

NEWS

# Signs 'necessary part' of process

10. "Some of these signs are so big that you can't see cars behind them," he noted. He also asked staff to look at potential time limits, such as a 30-35 day limit for signs on public property.

While Mayor Gord Krantz said he would support such a timeframe, he'd be opposed to prohibiting election signs altogether.

"Are we trying to prohibit election signs and stymie or neuter democracy? I would hope not," he said. "It's one way the public knows who wants to run."

"The goal isn't to restrict democracy. The goal is to ensure a fair election," said Hamid.

For Local and Regional Councillor Mike Cluett, "election signs are, I believe, a necessary part of the democratic process."

But he said he would like to see rules introduced that would establish a minimum distance between signs, and a regulation requiring candidates to keep signs in their respective wards.

Ward 7 Councillor Rick Di Lorenzo said he's in favour of enforcing the sign bylaw and addressing safety issues, but opposed to any additional restrictions.

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**Gord Krantz**  
Mayor of Milton

"Those restrictions benefit incumbents," he said. And while Hamid's motion notes the Town's sign bylaw is inconsistent when compared to surrounding municipalities, Di Lorenzo said he doesn't want Milton to be consistent.

"The surrounding municipalities have many more restrictions than we do," he noted. Halton Regional Council previously voted to amend its bylaw to prohibit election signs on regional road right-of-ways. At the time, Regional Chair Gary Carr said it was "chaos" during the fall election.

Mississauga and Burlington also have bylaws in place that restrict signage on right-of-ways.

Aside from the visual clutter, election signs mean extra work for Town staff, who remove over 3,000 signs annually from road allowances. Best suggested the most effective way to campaign for office is to go out in the community and talk to voters.

"My competitor had more signs out than I did, and I still beat him," he noted.

Town Clerk Troy McHarg will report back to council at a future meeting on the issue.

-with files from Rachael Williams

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