

Chapter 7. Election code.

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Chapter 7. Election code.

[This code is generally adapted from the former Appendix C of the Texas Student Publications Handbook, amended in 1992 ("the 1992 Code"). Parts are adapted from other parts of the Texas Student Publications Handbook 1999 ("the 1999 Handbook"), and the SG Election Code enacted on 1/27/1997 and amended on 12/5/2000 ("the 1997 SG Code") This code was adopted in its entirety by the TSM Board of Operating Trustees on April 27, 2007.]

1 **Subchapter A. General provisions.**

2 **§7.11 Definitions.**

3 This code generally uses definitions from the SG Election Code, except where noted.
4 In this code—

5 *College* means an academic administrative unit at The University of Texas at Austin.

6 *Committee* means the TSM Election Committee.

7 *Director* means the Director of TSM.

8 *ESB* means the Student Government Election Supervisory Board.

9 *Field* means a grouping on the ballot from which voters may choose one or more
10 candidates, without any further subgrouping.

11 *Filing Deadline* means the time by which applications for elected offices must be
12 received to be valid.

13 *Handbook* means the TSM Handbook.

14 *SG* means Student Government.

15 *TSM* means Texas Student Media.

16 *TSM Board* means the Board of Operating Trustees.

17 *You* generally means a candidate for TSM Board member or The Daily Texan Editor,
18 except where noted.

19 **§7.12 Who must conduct the TSM election?**

20 The ESB must conduct and supervise the TSM election. The ESB must apply the SG
21 Election Code to the TSM election unless a rule of this code conflicts with an SG
22 Election Code rule. In that case, the ESB must apply the rule of this code.

23 **§7.13 What happens when this code conflicts with other codes and
24 regulations?**

25 (a) The rules of this code must not be construed to violate any rule or regulation of
26 The University of Texas at Austin.

27 (b) The rules of this code supercede any rules of the SG Election Code.

1 **§7.14 When do changes to election rules take effect?**

2 (a) Changes to election rules will take effect on the first day of the next semester after
3 approval.

4 (b) Regarding rules set by TSM, in this section, *approval* means approval by the
5 University president.

6 (c) Regarding rules set by SG, in this section, *approval* means the approval required
7 by the SG Constitution.

8 **Subchapter B. Election timeline.**

9 **§7.21 When may I obtain an application?**

10 (a) At least 14 days before the day of the Candidate Seminar, the Director must
11 provide the following at the TSM Business Office—

12 (1) applications for elected offices, which—

13 (A) must prominently display the following text:

14 You are subject to the TSM Election Code, the Student Government
15 Election Code, and the election timeline, which TSM has provided with
16 this application. You should read these documents carefully. Ignorance is
17 not a defense to complaints of rule violations.

18 (B) must list the requirements for the office, and

19 (C) may include or request other information;

20 (2) copies of this code;

21 (3) copies of the Handbook chapters that define elected offices;

22 (4) copies of the SG Election Code; and

23 (5) copies of the election timetable.

24 (b) At least 14 days before the day of the Candidate Seminar, and after providing the
25 materials required in subsection (a), the Director must announce the election and
26 Filing Deadline in *The Daily Texan*.

27 **§7.22 When and what must I file for candidacy?**

28 (a) **Filing Deadline.** The Director must set the Filing Deadline at or before 5 p.m. 7
29 days before the day of the Candidate Seminar.

- 1 (b) **Completed application necessary.** You must complete your application form and
2 file any certifications required for candidacy before the Filing Deadline. The TSM
3 Board may certify you only if you fulfill this requirement.
- 4 (c) **Switching positions.** You may not change the position you are applying for to a
5 position with a Filing Deadline that has already passed.
- 6 (d) **Personal statement.** You may submit a personal statement with your application.
7 This statement—
- 8 (1) must be less than 500 words;
- 9 (2) must be submitted at or before the Filing Deadline; and
- 10 (3) may cover any topic, including education, skills, experience, personal
11 philosophy, goals, or objectives.

