



# Town of Stow

## Flag Policy

*Adopted December 12, 2023*

### 1. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the display of (1) flags of governments recognized by the Federal Government (2) Official U.S. Military and POW/MIA flags and (3) other flags on flag poles owned and maintained by the Town of Stow.

### 2. POLICY GUIDELINES

#### ***2.1 Policy***

It is the policy of the Town of Stow that all flags be displayed in conformance with Federal and State policies and laws. This includes, but is not limited to, the Federal "Our Flag" publication and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 2 Section 6 and Section 6A.

#### ***2.2 Eligible Flags and Order of Precedence***

Only the United States, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and official flags of the U.S. Military and POW/MIA flags may be flown on any Town-owned flagpole. Outdoor flags will be flown on town flag poles in the following order of precedence: first, the United States flag; second, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts flag; and third, official flags of the U.S. Military and POW/MIA.

#### ***2.3 Federal, State, and Local Proclamation of Special Occasion***

Flags flown on town flag poles shall be displayed in accordance with the standards referenced above in Sections 2.1 and 2.2. The President of the United States, Governor of Massachusetts, or the Select Board may order flags to be lowered to half-staff including, but not limited to flags of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the observance of a specific event or circumstance, or to honor the death of a Town employee killed in the line of duty.

#### ***2.4 Other Flags***

The Town's flag poles are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public. The only flags permitted on Town-owned flag poles are those set forth in Section 2.2., and all other flags are prohibited from being flown on any and all Town of Stow flag poles.

### 3. APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to all Town-owned flag poles.