



## **Town of Hudson Flag Policy**

**Purpose:** This policy provides guidelines for the flying, on the Town of Hudson flagpoles under the jurisdiction of the Select Board, of the flag of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Town of Hudson, and the POW/MIA flag as well as flags for parades, holidays, and other events and celebrations. The choice of which flag to raise on Town flagpoles is hereby declared to be government 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 intended to, designate the flying of flags on Town flagpoles 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 flagpoles, the manner in which such a decision is made, and the adoption of this policy shall not be interpreted as designating any of the Town flagpoles as a public forum for the flying of flags. This policy does not apply to the Town of Hudson Public Schools.

**Policy:** It is the policy of the Town of Hudson that flags exhibited from Town flagpoles under the jurisdiction of the Select Board 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 Number 96-144) and the Massachusetts statutes and regulations for flags, including, without limitations, G.L. c. 2, §6A, G.L. c. 264, §5, 950 CMR 34.00 et seq., together with this policy. The Select Board or the Executive Assistant, as its designee, shall ensure the proper conformance to this policy, as it may be amended in the future by the Select Board in its sole discretion.

**Other:** Flags other than those stated above, such as ceremonial flags, are not intended to create or serve as a forum for free expression by the public. In addition to the authorized flags, the Town of Hudson may display the following flags, at the request of the Select Board, as an expression of the Town's official sentiments, only at specified pre-determined locations:

1. Military Flags on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Purple Heart Day.
2. Hudson Police Department Flag and Hudson Fire Department Flag.
3. Flags relating to official Town Ceremonies or Formal Proclamations.
4. Flags of other governments and sister communities, upon request of Select Board and in conjunction with an event or day honoring that government or community.