

Colchester Voluntary Facebook Pledge

Host: Colchester's Openness to Respecting Equity (CORE) Commission.

Background: On 8/6/23 at the Farmer's Market, CORE members engaged with community members to collect ideas on where CORE can focus its attention to be a more welcoming town. Various thoughts were shared, and one consistent theme that emerged across all age groups is, the "nasty comments on various Colchester Facebook sites." Nasty comments give an impression of Colchester that is not flattering to the community, nor some of the residents.

Idea: To implement a *voluntary* Colchester Facebook Pledge to promote better behavior, elevate civility, and build stronger relationships among residents.

Purpose: The purpose of the pledge is to exercise self-control by refraining from any sort of language that is a form of hate speech, offensive, disrespectful, mean spirited, or promotes division on Colchester Facebook sites.

Signing the pledge means the individual will be deliberate and make a conscious effort not to respond or engage in negative, vile, or derogatory language on Colchester Facebook sites during the Colchester 2023 Town Elections.

This pledge is **NOT** a way to control what people say. Everyone has the right and freedom to say and act how they choose. The point of the pledge is to ask Colchester residents who are FB users to act in manner that is aligned with what they say they want in town, civil and respectful behavior.

Goal: To get 10% of the Colchester residents to voluntarily sign the pledge.

Signing the pledge means that you agree to:

1. Be mindful of your social media behavior.
2. Refrain from engaging in nasty comments that fuel division and disrespect.
3. When possible, share your insights or perspective in a productive way.

Time frame: September XX through December 31, 2023

Public

Commitment: Go to the CORE Facebook site to sign the pledge. If comfortable, please share it on your personal Facebook page. *(insert CORE FB URL)*

NOTE: CORE will not monitor people's behavior. For example, if someone takes the pledge and then engages in nasty comments on FB, CORE will not shame or humiliate that person(s). CORE asks participants to make an honest effort to comply with the pledge and be part of the change they want to see in Colchester.