



**C46**

**Communication**

**Council – June 24, 2025**

**CW(2) – Report No. 25    Item No. 23**

**DATE:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council

**FROM:** Gus Michaels, Deputy City Manager, Community Services  
Michael Genova, Deputy City Manager, Strategic Initiatives

**CC:** Executive Leadership Team

Jennifer Ormston, Chief Communications Officer

**RE:        COMMUNICATION – Council Meeting – June 24, 2025**

**Item# 23, Report #25**

**ILLEGAL ADVERTISING SIGNS**

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### **Purpose**

This communication provides Council with information with respect and in response to the recommendations of the [June 17, 2025 Members' Resolution](#) to address illegal advertising signs.

### **Background**

**The City's Sign By-law has a number of provisions that address nuisance illegal advertising signs.**

The City's Sign By-law regulates both permanent, structural signs as well as temporary, mostly mobile and portable, signs. The former are administered and enforced largely through the City's Building Standards department. The latter are administered and enforced largely through the City's By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services department.

Among the type of signs addressed through the Sign By-law are Lawn Signs, also commonly referred to as "bag signs," and Poster Signs, that include a variety of nuisance signs, such as placards and stickers, which are most often attached or applied to public infrastructure like lamp posts and mailboxes. Lawn Signs are currently only permitted when placed by a licensed contractor and only with the permission from the property owner. There are also restrictions as to the size, the number of signs, and how long they may be in place. Poster Signs are strictly prohibited. While administrative penalties for general Sign By-law infractions are \$400, if a Poster Sign is adhered to any public infrastructure, the administrative penalty is increased to \$500.

Additionally, Part 3, Section 3.10 Fines sets out fine amounts of a fine not less than \$400 and not more than \$20,000 and for subsequent convictions a fine not less than \$400 and not more than \$50,000 for a person found guilty of an offence and, for Corporations a fine amount not less than \$400 and not more than \$50,000 and not less than \$400 and not more than \$100,000 for subsequent convictions.

The Sign By-law's presumption clauses facilitate enforcement by allowing a penalty to be issued to the owner of a property where Lawn Signs or Poster Signs have been placed or erected. The by-law also allows penalties to be issued to persons whose names are on such signs or who can be connected to telephone numbers, websites or other identifying information on the signs – this includes people who do not reside in Vaughan. Lawn Signs and Poster Signs that are found in contravention of the Sign By-law may be removed by the City immediately and discarded without notice.

**By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services continues to enhance the Sign By-law and is committed to targeted enforcement efforts to address nuisance illegal advertising signs.**

As part of the City's ongoing By-law Strategy, staff continue to introduce enhanced provisions and language to optimize sign-related enforcement efforts. These enhancements are most often in response to environmental changes, such as the economics of the sign industry (effectiveness/price ratio) and the evolution of business marketing practices. While there is an intention to carry out a full review of the City's Sign By-law to ensure its ongoing relevance and effectiveness in the future, staff believe that some more modest but key by-law amendments could be implemented relatively quickly to assist in clarifying language to help optimize enforcement efforts with respect to Lawn Signs and Poster Signs. For example, even though By-law Enforcement Officers have the discretion to issue a penalty for every Lawn Sign or Poster Sign found to be in contravention, language could be included to require such application. In addition, where such signs are also removed by staff and the offenders can be identified, staff propose that the cost of removal be imposed on the contraveners. The broader review can thus be deferred (including provisions for the Sign Variance Committee and also for digitized advertising and myriad other sign categories), at which time staff will assess the appropriate resources required and report back to Council.

**Through by-law amendments and resourcing efforts, staff are doubling down on sign enforcement efforts, resulting in a significant increase in penalties issued.**

Over the recent past, By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services has been managing over 25,000 case files per year across all areas of responsibility. Sign-related files represented 1.3 per cent of total files in 2023 and 2.0 per cent in 2024. By contrast, animal-related calls represented 52.5 per cent of total calls and parking complaints represented 17.1 per cent of total calls in 2023; these numbers were 51.3 per cent and 15.8 per cent respectively for 2024. Despite this in 2024, penalties issued under the Sign By-law represented nearly one-third of all non-parking administrative penalties,

and up almost ten-fold from the prior year. This increase was due to a by-law amendment designating the Sign By-law under the administrative penalties program, making the laying of infractions significantly less onerous. So far this year, 89 administrative penalties have been issued under the Sign By-law; however, violations tend to spike during the warm weather months, so there is an expectation that the number of penalties will go up significantly over the next three or four months. Most of the infractions pertained to the non-compliant placement or erection of signs.

An increase to the Parking and Sign Enforcement Unit complement, approved through the 2025 budget process, is expected to have a further impact on enforcement efforts, as the positions are staffed. The current complement of 20 full-time officers provides 24/7 enforcement across the city for both parking violations and sign issues but also includes responding to a number of after-hour issues such as noise complaints. With rotating shifts, the average number of Parking and Sign Officers on duty provides for eight (8) Parking and Sign Enforcement Officers for City wide coverage at any given time. With two (2) Parking and Sign Enforcement Officers dedicated to parking enforcement demands in the VMC for each shift rotation.

