



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

INTRODUCTION DATE: September 13, 2021
SUBJECT: Election Signs of Public Roadways
CONSIDERATION DATE: October 4, 2021
REQUESTED BY: Councillor Hamid
SECONDED BY: Councillor Best

WHEREAS thousands of plastic lawn signs are produced during each election cycle at great personal expense to the candidates and their supporters, with the majority being discarded following the election;

AND WHEREAS these 'sign wars' provide an unfair advantage of wealthier candidates and incumbents who can raise money;

AND WHEREAS putting an end to the election "sign war" would help level the playing-field for all candidates regardless of financial means;

AND WHEREAS reducing election signs will prevent more plastics from entering our environment, trails and waterways;

AND WHEREAS sign wars further help incumbents as they are able to reuse signs from the previous election while new candidates have to spend money for new signs;

AND WHEREAS prohibiting signs on public roadways in Burlington did not stop 6 out of 7 candidates being elected to new positions with 5 being completely new to the elected office, demonstrating that banning signs on public properties did not hurt new candidates;

AND WHEREAS municipalities around us, such as Mississauga, Brampton and Burlington already prohibit the use of election signs on public roadways;

AND WHEREAS enforcing rules around the use of signs on public properties costs taxpayers money in bylaw enforcement and wastes valuable staff time better spent on more important issues;

AND WHEREAS Milton residents consistently ask for election signs to be banned or prohibited outright or at least restricted to private properties only, and online polls have consistently found the support to be over 90%;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Milton joins many other municipalities across Canada and prohibit the display of all campaign lawn signs outside of private properties; and

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to bring forward the necessary amendment to the Town's Election Sign By-law to prohibit the placement of election signs on public property.