

Town of Deerfield
Selectboard

Policy Regarding Electioneering
During Early and Absentee Voting

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 Deerfield 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 the Town offices at 8 Conway Street in order to obtain absentee ballots or cast early ballots;

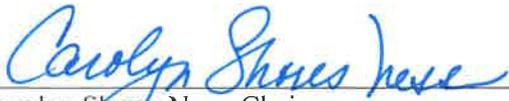
WHEREAS, such voters should be given the same right and opportunity to cast or obtain ballots free of electioneering activity as is enjoyed by voters who cast their vote on the day of the election;

WHEREAS, observance of the 150-foot rule established by Chapter 54, Section 65 at 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; and

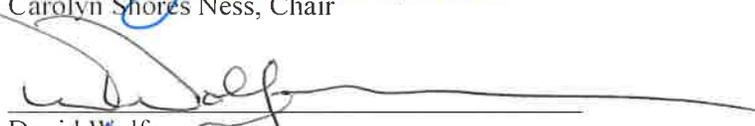
WHEREAS, the Selectboard has the care, custody and control of the Town offices at 8 Conway Street and the surrounding sidewalks, and may regulate activity thereon;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Selectboard 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 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 8 Conway Street stand within one hundred and fifty feet of the building entrance door to said Town offices.

Given under our hands this Nineteenth day of August, 2020.



Carolyn Shores Ness, Chair



David Wolfram



Trevor McDaniel

Town of Deerfield, Selectboard