The Administration of this Policy is by Office of CEO