Nonetheless, the current 2025 staff complement represents a 19% increase in capacity from 2024. As a result, staff expect to be able to intensify efforts through targeted blitzes during warm weather months at historically problematic areas of the city. Already, the results of these measures are evident with the number of Lawn Signs removed in the first 5½ months of 2025 (2,828), being almost as many as in all of 2023 (2,997). A majority of sign removal and enforcement nevertheless takes place proactively. In partnership with Public Works, proactive removal across the city has resulted in roads crews removing some 12,700 illegal signs in 2023, 13,500 in 2024 and 7,500 in 2025, year to date.

In addition, and where appropriate, staff can, and often do, engage other agencies and levels of government to leverage jurisdictional authority and enforcement powers. In particular, with respect to Poster Signs on public infrastructure, such as utilities and mailboxes, staff will continue to refer clean-up matters as well as continue to better inform the public and raise awareness on how they can also make direct referrals. To report vandalism (including graffiti and stickers) to mailboxes, the public can call the Canada Post Consumer Inquiry line during business hours or visit the [Canada Post Community Mailbox Reporting Page](#). With respect to by-law infractions, including sign-related complaints, the public can most easily file their complaint by sending a message with the location and nature of the complaint to [bylaw@vaughan.ca](mailto:bylaw@vaughan.ca).

As with any investigations and enforcement actions, the investigative processes, tactics and close partnerships relied upon with other regulatory and enforcement agencies allows for collaboration and information sharing that can and has assisted in identifying perpetrators, accordingly.

**Annual public education campaigns aim to raise awareness about illegal signs and inform the public about the risks of engaging companies that are not licensed and do not comply with the City's by-laws.**

The Communications, Marketing and Engagement department has employed an ongoing communications approach to ensure residents and businesses are informed about the City's Sign By-law and how to report illegal signs. Since 2021, there have been seven communications campaigns about the Sign By-law. The following lists outline the various tactics the Communications, Marketing and Engagement department has executed during these campaigns. **Tactics are presented in Attachment 1.**

To communicate the Sign By-law, the following communications tactics were executed:

- Public service announcements
- Council communications package
- Vaughan News – an email blast to subscribed media and residents (more than 7,500 subscribers)
- Organic social media across the City's corporate channels on Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn (currently more than 87,600 followers) – messaging to inform residents about the by-law, how to report illegal signs and how to protect themselves against companies that are not licensed and do not comply with the City's by-laws
- Council constituent response to help address inquiries
- Vaughan City Hall and community centre TV screens
- Digital signs across Vaughan (approximately 26,000 daily impressions, per location, with 10 locations)
- Website homepage banner
- Webpage content on the City's [Sign Enforcement and Mobile Sign Permits](#) webpage and [Signs](#) webpage

**Ongoing communications are key to continue to educate residents and businesses about the City's Sign By-law and keep Vaughan safe and beautiful.**

This summer, the Communications, Marketing and Engagement department will launch its annual campaign with a comprehensive list of tactics to raise awareness about the Sign By-law and the City's consumer protection measures.

Similar campaigns will continue proactively on an annual basis, as well as on a reactionary basis when there is an increase of signs in Vaughan, such as during election periods.

**Service Vaughan has received calls about illegal signs, but they are not in the majority when comparing month over month.**

As the City's contact centre, Service Vaughan tracks inquiry topics. Service Vaughan has received calls about illegal signs, but they are not in the majority when comparing month over month.

<b>2023</b>	<b># of illegal sign calls</b>	<b>Total number of SV calls</b>
January	3	12,067
February	4	11,705
March	6	13,551
April	12	12,146
May	8	13,714
June	10	13,426
July	13	12,014
August	15	11,204
September	13	11,248
October	22	10,525
November	14	11,021
December	14	8,686

<b>2024</b>	<b># of illegal sign calls</b>	<b>Total number of SV calls</b>
January	3	12,239
February	6	11,023
March	8	10,605
April	21	12,535
May	16	12,110
June	16	11,466
July	7	11,676
August	8	9,679
September	11	8,745
October	13	11,387
November	13	9,860
December	3	8,468

<b>2025</b>	<b># of illegal sign calls</b>	<b>Total number of SV calls</b>
January	16	11,523
February	3	10,934
March	11	11,909
April	26	11,524
May	7	13,040
June (until June 18)	5	8,330

**An on-line portal with real-time business licensing information will promote consumer protection and create greater awareness.**

As part of its ongoing mandate to promote consumer protection, the By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services Department is leading an initiative to allow the public to access real-time information on business licensing. The public will be able to know, prior to engaging the services of any business, whether the business is required and has obtained and maintained a municipal business licence. This measure is also expected to draw attention to the risks of doing business with businesses that are not licensed and which most often advertise using illegal advertising signs. Once launched, the new portal will be widely promoted through the City's corporate communications channels.

