



EMP-GOV-004 | Election Signs Policy

Strategic Context

Strategic Link	Objective
✓ United ✓ Safe & Healthy ✓ Beautiful & Respected ✓ Prosperous & Equitable	To provide a clear, fair and enforceable framework for the placement of election signs during Federal, State and local government elections, balancing democratic participation with public safety, amenity and neutrality of Shire land.

Introduction

1. The Shire of Halls Creek recognises the importance of free and fair elections and the role that election signage plays in informing voters during election periods. At the same time, the Shire has a responsibility to ensure public safety, protect community amenity, and maintain the neutrality of Shire-controlled land and facilities.
2. This policy establishes consistent rules for the placement, location and management of election signs within the Shire of Halls Creek during election periods, having regard to legislative requirements and good governance principles.

Purpose

3. This policy establishes a framework for the display of election signs within the Shire of Halls Creek that supports democratic participation, minimises risks to public safety, protects the amenity and presentation of public spaces, and ensures that Shire land and facilities remain politically neutral.

Policy Scope

4. This policy applies to all candidates and political parties contesting Federal, State or local government elections within the Shire of Halls Creek. This policy does not apply to commercial advertising or other signage unrelated to elections, which is regulated separately under the Shire's applicable planning and local law frameworks

Policy Statement

5. The Shire of Halls Creek permits the display of election signs during election periods, provided they comply with the requirements of this policy. Election signage must be displayed in a manner that does not create safety hazards, obstruct public access or visibility, adversely affect the amenity of public spaces, or imply endorsement or support by the Shire.



Principles Underpinning the Policy

Principle Name	Principle Definition
Good Governance	Election signage must be regulated in a manner that is fair, transparent and consistent, supporting democratic participation while protecting the integrity of local government.
Public Safety	The placement of election signs must not create hazards for pedestrians, road users or the public.
Amenity and Neutrality	Shire land, facilities and public spaces must be maintained in a safe, orderly and politically neutral condition.
Legislative Compliance	All election signage must comply with applicable Commonwealth, State and local government legislation.
Accountability	The Shire must be able to enforce this policy consistently and take proportionate action where non-compliance occurs.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
Carriageway	The sealed or unsealed portion of a road used or intended for use by vehicles.
Election Day	The official polling or voting day for a Federal, State or local government election.
Election Period	For Federal and State elections – the period commencing sixty (60) days prior to Election Day and ending at 11:59pm two (2) days after Election Day.
Election Sign	Any sign promoting a candidate, political party or election matter relating to a Federal, State or local government election.
Footpath	Any area set aside for pedestrian use within a road reserve or public thoroughfare.
Private Land	Land not owned, managed or controlled by the Shire of Halls Creek.
Shire Land	All land owned, vested in, or under the care, control or management of the Shire of Halls Creek, including road reserves, parks and reserves.
Sign	Any structure, notice, flag, banner or device displaying words, symbols or images.



Thoroughfare

A road, street or other public access way, including associated infrastructure.

Policy Details

6. Election Signs on Private Land

6.1 Election signs on private land are permitted with the consent of the landowner and must comply with applicable planning requirements.

6.2 The Shire may require removal of any election sign on private land where it presents a safety risk or public hazard.

7. Election Signs on Shire Land

7.1 A permit is not required for election signs on Shire land during the election period where the sign:

- a) is erected only during the election period and removed within forty-eight (48) hours after Election Day;
- b) is free-standing and not affixed to trees, poles, fences, signs or other structures;
- c) is located: at least 3 metres from the carriageway; at least 0.5 metres from any footpath; at least 10 metres from an intersection; at least 50 metres from a signalised intersection or speed advisory sign; outside any median strip, roundabout or traffic control device;
- d) does not obstruct visibility, access, pedestrian movement or vehicle sightlines;
- e) is securely installed and maintained in good condition; and
- f) does not suggest endorsement by the Shire.

8. Dimensions, Materials and Content

8.1 Election signs must not:

- a) exceed 1.5 square metres in area or 1.2 metres in height;
- b) be illuminated, reflective, flashing, rotating or moving;
- c) be self-adhesive;
- d) include commercial advertising;
- e) use the Shire's logo, branding or insignia.

9. Prohibited Locations

9.1 Election signs are not permitted:

- a) within Shire parks or reserves;
- b) on or adjacent to Shire buildings or facilities, including administration offices, libraries, community centres or depots.

9.2 Signs may be displayed at Shire facilities used as polling places on Election Day only.

10. Enforcement

10.1 The Shire may remove and impound an election sign where the sign:

- a) does not comply with this policy or any applicable legislation; or
- b) poses a risk to public safety, access or visibility.

10.2 Where an election sign is removed or impounded:

- c) the sign will be photographed in situ and recorded as non-compliant;
- d) the candidate or political party may collect the sign within forty-eight (48) hours of removal;
- e) if the sign is not collected within forty-eight (48) hours, the Shire may destroy the sign; and



- f) where a sign is re-displayed in breach of this policy after collection, the Shire may remove and destroy the sign without further notice.

10.3 Where practicable, the Shire will make reasonable efforts to notify the candidate or political party prior to removal, except where immediate removal is required for safety reasons.

10.4 Election signs must comply with authorisation requirements under the *Electoral Act 1907 (WA)* and relevant Commonwealth legislation. Any breaches may be referred to the relevant Returning Officer.

10.5 Some roads within the Shire are controlled by Main Roads Western Australia. Approval must be obtained separately where required.

11. Election Promotion by Electoral Authorities

11.1 This policy does not apply to:

- a) signage displayed by the Australian Electoral Commission or Western Australian Electoral Commission; or
- b) signage displayed by the Shire solely for the purpose of promoting an election.

Accountability

12. Council is responsible for adopting this policy and establishing the governance framework for the management of election signage within the Shire. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for overseeing the implementation and enforcement of this policy, making operational decisions in relation to its administration, and liaising with relevant electoral authorities where required.

Related Documentation / Legislation

Legislation	Shire of Halls Creek Documentation
a. <i>Local Government Act 1995 (WA)</i> b. <i>Electoral Act 1907 (WA)</i> c. <i>Land Administration Act 1997 (WA)</i> d. Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act e. Main Roads (Control of Advertising) Regulations 1996 (WA)	a. Local Government Property Local Law b. Local Planning Scheme

Policy Review

13. This policy will be reviewed every four (4) years, or earlier if required due to legislative change or Council resolution.

Document Control

Relevant delegations	Nil		
Risk Evaluation	Low		
Council adoption	24/09/2026	Resolution	2026/105
Previous Title	GOV 1 – Removal of Election and Political Signs		
Next review due	September 2031		

