

Select Board
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Eileen M. Murphy, Clerk
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Town Administrator
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TOWN OF MEDFIELD

Office of the Select Board

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On August 22, 2023, at a duly called and posted meeting the Medfield Select Board voted unanimously to issue the following statement:

Medfield Select Board Statement Against Oppressive Actions and Speech Directed at Individuals and Groups

Recent reports provided to the Select Board by individual citizens and citizens groups in Medfield have made it evident that Medfield is not immune from the corrosive, confrontational political climate that has plagued our country for the past several years. While the nature and extent of the damaging behavior may be less in Medfield than in many other communities across the country, recent reports of anti-Semitic activity and political hate speech, in particular, have led the Select Board to recognize the need to make a clear, definitive statement condemning all forms of hate speech, to include physical conduct and symbolic acts, intended to harass, intimidate, diminish, devalue, oppress, and, in some cases, directly damage individuals and groups whose legitimate views differ from those carrying out the hate speech and/or associated actions.

While not an inclusive list, the Select Board, specifically condemns hate speech and actions directed against individuals and groups based on –

- Race
- Ethnicity/ Cultural Background
- Religion
- Gender
- Economic Status
- Political Orientation
- Physical or Mental Condition, or
- Age

The Select Board specifically commits to doing all it can to --

- Ensure that everyone in our community has the opportunity to be heard
- Promote civility in the face of disagreements on important issues
- Encourage a culture of civic responsibility across our community that promotes the common good in order to provide a safe, secure environment for all to live in, and

- Ensure that individuals are free to make decisions about how they live their lives to the greatest degree possible, within the limits of the law and decisions made by the community as a whole, – to include decisions about how they raise their children.

Democracy thrives when everyone has the opportunity to be heard, respected, and acknowledged. Town government, along with all citizens of Medfield have both the obligation and the responsibility to do all in our combined power to ensure that everyone can count on reliably having that opportunity.