**As part of next steps, staff will bring a report forward to Council in the fall of 2025 with by-law amendments and any other required actions for approval.**

Enforcement Services will continue its enhanced approach to enforcement and monitor its efforts over the busy summer months. Based on this and other measures, such as the portal and a more targeted annual communications campaign, staff will bring forward a future staff report for consideration by Council, outlining any proposed by-law amendments as well as any other actions requiring Council approval.

**Conclusion**

In response to the Members Resolution introduced at the June 17, 2025 Committee of the Whole (2) and deferred to Council to allow staff to provide further details for Council's consideration, the above information responds to the recommendations provided within.

Pursuant to the City By-law Strategy, while a comprehensive review, enhancement and modernization of the City's Sign By-law is warranted at a future date, the by-law has significantly clear authority and powers that allow staff to effectively enforce its provisions. Given the breath and scope of a full review, staff have determined that continued focused enforcement attention, enhancement to the City communication strategy aimed at better informing the public, with a more focused interest to identify and strengthen the provisions of the Sign By-law that specifically address the core concerns relating to illegal nuisance signs is the most effective method of progression at this time.

Further, while illegal nuisance signs continue to be of concern across the City, the above information demonstrates staff's efforts across portfolios in areas of communication and enforcement/sign removal further evidencing the effectiveness of having removed and discarded in excess of 10,000 illegal nuisance signs within the first 6 months of 2025.

For more information, contact: Susan Kelly, Director and Chief Licensing Officer, By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services, ext. 8952

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gus Michaels".

Gus Michaels  
Deputy City Manager  
Community Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Genova".

Michael Genova  
Deputy City Manager  
Strategic Initiatives

## Appendix 1: Sign By-law communications

### Aug. 26, 2021: general awareness

#### Public service announcement

### Everything you need to know about election signs

POSTED: Aug. 26, 2021 10:40 a.m. |



vaughan's sign by-law governs their size, location and more

The 2021 Canadian federal election has been announced for Monday, Sept. 20 – which means campaign signs will start appearing on lawns throughout your neighbourhood. in Vaughan, they are governed by the city's sign by-law 1-60-2015 (rev.), as amended by by-law 679-2020 (rev.) covers what you need to know:

- election signs may only be erected six weeks prior to voting day;
  - the maximum area of an election sign is 1 m square metres (including any border or frame);
  - election signs posted within a campaign office must comply with the provisions of the sign by-law if they can be seen from outside the office;
  - election signs must be set back one metre from all street lines, a minimum of 1.5 metres from any common lot boundary with an adjacent lot and not be located within a daylighting triangle – the outside corner of a property at an intersection;
  - election signs posted to the exterior of a campaign office are considered business premises signs that require permits;
  - scanner signs, mobile signs and a frame signs are not permitted;
  - candidates are required to have their election signs removed within 72 hours following the election.
- In addition to adhering to the sign by-law, candidates also need to register their campaign, complete an application form, pay a fee and obtain approval from Vaughan's by-law and compliance, planning and rental services department before erecting signs. Signs that are not in compliance will be removed.

Any concerns or questions about election signs can be directed to Access Vaughan. Reach the team directly by phone at 905-709-2000 or by email at [access@vaughan.ca](mailto:access@vaughan.ca).

Please note, Vaughan's office of the city clerk is not responsible for the administration of federal elections. This jurisdiction resides with Elections Canada, an independent agency of the Parliament of Canada.

Below is more information on the appropriate resources and contacts for the upcoming federal election.

#### vote registration

Individuals may confirm their registration status, update their existing information or register as a voter online through the Elections Canada [federal election registration webpage](#).

#### vote by mail

Registered voters who do not feel comfortable voting in person may apply to vote by mail. With this special ballot, a vote can be placed from anywhere in the world. To do so, submit an [online application](#) to Elections Canada.

#### vote identification

To vote in the federal election, individuals must be a Canadian citizen, be at least 18 years old on election day and are required to confirm their identity and address. There are three options available to prove this. A list is available on the Elections Canada [go to vote webpage](#).

#### employment opportunities

Individuals seeking employment at an Elections Canada polling centre may find information about eligibility, roles and the application process on the Elections Canada [jobs during the election webpage](#).

#### electoral district (riding) information

Residents may confirm their riding and find additional information on their electoral district on the Elections Canada [voter information service webpage](#).

#### contact information

For questions about registration, voting or the upcoming federal election, contact Elections Canada directly by phone, fax, mail, online contact form and more. All options are listed on the [contact us webpage](#).

## Vaughan News eNewsletter



## Everything you need to know about election signs

*Vaughan's Sign By-law governs their size, location and more*

**VAUGHAN, ON** – The 2021 Canadian Federal Election has been announced for Monday, Sept. 20 – which means campaign signs will start appearing on lawns throughout your neighbourhood. In Vaughan, they are governed by the City's Sign By-law 140-2018 (PDF), as amended by By-law 079-2019 (PDF). Here's what you need to know:



- Election signs may only be erected six weeks prior to voting day.
- The maximum area of an election sign is 1.49 square metres (including any border or frame).
- Election signs posted within a campaign office must comply with the provisions of the Sign By-law if they can be seen from outside the office.
- Election signs must be set back one metre from all street lines, a minimum of 1.5 metres from any common lot boundary with an adjacent lot and not be located within a daylighting triangle – the outside corner of a property at an intersection.
- Election signs posted to the exterior of a campaign office are considered business premises signs that require permits.
- Banner signs, mobile signs and A-frame signs are not permitted.
- Candidates are required to have their election signs removed within 72 hours following the election.

