



DETERMINATION

Signage at voting centres

Electoral Act 2002, section 158A

Determination 003/2022

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* (Electoral Act) sets rules for the display of electoral notices and signs 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 100-metre zone is limited.

These rules on electoral signage within the limited sign zone apply during the opening hours for the voting centre. A billboard is a type of sign.

Each registered political party and independent candidate must designate a person to be responsible for any notices or signs displayed by the party or candidate, as applicable, within the limited sign zone.

Under section 158A(3C) of the Electoral Act, mobile billboards 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 principal audience for this Determination includes:

- registered political parties and candidates
- candidate and party workers
- election managers and election officials.

Determination

I, Warwick Gately AM, Electoral Commissioner for the State of Victoria, by delegation of the Victorian Electoral Commission pursuant to section 16(1)(b) of the Electoral Act, make the following determination in accordance with section 9(3) of the Electoral Act.

1. Signs

- 1.1. 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:
 - 1.1.1 each candidate can display up to 2 signs (unless 1.1.3 applies),
 - 1.1.2 each registered party can display up to 2 signs,
 - 1.1.3 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, and
 - 1.1.4 any sign must not exceed 600 mm x 900 mm in size.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. At a joint voting centre, where one venue is hosting 2 or more voting centres for adjacent districts, the limited sign zone applies to each district election separately.
- 1.5. A limited sign zone also applies within 100 metres of any additional nominated entrance to a voting centre or its grounds (as the case may be).
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. 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 billboard is a type of sign and exceeds (on at least one side) the permitted notice or sign dimensions of 600 mm x 900 mm. No billboards are permitted within the limited sign zone. A billboard can be made of any material and can be a poster, notice, electronic or digital display, a magnetic sign or a large sticker. A billboard may or may not be attached to something.

2. Mobile billboards

- 2.1 A mobile billboard relating to the election is expressly 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 larger than 600 mm x 900 mm 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 sign

- 5.1 An election manager, election official or other authorised person may remove a notice or sign that is in breach of the limited sign zone rules, in accordance with section 158A of the Electoral Act.
- 5.2 The election manager, election official or other authorised person can retain the sign if there is no person to claim ownership. As the sign will be of no value at the conclusion of the voting period, the VEC can dispose of the sign as it sees fit.

Revocation of previous instrument

Not applicable.

Commencement of this determination

This Determination commences on 1 November 2022 and remains in effect until such time as it is amended, revoked, superseded, or otherwise replaced.

Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner
Victorian Electoral Commission

9 September 2022

Document details

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