12 **§7.23 When must the TSM Board certify me?**

- 13 (a) The TSM Board must certify you for eligibility before the day of the Candidate
14 Seminar if you—
- 15 (1) meet the requirements in this code and the rest of the Handbook before
16 certification; or
- 17 (2) are currently in the process of meeting the requirements and the Board
18 determines that you could reasonably do so before taking office.
- 19 (b) If you meet the requirements in this code and the rest of the Handbook before
20 certification, but the Board determines that you might not continue to meet the
21 requirements before taking office, the Board must still certify you for eligibility.

22 **§7.24 When must the election occur?**

23 The TSM Election must occur concurrently with the SG General Election.

24 **§7.25 Who must declare the winning candidates elected?**

- 25 (a) The ESB must submit a written report to the TSM Board certifying the winning
26 candidates within one week following the final election.
- 27 (b) The TSM Board must declare the winning candidates, provided that the
28 candidates are eligible under this code and other parts of the Handbook. The TSM
29 Board must make this declaration at the next regular meeting following the ESB's
30 report.

1 **Subchapter C. Voters: rights and responsibilities.**

2 **§7.31 General provisions.**

3 (a) In this subchapter, *you* means any student allowed to vote by the SG Election
4 Code.

5 (b) Your rights and responsibilities are generally those listed in the SG Election Code,
6 except where noted.

7 **§7.32 Whom may I vote for?**

8 (a) You may vote for—

9 (1) The Daily Texan Editor;

10 (2) At-large TSM Board candidates; and

11 (3) College of Communication TSM Board candidates.

12 (b) You may vote for all TSM Board candidates, regardless of your own enrollment
13 in a particular college.

14 **§7.33 How may I file a complaint?**

15 (a) **Complaint.** You may file a complaint with the ESB under the procedures in the
16 SG Election Code.

17 (b) **Appeal.** You may appeal the decision of the ESB under the procedures in the SG
18 Election Code for appealing to the Judicial Commission, with the exceptions
19 that—

20 (1) you must file the appeal with the Director, not the Judicial Commission;

21 (2) the Committee, not the Judicial Commission, will hear and decide the appeal;
22 and

23 (3) you may not appeal the decision to any body other than the Committee.

24 **Subchapter D. Candidates: rights and responsibilities.**

25 **§7.41 General provisions.**

26 Your rights and responsibilities are generally those listed in the SG Election Code,
27 except where noted.

1 **§7.42 How much may we spend?**

2 Use the following chart to determine how much you and your agents may spend on
3 the campaign:

If you are a candidate for...	and you are campaigning for...	you and your agents may spend no more than...
Daily Texan Editor	a general election	\$500
Daily Texan Editor	a special runoff election	\$100
TSM Board member	any election	\$100

4 **§7.43 May I associate with other candidates?**

5 (a) In this section, *other candidates* means any other candidate for any office elected
6 in elections conducted by the ESB.

- 7 (b) You and your agents must not—
- 8 (1) participate in candidate associations;
 - 9 (2) form slates with other candidates;
 - 10 (3) endorse other candidates;
 - 11 (4) campaign for other candidates; nor
 - 12 (5) share materials with other candidates.

13 **§7.44 May we work for TSM during the campaign period?**

- 14 (a) You and your agents must not work for any TSM media unit during the campaign
15 period.
- 16 (b) Your name must not appear as a by-line or on any public staff roster (such as a
17 staff box) of any TSM media unit during the campaign period.
- 18 (c) **Exception.** If you are running unopposed, this section has no effect.

19 **§7.45 How may I publish statements in The Daily Texan?**

- 20 (a) **All candidates.** The Director must provide advertising space in The Daily Texan
21 to run the text of your personal statement. See “§7.22 When and what must I file
22 for candidacy?”
- 23 (b) **The Daily Texan Editor candidates.** In this subsection, *you* means a candidate
24 for The Daily Texan Editor.
- 25 (1) The Editor must—

- 1 (A) work with the Director to provide advertising space in The Daily Texan to
2 run the text of two editorials you write, under a headline you write;
- 3 (B) notify you of the rules and deadlines for submissions of editorials; and
- 4 (C) publish the rules governing these editorials each day they appear.
- 5 (2) You must submit each editorial to the current Editor with a signed statement
6 that the editorial is solely your work, neither written nor edited in whole or in
7 part by anyone else.
- 8 (3) **Editorial topics.**
- 9 (A) **Topic of choice.** You may write one editorial covering any topic.
- 10 (B) **Same topic.** You may write one editorial that must cover a topic of timely
11 interest to the University community assigned by the current Editor and
12 approved by the current Managing Editor. The Editor must assemble all of
13 The Daily Texan Editor candidates and assign the same topic to all of
14 them. The Editor must provide the same research and background material
15 to all candidates. The Editor must not provide advance notice of the topic.