In addition to adhering to the Sign By-law, candidates also need to register their campaign, complete an application (PDF), pay a fee and obtain approval from Vaughan's By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services department before erecting signs. Signs that are not in compliance will be removed.

Any concerns or questions about election signs can be directed to Access Vaughan. Reach the team directly by phone at 905-832-2261 or by email at [accessvaughan@vaughan.ca](mailto:accessvaughan@vaughan.ca).

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## Social media posts



**Everything you need to know about election signs**

Vaughan's Sign By-law governs their size, location and more

 **VAUGHAN**

[vaughan.ca](http://vaughan.ca)  


## Sept. 29, 2022: general awareness

### Public service announcement

## Explore September's By-law of the Month

FOOTED: Sept. 29, 2022 3:00 p.m. |



#### Learn everything you need to know about Vaughan's sign by-law

By-laws are put in place to ensure a safe and orderly community for all who live, work and play in Vaughan. Each month, the City of Vaughan explores a different by-law and what it means for you. This month, let's take a look at the [sign by-law](#).

#### Here are the basics:

The sign by-law, as amended, outlines rules around the use of signs so that community appearance and the safety of residents are not impacted. Signs put up in Vaughan must comply with the sign by-law, and require a city-issued permit in some cases.

#### Find out more about the guidelines for some commonly seen signs around Vaughan:

**Election signs** advertise a registered candidate in a federal, provincial or municipal election. Election signs:

- must be placed on private property with the property owner's permission;
- cannot be put up more than six weeks before voting day on municipal roads and 26 days before voting day on regional roads. Voting day for the 2022 municipal election is Monday, Oct. 24;
- cannot exceed 1 m square metres (including any border or frame);
- must be placed one metre from all street lines, a minimum of 1.5 metres from any common lot boundary with an adjacent lot, and not be located within a daylighting triangle – the outside corner of a property at an intersection;
- must be removed within 72 hours following the election.

**Before erecting signs**, candidates need to register their campaigns, complete an [application](#) form, pay a fee and obtain approval from Vaughan's by-law and compliance, licensing and permit services department. Signs that are not in compliance will be removed.

**Signs** can be used by renovators, fence initiatives, parties, landscapers and pool initiatives that are [licensed in the city of Vaughan](#), and by trades licensed or otherwise certified by provincial legislation. Signs:

- may only be displayed with property owner's permission;
- may not exceed 2.4 square metres;
- can display the business/municipal licence number;
- must be removed within two business days after the work has been completed.

**Real estate signs** are temporary signs that advertise a building, property or premises as for sale, lease or rent. Only one sign per lot is allowed. Real estate signs:

- must be removed within 14 days after an offer is accepted to purchase, lease or rent the premises;
- must list the address of the property being advertised.

**Mobile signs** are portable signs that are designed to have its content changed. A permit is required to display a mobile sign in Vaughan. Since the COVID-19 emergency declaration in March 2020, the city has introduced several initiatives to support businesses and individuals, while continuing to also ensure the health, safety and well-being of the public. This includes increasing the opportunities for local businesses to advertise using mobile and portable signs. Until Dec. 31, 2022, the following parameters are in place with respect to mobile sign applications:

- up to two mobile signs will be permitted on eligible property as long as there is a minimum distance of 30 metres (approximately van length) between the signs, provided the property does not directly abut a residentially zoned property;
- no limit will be placed on the number of permits that may be obtained by any one business;
- no black-out period will be imposed between permits, with permits continuing to be for 21 days, and each permit requiring a separate application and fee;
- no expenditure the business process, zoning discussions and site drawings are not required;
- the city's director and chief licensing officer, by-law & compliance, licensing & permit services is authorized to refuse mobile sign permit applications.

When a sign is installed without a permit on property owned by under the jurisdiction of the city, the sign could be removed without notice. When a sign is installed without a permit on private property, the city may issue a notice stating the sign must be removed. If the sign is not removed, the city may remove it at the sign owner's expense.

Any person violating the sign by-law may be fined up to \$25,000 for each offence. Any corporation violating the sign by-law may be fined up to \$25,000 for each offence.

Visit the [sign by-law webpage](#) to learn more.

## Vaughan News eNewsletter



## Explore September's By-law of the Month

### Learn everything you need to know about Vaughan's Sign By-law

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#### Here are the basics

The Sign By-law, as amended, outlines rules around the use of signs so that community appearance and the safety of residents are not impacted. Signs put up in Vaughan must comply with the Sign By-law, and require a City-issued permit in some cases.



Find out more about the guidelines for some commonly seen signs around Vaughan.

