

Town of Middleton
Board of Selectmen

Policy Regarding Electioneering
During Early and Absentee Voting for 2018 State Election

WHEREAS, Chapter 54, Section 65 of the General Laws of Massachusetts prohibits “electioneering” (the display or distribution of material intended to influence the actions of voters) at or within 150 feet of the entrance of polling places at an election of federal, state or local officers;

WHEREAS, an increasing percentage of Middleton voters 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 Memorial Hall at 48 South Main Street in order to obtain absentee ballots or the Flint Public Library at 1 South Main Street to cast early ballots;

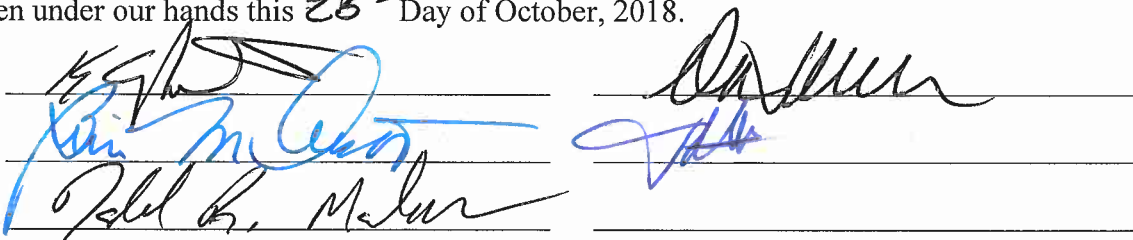
WHEREAS, such voters should be given the same right and opportunity to cast or obtain ballots free of electioneering activity as is enjoyed by voters who cast their vote on the day of the election;

WHEREAS, observance of the 150-foot rule established by Chapter 54, Section 65 at Memorial Hall during in-person absentee voting or the Flint Public Library during 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 or the Flint Public Library; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen has the care, custody and control of Memorial Hall at 48 South Main Street and the Flint Public Library at 1 South Main Street and the surrounding sidewalks, and may regulate activity thereon;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Selectmen adopts the following regulation for the period designated for in-person absentee voting and the State’s Early Voting Period: 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 Flint Public Library at 1 South Main Street or 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 48 South Main Street stand within one hundred and fifty feet of the building entrance door to said Town offices and Library.

Given under our hands this 23RD Day of October, 2018.



Selectmen of: The Town of Middleton