

**Town of Southborough
Board of Selectmen**

**Policy Regarding Electioneering
During Early and Absentee Voting Periods**

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy prohibits electioneering within 65 feet of the entrances to the Town House located at 17 Common Street, and the Senior Center located at 9 Cordaville Road, when they are used to hold voting during Early and Absentee Voting periods.

II. POLICY

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 to polling places at an election of federal, state or local officers.

An increasing percentage of Southborough voters are taking advantage of their right and opportunity to vote in-person during periods established by the Legislature, and to come to town facilities to obtain absentee ballots or cast early ballots. 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.

Observance of a 65 foot no-electioneering buffer area at the entrance to any facility used during in-person absentee voting or early voting would not unduly restrict the ability of any person to display or distribute campaign messages to prospective voters approaching the town offices.

The Board of Selectmen has authority regarding the care, custody and control of the Town House and the Senior Center, and the surrounding sidewalks and parking lots, and may regulate activity thereon, hereby adopts the following regulation:

“Electioneering” (the display or distribution of material intended to influence the actions of voters), other than those expressly authorized by G.L. c. 54, § 65, is prohibited within 65 feet of the entrance doors and within the interior spaces of the Town House or the Senior Center, when the building is used for in-person absentee voting or early voting during periods established by the Legislature.

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen on _____, 2020.