

General Election 2026: Summary of the Applicable Election Sign Rules in Tairāwhiti District

Before 5 September 2026

Before 5 September, the [Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan \(TRMP\)](#) determines whether an election sign may be displayed. These rules apply to both public and private land and vary depending on the zoning and location of the sign.

In most areas, rule C11.1.6 applies. Election signs are only permitted under that rule during the six weeks before the election (in effect this restriction only applies outside the nine-week period set out in s.221B of the Electoral Act – see below).

C11.1.6(5) provides for temporary signs that advertise an electoral candidate or party as a permitted activity, if the following activity standards are met:

- a) One sign per political party or independent candidate may be erected at any approved site identified in Appendix H27.
- b) Signs may be located on private property, with the owner's consent.
- c) Signs may be displayed a maximum of six weeks prior to the date of the election.
- d) Maximum sign face area: 3m² per face.
- e) Signs are to be constructed and installed in a manner which minimises any danger or damage to persons or property.

Note: It is advised that prior to the display of signage on or adjacent to a state highway the written consent of New Zealand Transport Agency must first be obtained.

An election sign not complying with these standards will therefore generally require resource consent as a discretionary activity.

There is an exception from C11.1.6 for sites subject to rule C11.1.7. That rule generally permits permanent and temporary signs in the Fringe Commercial, Outer Commercial, Aviation Commercial, Port Management and Industrial zones, subject to the applicable permitted activity standards.

Rule C11.1.7 does not apply to sites fronting:

- Lytton Road
- Awapuni Road
- Stanley Road
- Grey Street
- Customhouse Street
- Gladstone Road between Derby Street and Cobden Street
- Main Road, Makaraka.

For election signs on those road frontages, the general election-sign provisions in C11.1.6 continue to apply. Accordingly, before 5 September 2026, a resource consent would be required because the six-week permitted activity period has not yet commenced.

From 5 September to 6 November 2026

From 5 September, section 221B of the Electoral Act applies to qualifying election advertisements that do not exceed 3 m². During this period, local restrictions concerning the period during which those advertisements may be displayed do not apply. This overrides the six-week timing restriction in rule C11.1.6.

Section 221B does not create a general right to use any site from 5 September. Other controls continue to apply, including requirements relating to location, road safety, the number of signs and any other applicable TRMP requirements.

Council-owned land and road reserve

The TRMP applies regardless of who owns the land. In addition, signs on Council-owned land require Council's agreement as landowner.

Signs in road reserve are subject to separate controls and a [Corridor Access Request is required](#).