

DETERMINATION

Signage at voting centres

Electoral Act 2002, section 158A

Determination 002/2026

Keywords

Billboard, candidate, designated entrance, limited sign zone, mobile billboard, notice, registered political party, signage, signs, voting centre

Preamble

Section 158A of the *Electoral Act 2002* (Vic) (Electoral Act) sets rules for displaying notices and signs relating to the election within 100 metres of a designated entrance to a voting centre. This area is known as the 'limited sign zone'. By law, the size and number of notices and signs that can be displayed within this zone is limited. A billboard is a type of sign.

A 'voting centre' is defined in the Electoral Act to mean a place appointed by the VEC for voting at an election as:

- an early voting centre
- a mobile voting centre
- an election day voting centre
- an alternative voting centre.

These rules on notices and signs within the limited sign zone apply during the hours of voting for the relevant voting centre.

Under section 158A(7) of the Electoral Act, each registered political party and independent candidate must nominate a person responsible for any notices or signs displayed by the party or candidate in the limited sign zone. The contact details of the designated person must be provided to the VEC before noon (12 p.m.) on the final nomination day.

Under section 158A(3C) of the Electoral Act, a mobile billboard cannot be displayed within the limited sign zone, or within 100 metres of a designated entrance to the grounds in which a voting centre is located.

Audience

The main audiences for this determination include:

- registered political parties and candidates
- campaigners
- election managers and election officials.

Determination

I, Sven Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner for the State of Victoria, make the following determination in accordance with section 9(3) of the Electoral Act.

1. *Signs*

- 1.1. A limited sign zone applies within 100 metres of any designated entrance to a voting centre or its grounds.
- 1.2. The only notices or signs relating to the election that are allowed to be displayed within the limited sign zone during voting hours are official VEC signs, and signs displayed by a candidate or registered political party that comply with the following rules:
 - 1.2.1. Each candidate can display up to 2 signs (unless 1.2.3 applies).
 - 1.2.2. In addition to 1.2.1, each registered political party can display up to 2 signs.
 - 1.2.3. Where a registered political party has endorsed 2 or more candidates for a particular Legislative Council region election, these candidates may have up to 2 signs in total between them.
 - 1.2.4. Any sign must not exceed 600 mm x 900 mm in size.
- 1.3. Subject to the rules outlined in 1.2 above, candidates and registered political parties can only display notices or signs in a limited sign zone located within a district or a region in which they have nominated or endorsed a candidate.
- 1.4. Election managers, election officials and other authorised officers may check the number and size of any notice or sign displayed within the limited sign zone.
- 1.5. For the purposes of counting notices and signs, one notice or sign consists of a single visible side. Any notice or sign that has 2 visible sides counts as 2 signs.
- 1.6. At a joint voting centre (including a joint early voting centre), where one venue hosts 2 or more voting centres for adjacent districts, the limited sign zone applies to each district election separately.

- 1.7. If a permanent or pre-existing notice or sign for a candidate or registered political party is located within the limited sign zone, it is subject to the limited sign zone rules.
- 1.8. A sign can be made of any material and can be a poster, billboard, notice, electronic or digital display, a magnetic sign or a large sticker. A sign may or may not be attached to something.

2. ***Mobile billboards***

- 2.1. A mobile billboard relating to an election is forbidden within the limited sign zone, regardless of its size.
- 2.2. A mobile billboard is any billboard capable of being displayed while being transported or towed by any means, regardless of its size. This includes billboards that can be worn or transported by a person or animal, and billboards attached to vehicles such as cars, trucks, motorcycles, mopeds, drones, bicycles and scooters, and on trailers towed by vehicles.
- 2.3. Vehicles that are painted or vinyl-wrapped with election-related content are considered mobile billboards. A vehicle with any election-related notice or sign attached to it is considered a mobile billboard.

3. ***Campaign office***

- 3.1. If a campaign office or other location operated by a candidate or registered political party is located within 100 metres of the designated entrance to a voting centre, the limited sign zone rules apply during the hours of voting. This means that any notice or sign relating to the election displayed at that location counts towards the candidate's or registered political party's allocated number of signs in the limited sign zone and must not exceed 600 mm x 900 mm in size.

4. ***Private residences***

- 4.1. Notices and signs displayed at private residences are excluded from the limited sign zone. This includes the private residence's buildings, grounds and any perimeter fencing.
- 4.2. Common areas of private property (for example, the foyer of an apartment building) are not subject to the limited sign zone rules, but may be subject to other rules, such as the rules of an owners' corporation.
- 4.3. Public footpaths, thresholds, road reserves and verges are subject to the limited sign zone rules.

5. ***Removal of a notice or sign***

- 5.1. An election manager, election official or other authorised person may remove a notice or sign that they reasonably consider is in breach of the limited sign zone rules, in accordance with section 158A of the Electoral Act.
- 5.2. Where necessary, the election manager, election official or other authorised person will liaise with the responsible person designated under section 158A(7) of the Electoral Act to return the sign. If the VEC is unable to do so, it will retain the sign and may dispose of it at the conclusion of the voting period.

Revocation of previous instrument

Determination 003/2022 ('Signage at voting centres') made by the Electoral Commissioner on 9 September 2022 is revoked and replaced by this determination.

Start date of this determination

This determination comes into effect on 25 May 2026. It remains in effect until it is amended, revoked, superseded, or otherwise replaced.

Sven Bluemmel
Electoral Commissioner
Victorian Electoral Commission

25 May 2026

Document details

Determination name	Signage at voting centres			
VEC Electra ref	EDRM155-681003259-457			
Sponsor	Assistant Commissioner, Electoral Integrity and Regulation			
Scheduled review date	1 June 2030			
Document history	Reference:	Effective date:	Supersedes:	Superseded by:
— Version 1.0	003/2022	1 November 2022	Not applicable	002/2026
— Version 2.0	002/2026	25 May 2026	003/2022	Not applicable

— END —