16 ***Subchapter E. SG Election Supervisory Board: rights and***
17 ***responsibilities.***

18 **§7.51 General provisions.**

19 The ESB must supervise the TSM election and must enforce the rules of this code and
20 the SG Election Code. The ESB's rights and responsibilities are generally those listed
21 in the SG Election Code, except where noted.

22 **§7.52 How must the ESB conduct voting for specific positions?**

- 23 (a) **TSM Board.** Regarding the TSM Board candidates, the ESB must—
- 24 (1) place a field on the ballot for each type of position, which means—
- 25 (A) one field for at-large candidates, and
- 26 (B) one field for College of Communication candidates;
- 27 (2) group all the candidates for a particular type of position into a single field, not
28 separating them into places or any other subgroup;
- 29
30
31
32

1 (3) use the following chart to determine how many candidates will be elected out
2 of each field:

If the year is an ... number,	then ... at-large candidates will be elected,	and ... College of Communication candidates will be elected.
odd	two	one
even	one	two

3 (4) allow eligible voters to vote in each field a number of times at most equal to
4 the number of candidates that will be elected from that field;

5 (5) add separate fields for candidates certified by the TSM Board to fill unexpired
6 terms under the policies in Chapter 1 of the Handbook;

7 (6) allow all eligible voters to vote for all TSM Board candidates, regardless of
8 enrollment in a particular college; and

9 (7) certify the eligible candidate who wins the largest number of votes in the
10 general election, as well as the eligible candidate who wins the second-largest
11 number of votes in a field where two candidates may be elected, as the
12 winners, without resorting to a runoff election.

13 (b) **The Daily Texan Editor.** Regarding The Daily Texan Editor candidates—

14 (1) If an eligible candidate wins a majority in the general election, the ESB must
15 certify that candidate as the winner; and

16 (2) If no eligible candidate wins a majority in the general election, the ESB must
17 certify the candidate who wins using the same method that it uses to
18 determine the elected SG President, including a special runoff election or
19 instant runoff voting.

20 **§7.53 How must the ESB report after the election?**

21 The ESB must—

22 (1) submit results of the TSM election to the chair of the Committee as soon as
23 possible; and

24 (2) submit a written report of the results to the TSM Board within one week
25 following the final election.

1 **Subchapter F. TSM Election Committee: rights and**
2 **responsibilities.**

3 **§7.61 General provisions.**

4 The Committee's rights and responsibilities generally are the rights and
5 responsibilities listed in the SG Election Code for the Judicial Commission, with the
6 following exceptions—

7 (1) the Committee may adopt rules of procedure other than those of the Judicial
8 Commission; and

9 (2) any other exceptions noted in this code or other chapters of the Handbook.

10 **§7.62 What constitutes a quorum of the Committee?**

11 A majority of the members of the Committee constitutes a quorum.

12 **§7.63 How must the Committee work with the ESB?**

13 The chair of the Committee must—

14 (1) serve as a liaison to the ESB;

15 (2) inform the ESB of TSM election rules in the semester preceding the election;
16 and

17 (3) inform the candidates and ESB members of TSM election rules at the
18 Candidate Seminar, either personally or by appointing another member of the
19 Committee to do so personally.

20 **Subchapter G. Board of Operating Trustees: rights and**
21 **responsibilities.**

22 **§7.71 General provisions.**

23 The TSM Board must perform the responsibilities listed in other parts of this code
24 and the Handbook. See Subchapter B, "Election timeline." for some specific duties.

25 **§7.72 Who must pay for conducting elections?**

26 TSM, SG, and all other organizations holding elections conducted by the ESB must
27 equally share the expenses.