ENFORCEMENT OF THE 150’ RULE

Prohibited Activities in the Polling Location on Election Day

• Certain activities are prohibited within the polling location and within 150’ of the polling place. Mass Law (chapter 54, section 65) prohibits within 150’ of a polling location, among other things, the posting, exhibition, circulation or distribution of material – including pasters, stickers, posters, cards, handbills, placards, pictures or circulars – intended to influence the action of the voter.

• Also prohibited, the solicitation of votes for or against, or any other form of promotion or opposition of, any person or political party or position on a ballot question, to be voted on at the current election.

• No person, including candidates or observers, may stand within 150’ of a polling location AND hold any campaign sign, hand any person literature intended to influence the voter’s action at the polls, wear any campaign buttons or identifying signage; solicit a person’s vote for or against a candidate or question on the ballot; or distribute stickers.

• Circulation of nomination papers, initiative and referenda petitions and soliciting signatures for such within 150’ of a building entrance door to a polling place is also prohibited. This is true even where the nomination papers, including initiative petition or referendum have nothing to do with the current election.

• Mass. Law does not limit the voter from bringing material into the voting booth. A voter can bring preprinted brochures or pamphlets, or their own notes. They may also bring stickers, handed to them on their way into the polls by one of the write-in candidates, to affix to the ballot. However, voters should not display campaign literature or stickers while in the polling location. Election Officers should check the voting booths regularly to make sure no one has left any materials behind.

• Signs intended to influence the action of voters are subject to both statutory and regulatory directives. It is well settled that no person may hold a sign that attempts to influence the voter, or leave such a sign unattended, within 150’ of a polling location.