

# Election Supervisory Board Advisory Opinion

## (ESB/AO 2015-003)

*Subject: New Electronic Form for Financial Disclosures*

The 2015 Election Supervisory Board has developed an online template where candidates are now required to submit their financial disclosures. This form is available through the [utexasvote.org](http://utexasvote.org) page and will be distributed to all candidates via email.

Whereas Section 7.14 of the Student Government Election Code reads:

*SEC. 7.14 CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE RECORDS. Each candidate must keep accurate and up-to-date records of all campaign receipts and expenditures.*

And whereas Section 7.17 of the Student Government Election Code reads:

*SEC. 7.17 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT. Financial disclosure statements shall be filed with the Election Supervisory Board, in the Student Government Office (SAC 2.102) or other locations designated by the Election Supervisory Board, at the following times:*

- (a) By 4:30pm CST, on the first day of campaigning; and,*
- (b) By 4:30pm CST, on the last day of the second week of campaigning; and,*
- (c) By 4:30pm CST, on the last day before the general or special election; and,*
- (d) By 4:30pm CST, on the first day of campaigning in a runoff election; and, (e) By 4:30pm CST, on the last day of voting in a runoff elections.*

Therefore the 2015 Election Supervisory Board is requiring the disclosure of any and all products or services used for each campaign under the following guidelines:

1. All expenses must be disclosed at fair market value on the new Financial Disclosure form and submitted on time.
  - 1a. fair market value is defined as the value that any candidate is able to acquire the product or services on the general market
2. Disclosed expenses must include any tax paid on the product or service.
3. