

# **TOWN OF WARNER ELECTIONEERING POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

## **1. PURPOSE**

It is the intent of the Town of Warner to balance the use of town property for electioneering, solicitation and demonstrations with the rights of others using those properties. The purpose of these policies and procedures is to regulate the distribution of campaign materials, electioneering activity or any other activity for any purpose which affects the safety, welfare and rights of members of the public on Town-owned property.

## **2. AUTHORITY**

RSA 31:41-c permits towns to regulate all streets and public ways and activities on public property. These policies and procedures are promulgated pursuant to that statute. These provisions contained herein shall supersede and replace all prior policies, practices or procedures regarding this subject.

## **3. ENFORCEMENT**

Violations of these policies and procedures by any person shall result in disciplinary action including warnings and citations to be issued by the Town police department.

## **4. DEFINITIONS**

“Solicitation activity” means advertising, promoting or selling goods or services, or soliciting petition signatures.

"Demonstration activity" means protesting, picketing, or attempting to impede access or egress to and from Town-owned property.

"Electioneering" means a communication or activity to expressly advocate the election or defeat of a candidate or the passage or defeat of an issue to promote or advance one candidate, issue, or position over another.

## **5. ALLOWED CONDUCT**

Solicitation activity, demonstration activity or electioneering by persons within or on Town-owned property is allowed in a safe, respectful and non-harassing manner. Activity is allowed within or on Town-owned property but may be excluded if necessary in certain areas and at certain times for the purpose of safety, welfare, and rights of the public.

Literature may be left within a building at a table in any town-owned or leased lobby or other designated area. Bulletin boards are available at the Town Hall and Transfer Station for posting information.

Sidewalks and stairs in front of and leading up to the Town Hall must be kept clear to allow for unimpeded access to the Town Hall. On voting days, the Town Moderator will have responsibility for assuring this takes place. Electioneering is not permitted inside the Town Hall on voting days.

This allowance shall also apply to passive political expressions such as the wearing of lapel pins, buttons or clothing or general discussions among individuals in which individual opinions are expressed.

Anyone found to be acting in a manner contrary to this policy will be asked to leave the premises.

## **6. EFFECTIVE DATE**

Effective as of January 6, 2009

Amended December 15, 2009

WARNER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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David Karrick, Chairman

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David Hartman

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Clyde Carson