

PURPOSE:

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 54, Section 65 prohibits electioneering at or within 150 feet of the entrance of polling places at an election of federal, state or local officers.

There is an increasing percentage of Upton voters who are taking advantage of their right and opportunity to vote in-person by absentee ballot or during the Early Voting Period established by the Legislature, and come to the Town offices at 1 Main Street in order to obtain absentee ballots or cast early ballots.

These voters should be given the same right and opportunity to cast or obtain ballots free of electioneering activity as is enjoyed by voters who cast their vote on the day of the election.

Lastly, observance of the 150-foot rule established by Chapter 54, Section 65 at the Town offices during in-person absentee voting or the Early Voting Period would not unduly restrict the ability of any person to display or distribute campaign messages to prospective voters approaching the Town offices.

POLICY:

No poster, card, handbill, placard, picture or circular intended to influence the action of the voter, other than those expressly authorized by G.L. c. 54, § 65, shall be posted, exhibited, circulated or distributed in the Town Clerk's office, in the building where the Town Clerk's office is located, on the walls thereof, on the premises on which the Town offices at 1 Main Street stand within one hundred and fifty feet of the building entrance door to said Town offices for the period designated for in-person absentee voting and the State's Early Voting Period.

APPLICABILITY

Any person 'electioneering' within 150 feet from the Town Hall.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE:

The Town Clerk will have the authority to ask any individual who is 'electioneering' to move 150 feet away from Town Hall. If the individual resists, the Police may be called to assist.

DEFINITION

Electioneering: the display or distribution of material intended to influence the actions of voters

REGULATORY / STATUTORY REFERENCES:

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 54, Section 65. Activities at polling places; regulations; penalties

**Administrative
Policy and
Procedure
Policy**

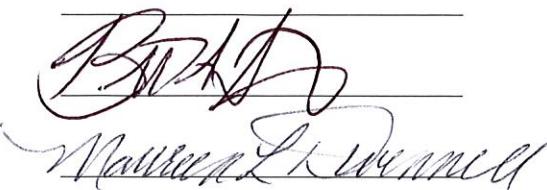
**Board of Selectmen
Electioneering Policy
Approved February 18, 2020**

APPROVED BY:

Board of Selectmen, Chair: Steven Matellian

Board of Selectmen: Brett Simas

Board of Selectmen: Maureen Dwinnell



Two handwritten signatures are shown. The top signature is for Brett Simas, and the bottom signature is for Maureen Dwinnell. Both signatures are in cursive and are placed above their respective names in the text block.

Original date: February 18, 2020

Revised dates: