

# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAIRD

## By-law Number 2081-26

**BEING A BY-LAW to Regulate Election Signs in the Township of Laird.**

**WHEREAS** Section 11(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes municipalities to pass by-laws respecting structures, including signs;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 99 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* permits municipalities to regulate advertising devices;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the Township of Laird deems it desirable to regulate the placement of election signs to ensure public safety, maintain municipal property, and promote fairness during election campaigns;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Laird enacts as follows:

### 1. Definitions

**“Election Sign”** means any sign, poster, placard, banner, or device that promotes, opposes, or relates to:

- a) a candidate in an election;
- b) a registered third party advertiser; or
- c) a question on a ballot.

**“Election”** means an election held under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the *Canada Elections Act*, or the *Election Act (Ontario)*.

**“Municipal Property”** means all lands, buildings, and structures owned, leased, or operated by the Township of Laird, including parks, halls, facilities, and cemeteries.

**“Road Allowance”** means land owned by the Township or the Crown that is intended for use as a public roadway, including ditches and boulevards.

**“Voting Day”** means the day on which electors cast ballots in an election.

### 2. General Provisions

- 2.1 No person shall place an election sign on municipal property.
- 2.2 Election signs may be placed on private property with the consent of the owner or occupant.
- 2.3 Election signs may be placed on road allowances, subject to the restrictions in this by-law.
- 2.4 No election sign shall be placed in a manner that obstructs visibility, creates a safety hazard, or interferes with municipal operations.

### 3. Timing of Election Signs

- 3.1 Election signs may be erected no earlier than:
  - The day the candidate files their nomination, or
  - The day a third party registers, or
  - The day a writ is issued for a provincial or federal election.
- 3.2 All election signs shall be removed no later than 72 hours after Voting Day.

#### 4. Placement and Size Restrictions

##### 4.1 Election signs shall not be placed:

- a) On or inside any municipal building, facility, or structure, including walls, doors, windows, fences, interior spaces, bulletin boards, or display areas;
- b) On or within 50 metres of a voting place, at any time;
- c) On utility poles, traffic signs, or municipal equipment;
- d) In a manner that obstructs sidewalks, driveways, or entrances;
- e) In a location that obstructs sightlines at intersections or curves.

##### 4.2 Election signs on road allowances must:

- a) Be set back at least 3 metres from the edge of the travelled roadway;
- b) Not exceed 1.5 square metres in area;
- c) Not exceed 2 metres in height;
- d) Be securely fastened and maintained in good condition.

#### 5. Removal of Signs

##### 5.1 The Township may remove any election sign that:

- a) Violates this by-law;
- b) Creates a safety hazard;
- c) Is placed on municipal property;
- d) Is not removed within 72 hours after Voting Day.

##### 5.2 Removed signs may be stored at a Township facility for 7 days, after which they may be disposed of without notice.

##### 5.3 The Township is not responsible for damage to signs removed under this by-law.

#### 6. Enforcement

##### 6.1 The Clerk, Roads Department staff, or a designate is authorized to enforce this by-law.

##### 6.2 A person who contravenes this by-law may be subject to penalties under the *Provincial Offences Act*.

#### 7. Severability

If any section of this by-law is found invalid, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

#### 8. Effective Date

This by-law shall come into force and take effect on the date of its passing.

**READ and passed in Open Council** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

Mayor

Shawn Evoy

Clerk

Jennifer Errington