**Election signs** advertise a registered candidate in a federal, provincial or municipal election. Election signs:

- must be placed on private property with the property owner's permission.
- cannot be put up more than six weeks before Voting Day on municipal roads and 28 days before Voting Day on regional roads. Voting Day for the 2022 Municipal Election is Monday, Oct. 24.
- cannot exceed 1.49 square metres (including any border or frame).
- must be placed one metre from all street lines, a minimum of 1.5 metres from any common lot boundary with an adjacent lot, and not be located within a daylighting triangle – the outside corner of a property at an intersection.
- must be removed within 72 hours following the election.

Before erecting signs, candidates need to register their campaign, complete an [application \(PDF\)](#), pay a fee and obtain approval from Vaughan's By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services department. Signs that are not in compliance will be removed.

**Lawn signs** can be used by renovators, fence installers, pavers, landscapers and pool installers that are licensed in the City of Vaughan, and by trades licensed or otherwise certified by provincial legislation. Lawn signs:

- may only be displayed with property owner's permission.
- may not exceed 0.6 square metres.
- can display the business' municipal licence number.
- must be removed within five business days after the work has been completed.

**Real estate signs** are temporary signs that advertise a building, property or premises as for sale, lease or rent. Only one sign per lot is allowed. Real estate signs:

- must be removed within 14 days after an offer is accepted to purchase, lease or rent the premises.
- must list the address of the property being advertised.

**Mobile signs** are portable signs that are designed to have its content changed. A permit is required to display a mobile sign in Vaughan. Since the COVID-19 emergency declaration in March 2020, the City has introduced several initiatives to support businesses and individuals, while continuing to also ensure the health, safety and well-being of the public; this includes increasing the opportunities for local businesses to advertise using mobile and portable signs. Until Dec. 31, 2022, the following parameters are in place with respect to mobile sign applications:

- Up to two mobile signs will be permitted on eligible property as long as there is a minimum distance of 30 metres (approximately 100 feet) between the signs, provided the property does not directly abut a residentially zoned property.
- No limit will be placed on the number of permits that may be obtained by any one business.
- No black-out period will be imposed between permits, with permits continuing to be for 21 days, and each permit requiring a separate application and fee.
- To expedite the issuance process, zoning clearances and site drawings are not required.
- The City's Director and Chief Licensing Officer, By-law & Compliance, Licensing & Permit Services is authorized to refuse mobile sign permit applications.

When a sign is installed without a permit on property owned by/under the jurisdiction of the City, the sign could be removed without notice. When a sign is installed without a permit on private property, the City may issue a letter stating the sign must be removed. If the sign is not removed, the City may remove it at the sign owner's expense.

Any person violating the Sign By-law may be fined up to \$20,000 for each offence. Any corporation violating the Sign By-law may be fined up to \$50,000 for each offence.

Visit the [Sign By-law](#) webpage to learn more.

## Social media posts



## Digital signs

*In rotation across Vaughan from Sept. 29 to Oct. 11*



## Community centre and City Hall TVs

*In rotation on all community centre and City Hall TVs from Sept. 29 to Oct. 11*



## Hero banner:

*In rotation from Sept. 29 to Oct. 11*



**Feb. 17, 2023: general awareness**

## **Public service announcement**

# Explore February's By-law of the Month

POSTED: Feb. 17, 2023 10:00 a.m. |



### ***Learn everything you need to know about Vaughan's Sign By-law***

By-laws are put in place to ensure a safe and orderly community for all who live, work and play in Vaughan. Each month, the City of Vaughan explores a different by-law and what it means for you. This month, let's take a look at the [Sign By-law](#).

#### **Here are the basics**

The Sign By-law outlines rules around the use of signs to ensure they do not impact the appearance of the community or the safety of residents.

Signs put up in Vaughan must comply with the Sign By-law, and require a City-issued permit in some cases. There have been recent reports of stickers being placed on City signs and excessive numbers of posters. This is against the by-law and could result in a fine and the removal of the stickers or posters. The fine for a first offence is \$400 up to \$20,000 and for repeat offences up to \$50,000.

Find out more about the guidelines for some commonly seen signs around Vaughan.

Lawn signs can be used by renovators, fence installers, painters, landscapers and pool installers that are [licensed in the city of Vaughan](#), and by trades licensed or otherwise certified by provincial legislation. Lawn signs:

- may only be displayed with a property owner's permission.
- may not exceed 0.6 square metres.
- can display the business' municipal licence number.
- must be removed within five business days after the work has been completed.

Real estate signs are temporary signs that advertise a building, property or premises for sale, lease or rent. Only one sign per lot is allowed. Real estate signs:

- must be removed within 14 days after an offer is accepted to purchase, lease or rent the premises.
- must list the address of the property being advertised.

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**Vaughan News eNewsletter**

# VAUGHAN NEWS



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When a sign is installed without a permit on property owned by/under the jurisdiction of the City, the sign could be removed without notice. When a sign is installed without a permit on private property, the City may issue a letter stating the sign must be removed. If the sign is not removed, the City may remove it at the sign owner's expense.

Any person violating the Sign By-law may be fined up to \$20,000 for each offence. Any corporation violating the Sign By-law may be fined up to \$50,000 for each offence.

