



The Selectboard

TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON

Town Hall
1 South Road
Westhampton, Massachusetts 01027
413-203-3086 – administration@WesthamptonMA.org

WHEREAS the Town of Westhampton owns and maintains several flagpoles on town property, and flag-placement hardware on town buildings, and

WHEREAS the Town of Westhampton supports the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and supports and encourages free expression in all appropriate venues, and

WHEREAS the Town of Westhampton is committed to the spirit and intent of Chapter One of Title Four of the United States Code (“The Flag Code”)

NOW THEREFORE the Selectboard of the Town of Westhampton (“Town”) hereby adopts the following

Municipal Flag Policy

Introduction and Purpose

The choice of which flag to raise on Town-owned flagpoles 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, nor has it ever intended 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.

The purpose of this policy is to establish a policy for the Town of Westhampton, acting through its Selectboard, for the display of Governmental flags, including official flags of the U.S. Military.

Policy

The Selectboard authorizes the following flags to be flown on Town-owned flagpoles, as an official expression of the Town’s governmental speech, to which the strictures of the First Amendment do not apply:

- The official flag of the United States of America;
- The official flag of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;
- The official flag of the Town of Westhampton;
- The official flags of the various branches of military services of the United States of America; and/or
- The official MIA-POW flag.

No other flags shall be allowed to be flown on Town of Westhampton-owned flagpoles, as those flagpoles and this policy are not intended to establish or serve to create a forum for private expression.

This policy is adopted as of this day, DECEMBER 4, 2023, supersedes any previous policy, and is subject to change without notice.



Maureen Dempsey
Maureen Dempsey

Scott Johndrow
Scott Johndrow

Susan Bronstein
Susan Bronstein