

# THE MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND

## BY-LAW No. 2022-02

**WHEREAS** The Municipal Act provides that a council must pass a by-law establishing rules and procedures for the use of municipal resources during the 42-day period before a general election or a by-election.

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Municipality of Rhineland enacts as follows:

### TITLE

1. This by-law may be known as the “Use of Municipal Resources in an Election By-Law”.

### DEFINITIONS

2. In this by-law,

“**Candidate**” means an individual who has been registered under section 93.3 of The Municipal Act.

“**Restricted Period**” means the period beginning 42 days before a municipal general election or by-election and ending after polls close on the date of the municipal general election or by-election.

“**Municipal Resources**” means:

- a. any resource owned or controlled by the Municipality, including but not limited to:
  - i. property, facilities, infrastructure, and equipment,
  - ii. websites, social media accounts and other communication tools or media,
- b. employees or volunteers in the course of their employment or volunteer service, including any full-time, part-time, casual or contract employees, and volunteers, whether the volunteer receives reasonable compensation or expense money from the municipality for their voluntary service,
- c. events or functions organized by the Municipality,
- d. the municipal logo, seal, or other identifying marks associated with the Municipality,
- e. any information collected or controlled by the Municipality that is not available to the public.

“**Municipality**” means the Municipality of Rhineland

### RESTRICTIONS ON CANDIDATES’ USE OF MUNICIPAL RESOURCES

2. Subject to section 4, during the Restricted Period, a Candidate or a person acting on their behalf may only use a Municipal Resource for an election-related purpose if:
  - a. The Municipal Resource is normally made available to the public without the general public needing to seek permission or authorization for its use; and
  - b. The Candidate’s use of the Municipal Resource does not unreasonably interfere with use of the Municipal Resource by other members of the public.

### RESTRICTIONS ON MUNICIPAL ACTIVITIES

3. Subject to section 4, during the Restricted Period, the Municipality and any person acting on its behalf is restricted from using:
  - a. Municipal Resources in communicating information about the Municipality’s programs or services, if the communication may reasonably be seen as providing an electoral advantage to a Candidate; and
  - b. The name, voice, or image of a member of council in municipal communications.

## EXCEPTIONS

4. Restrictions in sections 2 and 3 do not apply:
  - a. To any use of Municipal Resources that may be necessary in respect of an emergency or dangers to property or health.
  - b. To any event where all Candidates are invited and provided equivalent opportunities with respect to any election-related purpose.
  - c. To any use of Municipal Resources by the Municipality to educate and inform the public about the election process, as long as no Candidate is promoted, supported or opposed.
  - d. To the preparation of any document, notice or communication that is required by legislation, and any subsequent distribution that is normally made by the Municipality, such as posting council meeting minutes online.
  - e. To the preparation of any documents or communications of a strictly administrative nature required for the usual functioning of the Municipality, such as members of council signing payments.
  - f. To any method of providing public access to council meetings.
  - g. To any Candidate declared elected by acclamation during the Restricted Period, after such declaration is made.

## INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

5. Any person appointed or designated to enforce the Municipality's by-laws may determine compliance with and enforce this by-law, and during this activity may request access to records and make any inspection they deem necessary.
6. Any person in contradiction or not in compliance of the by-law will receive written warning of the infraction from a designated person appointed to enforce the Municipality's by-laws. Written warnings may be posted on the Municipal website and in the office for public information.

DONE AND PASSED by Council of The Municipality of Rhineland, in Council Chambers this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

---

Reeve Don Wiebe

---

Chief Administrative Officer  
Michael Rempel

Read a first time this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

Read a second time this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

Read a third time this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.