Visit the [Sign By-law](#) webpage to learn more.

## Social media posts



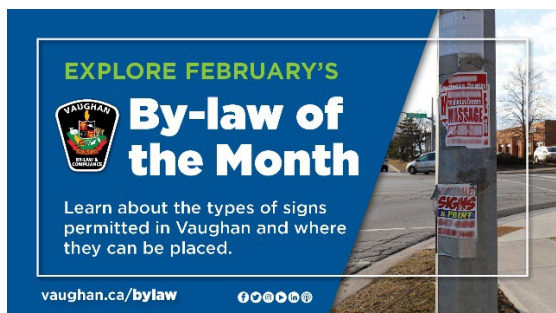
## Digital signs

*In rotation across Vaughan from Feb. 17 to Feb. 30*



## Community centre and City Hall TVs

*In rotation on all community centre and City Hall TVs from Feb. 17 to Feb. 30*



## Hero banner:

*In rotation from Feb. 17 to Feb. 30*



## Aug. 17, 2023: general awareness

### Public service announcement

## Hiring a contractor? Be informed before you sign on the dotted line!

POSTED: Aug 17, 2023 10:50 a.m. | [READ](#)



Are you thinking of hiring someone to do upgrades or repairs to your home or property? Before you sign anything, do your research and find the right – and licensed – company for the job. This can save you time, unnecessary stress and money in the long run.

In Vaughan, all renovators, fence installers, pavers, landscapers, pool installers and snowplow contractors must be licensed by the city. As outlined in the city's [contractors licensing by-law 112-2022](#) (here), these businesses are required to take various measures to protect you, their employees and the community at large. This includes providing services in compliance with all relevant city by-laws and regulations, carrying a certain amount of liability insurance, and providing a written contract to customers, among others.

#### How to protect yourself

To check if a contractor is licensed by the city, you can call 905-882-2261 or email [info@vaughan.ca](mailto:info@vaughan.ca). However, the fact that a contractor is licensed does not necessarily mean they are suited for the work. Even if a contractor is licensed by the city, you must do your own due diligence to ensure the contractor is qualified and a good fit for the job. You should look for a contractor that shows up on time, deals with your questions and concerns directly, has solid experience with the type of work to be done and provides references.

The government of Ontario offers [tips](#) for hiring a reliable contractor, including writing a clear budget, getting written estimates from at least three contractors and asking if the tradespeople hired have their certification from the skilled trades councils.

Ask your friends, family, co-workers and neighbours for recommendations on good contractors. You can also contact accredited organizations like the [Canadian Home Builders' Association](#) and the [Ontario Real Estate Board](#), visit a home show and look at local advertising. Always use caution when contacting companies that advertise illegally, such as placing stickers and posters on public property. These companies are often not licensed.

#### How to license your business

As a business owner, you must ensure you are licensed with the city. You can apply online for business licenses and permits and can submit, pay for and check the status of your application anytime. Visit [vaughan.ca/business/vaughan](https://vaughan.ca/business/vaughan) to get started.

You can apply for a permit to post signs advertising your business. If you are a renovator, fence installer, paver, landscaper, pool installer or snowplow contractor, you must include your license number on all promotional material used in Vaughan. You must also display a city issued placard on the dashboard of any vehicle used in connection with your business.

The [Vaughan business and entrepreneurship centre](#) provides one-stop services for existing business owners, with access to business information, resources, training and hands-on assistance to grow a business in Vaughan.

#### How does the city manage illegal signs

The [sign by-law 100-2016](#) (here) outlines rules around the use of signs to ensure they do not impact the appearance of the community or the safety of residents. Signs put up in Vaughan must comply with the sign by-law, and require a city issued permit in some cases.

When a sign is installed without a permit on property owned by under the jurisdiction of the city, the sign could be removed without notice. When a sign is installed without a permit on private property, the city may issue a letter stating the sign must be removed. If the sign is not removed, the city may remove it at the sign owner's expense.

Any person violating the sign by-law may be fined up to \$25,000 for each offence. Any corporation violating the sign by-law may be fined up to \$50,000 for each offence.

Visit the [sign by-law webpage](#) to learn more.

For the latest updates, subscribe to [Vaughan news](#) and follow the official corporate channels on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

## Vaughan News eNewsletter

# VAUGHAN NEWS

## Hiring a contractor? Be informed before you sign on the dotted line!

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In Vaughan, all renovators, fence installers, pavers, landscapers, pool installers and snowplow contractors must be licensed by the City. As outlined in the City's [Business Licensing By-law 122-2022](#) (PDF), these businesses are required to take various measures to protect you, their employees and the community at large. This includes providing services in compliance with all relevant City by-laws and regulations, carrying a certain amount of liability insurance, and providing a written contract to customers, among others.

