

May 2, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Campaigning and Displaying Campaign Signs in Multi-Residential Properties

The City of Ottawa's 2022 Municipal Elections will take place on Monday, October 24, 2022.

This letter advises of rules in effect for the 2022 Municipal Elections that relate to campaigning and displaying campaign signs in multi-residential properties. These rules are set out in the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#) ("MEA"), which is the legislation that governs municipal elections in the Province of Ontario.

Briefly, the provisions include the following:

- 1. All candidates and their representatives have a right to access apartment buildings, condominium buildings, non-profit housing cooperatives or gated communities between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. for the purposes of campaigning within the permitted hours.**
 - Specifically, no person who is in control of such a multi-residential property may prevent campaigning from occurring within the permitted hours (i.e. between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.) at the doors to the apartments, units or houses within the property.

- 2. A tenant or owner in a multi-residential property has a general right to display campaign signs on his or her rented premises or unit.**
 - That said, a landlord or person acting on a landlord's behalf, or a condominium corporation or its agent, may set "reasonable conditions" with respect to the size or type of sign that may be displayed.
 - A landlord or person acting on a landlord's behalf, or a condominium corporation or its agent, may also prohibit campaign signs from being displayed in the common areas of the building.
 - In accordance with the City of Ottawa's [Temporary Signs on Private Property By-law](#) (By-law No. 2004-239), the first day an election sign may be placed on private property is Friday, September 9, 2022.

The above-noted changes result from Bill 181, the *Municipal Elections Modernization Act, 2016*, which amended the MEA after receiving Royal Assent on June 9, 2016. Some additional information regarding the rules is provided

Elections Office
City of Ottawa
1221 Cyrville Road, Unit B
Ottawa, ON K1J 7S8
Tel : 613-580-2660
ottawa.ca/vote

Bureau des élections
Ville d'Ottawa
1221, chemin Cyrville, unité B
Ottawa (Ontario) K1J 7S8
Tél : 613-580-2660
ottawa.ca/votez

below.

1. Campaigning in Multi-Residential Properties

Section 88.1 of the MEA provides candidates or their representatives a right to access apartment buildings, condominiums, non-profit housing cooperatives or gated communities from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for the purposes of campaigning within the permitted hours. The right of access for campaigning within the permitted hours (i.e. between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.) exists equally for all candidates and their representatives, as follows:

Access to residential premises

88.1 No person who is in control of an apartment building, condominium building, non-profit housing cooperative or gated community may prevent a candidate or his or her representative from campaigning between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. at the doors to the apartments, units or houses, as the case may be.

The *Residential Tenancies Act, 2006* (Section 28), *Condominium Act, 1998* (Section 118) and the *Co-operative Corporations Act, 1996* (Section 171.24) also provide candidates and their representatives access to the building for the purpose of canvassing within the permitted hours, as follows:

Residential Tenancies Act, 2006

28 No landlord shall restrict reasonable access to a residential complex by candidates for election to any office at the federal, provincial or municipal level, or their authorized representatives, if they are seeking access for the purpose of canvassing or distributing election material.

Condominium Act, 1998

118 No corporation or employee or agent of a corporation shall restrict reasonable access to the property by candidates, or their authorized representatives, for election to the House of Commons, the Legislative Assembly or an office in a municipal government or school board if access is necessary for the purpose of canvassing or distributing election material.

Co-operative Corporations Act, 1990

171.24 No non-profit housing co-operative or servant or agent of such a co-operative shall restrict reasonable access to the housing units of the co-operative by candidates, or their authorized representatives, for election to the House of Commons, the Legislative Assembly, any office in a municipal government or a school board for the purpose of canvassing or distributing election material.

2. Displaying Campaign Signs in Multi-Residential Properties

Under Section 88.2 of the MEA, a tenant or owner in a multi-residential property has a general right to display campaign signs on his or her rented premises or unit. That said, a landlord or person acting on a landlord's behalf, or a condominium corporation or its agent, may set out reasonable conditions with respect to the size or type of sign that can be displayed. A landlord or person acting on a landlord's behalf, or a condominium corporation or its agent, may also prohibit campaign signs from the common areas of a building, as follows:

Display of signs at residential premises

88.2 (1) No landlord or person acting on a landlord's behalf may prohibit a tenant from displaying signs in relation to an election on the premises to which the lease relates.

Same, condominium corporations

(2) No condominium corporation or any of its agents may prohibit the owner or tenant of a condominium unit from displaying signs in relation to an election on the premises of his or her unit.

Exception

(3) Despite subsections (1) and (2), a landlord, person, condominium corporation or agent may set reasonable conditions relating to the size or type of signs in relation to an election that may be displayed on the premises and may prohibit the display of signs in relation to an election in common areas of the building in which the premises are found.

The City of Ottawa has two signs by-laws that regulate election signs on private and public property for municipal, provincial, and federal elections:

1. The [Signs on City Roads By-law](#) (By-law No. 2003-520); and
2. The [Temporary Signs on Private Property By-law](#) (By-law No. 2004-239).

On December 8, 2021, City Council enacted amending by-laws to the City's Signs on City Roads and Temporary Signs on Private Property by-laws. The amending by-laws came into effect on January 1, 2022, and apply to all future municipal, provincial, and federal elections and by-elections.

Please note, in accordance with the City of Ottawa's [Temporary Signs on Private Property By-law](#) and [Signs on City Roads By-law](#):

- The first day an election sign can be placed on **private property** is **Friday, September 9, 2022**.
- The first day an election sign can be placed on **public property** is **Friday, September 9, 2022**.

I trust that the information provided above is of assistance. For questions about these matters, please visit ottawa.ca/vote or contact the Elections Office by phone at 613-580-2660 or by email at elections@ottawa.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Rick O'Connor", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

M. Rick O'Connor, CMO
City Clerk