



Town of Bellingham
Office of the
Select Board
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**TOWN OF BELLINGHAM
POLICY FOR THE EXHIBITION OF FLAGS
ON TOWN BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY**

1. Background

The Town of Bellingham exhibits flags at its properties and buildings which are inevitably linked to the views of the local government. This policy shall govern the rules and regulations by which such flags shall be displayed.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the flying of the flags of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Town of Bellingham, the official flags of all branches of the United States military, and the POW/MIA on Town-owned property. The choice of which flag to raise on Town-owned property is hereby declared to be governmental speech, communicating a message to the public, to which the strictures of the First Amendment do not apply. The Town does not intend to designate the flying of flags on Town-owned property as a public forum by permitting a non-governmental party to raise a particular flag.

This policy excludes school buildings of the Town of Bellingham.

3. Policy

- a. Flags exhibited from Town-owned property shall be displayed in conformance with applicable federal, state and local policies, as stated in the Federal "Our Flag" publication of the Congress, House Document No. 96-144 and the Massachusetts statutes and regulations for flags, including without limitation to General Law Chapter 2, section 6A, General Law Chapter 264, Section 5, CMR 34.00 et seq, and this policy.
- b. Flying flags at Town-owned properties shall be limited to the United States Flag, the flag of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Town of Bellingham flag, the official flags of all branches of the United States military, and the POW/MIA flag. Ceremonial flags will not be flown at Town-owned buildings and properties.
- c. The Select Board, or Town Administrator as its designee shall ensure the proper execution of this policy, as it may be amended from time to time by the Select Board in its sole discretion.

Adopted this 24 day of December, 2023 by vote of the Select Board.



Michael J. Connor, Chairman



Sahan Sahin, Vice Chairman



Michael Hennessy



Ann Odabashian

BELLINGHAM SELECT BOARD