### How to protect yourself

To check if a contractor is licensed by the City, you can call 905-832-2281 or email [bylaw@vaughan.ca](mailto:bylaw@vaughan.ca). However, the fact that a contractor is licensed does not necessarily mean they are suited for the work. **Even if a contractor is licensed by the City, you must do your own due diligence to ensure the contractor is qualified and a good fit for the job.** You should look for a contractor that shows up on time, deals with your questions and concerns directly, has solid experience with the type of work to be done and provides references.

The Government of Ontario offers [tips](#) for hiring a reliable contractor, including setting a clear budget, getting written estimates from at least three contractors and asking if the tradespeople hired have their certification from the Skilled Trades Ontario.

Ask your friends, family, co-workers and neighbours for recommendations on good contractors. You can also contact accredited organizations like the [Canadian Home Builders' Association](#) and the [Better Business Bureau](#), visit a home show and look at local advertising.

**Always use caution when contacting companies that advertise illegally, such as placing stickers and posters on public property. These companies are often not licensed.**

### How to licence your business

As a business owner, you must ensure you are licensed with the City. You can apply online for business licences and permits and can submit, pay for and check the status of your application anytime. Visit [vaughan.ca/ServiceVaughan](http://vaughan.ca/ServiceVaughan) to get started.

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The [Vaughan Business and Entrepreneurship Centre](#) provides one-stop services for exciting business owners, with access to business information, resources, training and hands-on assistance to grow a business in Vaughan.

### How does the City manage illegal signs

The [Sign By-law 140-2018](#) (PDF) outlines rules around the use of signs to ensure they do not impact the appearance of the community or the safety of residents. Signs put up in Vaughan must comply with the Sign By-law, and require a City-issued permit in some cases.

When a sign is installed without a permit on property owned by/under the jurisdiction of the City, the sign could be removed without notice. When a sign is installed without a permit on private property, the City may issue a letter stating the sign must be removed. If the sign is not removed, the City may remove it at the sign owner's expense.

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Visit the [Sign By-law webpage](#) to learn more.

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## Social media posts

## Hiring a contractor?

Be informed before you sign on the dotted line!

[vaughan.ca/bylaw](http://vaughan.ca/bylaw)



### Digital signs

*In rotation across Vaughan from Aug. 17 to Aug. 30*

## Hiring a contractor?

Make sure they're licensed.



[vaughan.ca/BusinessLicensing](http://vaughan.ca/BusinessLicensing)

### Community centre and City Hall TVs

*In rotation on all community centre and City Hall TVs from Aug. 17 to Aug. 30*

## Is your contractor licensed by the City?

Contact us to be sure!

• 905-832-2281

• [bylaw@vaughan.ca](mailto:bylaw@vaughan.ca)

[vaughan.ca/BusinessLicensing](http://vaughan.ca/BusinessLicensing)



### Hero banner:

## Hiring a contractor?

Make sure they're licensed.

*In rotation from Aug. 17 to Aug. 30*



## May 14, 2024: general awareness

### Public service announcement

#### Be informed before you hire a contractor!

POSTED: May 14, 2024 10:00 a.m. | [View](#)



Are you thinking of hiring someone to do work around your home? Before you sign anything, do your research and find the right – and licensed – company for the job. This can save you time, unnecessary stress and money in the long run.

In Vaughan, all renovators, fence installers, painters, landscapers, pool installers and snowplow contractors must be licensed by the city. As outlined in the city's [contracting by-law 122-2022](#) (tree), these businesses are required to take various measures to protect you, their employees and the community at large. This includes providing services in compliance with all relevant city by-laws and regulations, carrying a certain amount of liability insurance, and providing a written contract to customers, among others. At a recent [council meeting](#) (tree), the by-law was amended to include [wildlife removal companies](#).

##### How to protect yourself

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The government of Ontario offers [tips](#) for hiring a reliable contractor, including writing a clear budget, getting written estimates from at least three contractors and asking if the tradespeople hired have their certification from the skilled trades Ontario.

Ask your friends, family, co-workers and neighbours for recommendations on good contractors. You can also contact accredited organizations like the [Canadian Home Builders Association](#) and the [Ontario Business Bureau](#). Visit a home show and look at local advertising. Always use caution when contacting companies that advertise illegally, such as placing stickers and posters on public property. These companies are often not licensed.

##### How to license your business

As a business owner, you must ensure you are licensed with the city. You can apply online for business licenses and permits and can submit, pay for and check the status of your application anytime. Visit [vaughan.ca/en/doingbusiness](https://vaughan.ca/en/doingbusiness) to get started.

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##### How the city manages illegal signs

The [signs by-law 140-2019](#) (tree) outlines rules around the use of signs to ensure they do not impact the appearance of the community or the safety of residents. Signs put up in Vaughan must comply with the signs by-law and, in some cases, require a city-issued permit.

When a sign is installed without a permit on property owned by someone outside the jurisdiction of the city, the sign could be removed without notice. When a sign is installed without a permit on private property, the city may issue a notice stating the sign must be removed; if the sign is not removed, the city may remove it at the sign owner's expense.

Any person violating the signs by-law may be fined up to \$25,000 for each offence. Any corporation violating the signs by-law may be fined up to \$25,000 for each offence.

Visit the [signs by-law webpage](#) to learn more.

