



CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
and ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
15 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01011

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

TOWN OF CHESTER FLAG POLICY

Purpose: This policy provides guidelines for the flying of the flags of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the Town of Chester on Town of Chester-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, nor has it ever, 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.

Accordingly, the Select Board's choice of whether to raise, or decline to raise, a flag on Town-owned property, the way such a decision is made, and the adoption of this policy shall not be interpreted as designating any Town-owned property as a public forum for the flying of flags.

This policy does not apply to the Gateway Regional School District.

Policy: It is the policy of the Town of Chester that 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 G.L. c. 2, § 6A, G.L. c. 264, § 5, 950 CMR 34.00 et seq. and this policy.



If the Governor of the Commonwealth or other authority of competent jurisdiction orders that the United States or Commonwealth flag be flown at half-staff, no other flag shall be flown higher.

The Select Board, or the 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: *Adopted by the Chester Select Board on December 18, 2023*