For the latest updates, subscribe to [Vaughan News](#) and follow the official corporate channels on [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

## Vaughan News eNewsletter

## Be informed before you hire a contractor!

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### How the City manages illegal signs

The [Sign By-law 140-2018 \(PDF\)](#) outlines rules around the use of signs to ensure they do not impact the appearance of the community or the safety of residents. Signs put up in Vaughan must comply with the Sign By-law and, in some cases, require a City-issued permit.

When a sign is installed without a permit on property owned by/under the jurisdiction of the City, the sign could be removed without notice. When a sign is installed without a permit on private property, the City may issue a notice stating the sign must be removed. If the sign is not removed, the City may remove it at the sign owner's expense.

Any person violating the Sign By-law may be fined up to \$20,000 for each offence. Any corporation violating the Sign By-law may be fined up to \$50,000 for each offence.

Visit the [Sign By-law webpage](#) to learn more.

For the latest updates, subscribe to [Vaughan News](#) and follow the official corporate channels on [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

## Social media posts

**Be informed  
before you hire  
a contractor!**

[vaughan.ca/bylaw](http://vaughan.ca/bylaw)



**Feb. 5, 2025: general awareness**

**[Public service announcement](#)**

# Everything you need to know about election signs in Vaughan

POSTED: Feb. 5, 2025 10:10 a.m. | [BYLAW](#)



Ontario's next general election is taking place on Thursday, Feb. 27 – which means campaign signs will start appearing on lawns throughout your neighbourhood.

In Vaughan, all signs, including election signs, are governed by the City's [Sign By-law 140-2018](#) (PDF). Here's what you need to know:

- Election signs may only be erected six weeks prior to voting day.
- The maximum area of an election sign is 1.49 square metres (including any border or frame).
- Election signs posted within a campaign office must comply with the provisions of the Sign By-law if they can be seen from outside the office.
- Election signs must be set back one metre from all street lines, a minimum of 1.5 metres from any common lot boundary with an adjacent lot and not be located within a daylighting triangle – the outside corner of a property at an intersection.
- Election signs posted to the exterior of a campaign office are considered business premises signs that require permits.
- Banner signs, mobile signs and A-frame signs are not permitted.
- Candidates are required to have their election signs removed within 72 hours following the election.

In addition to adhering to the Sign By-law, candidates also need to register their campaign, complete an [application](#) (PDF), pay a fee and obtain approval from Vaughan's By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services department before erecting signs. Signs that are not in compliance will be removed.

Any concerns or questions about election signs can be directed to [Service Vaughan](#) at 905-832-2281 or [service@vaughan.ca](mailto:service@vaughan.ca).

Note, if signs are being placed on regional roads, candidates must pay applicable fees through York Region and follow the [Signs on Regional Roads By-law No. 2015-36](#). Signs are only permitted at intersections on regional roads. For more information, visit [York Region's election sign guidelines webpage](#).

The 2025 Ontario general election is conducted by [Elections Ontario](#), and questions about the election should be directed to them:

- For voter information, including accessibility, Advance Vote and Voting Day locations and hours, and voter registration, visit the [Voting](#) webpage.
- For information about employment opportunities with Elections Ontario, visit the [Employment Centre](#) webpage.

Elections Ontario can also be reached at 1-888-668-6683 or [info@elections.on.ca](mailto:info@elections.on.ca).

For updates and news as they happen, subscribe to [Vaughan News](#) and follow the official corporate channels on [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

## Vaughan News eNewsletter

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Elections Ontario can also be reached at 1-888-668-8683 or [info@elections.on.ca](mailto:info@elections.on.ca).

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### Social media posts

**Everything you  
need to know  
about election  
signs in Vaughan**

[vaughan.ca](http://vaughan.ca)



**Everything  
you need to  
know about  
election signs  
in Vaughan**



**March 28, 2025: general awareness**

**Public service announcement**

# Everything you need to know about election signs in Vaughan

POSTED: March 28, 2025 10:00 a.m. | [CITY NEWS](#)



Canada's next general election is on Monday, April 28 – which means campaign signs are starting to appear on lawns throughout our community.

In Vaughan, all signs, including election signs, are governed by the City's [Sign By-law 140-2018](#) (PDF). Here's what you need to know:

- Election signs may only be erected six weeks prior to voting day.
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The 2025 Canadian general election is conducted by [Elections Canada](#), and questions about the election should be directed to them:

- For voter information, including accessibility, Advance Vote and Voting Day locations and hours, and voter registration, visit the [Elections Canada](#) webpage.
- For information about employment opportunities with Elections Ontario, visit the [Jobs](#) webpage.

Elections Canada can also be reached by phone at 1-800-463-6868 or electronically using this [contact form](#).

For updates and news as they happen, subscribe to [Vaughan News](#) and follow the official corporate channels on [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

## Vaughan News eNewsletter

## Everything you need to know about election signs in Vaughan

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### Social media posts

## Everything you need to know about election signs in Vaughan

[vaughan.ca](http://vaughan.ca)



## Everything you need to know about election signs in Vaughan

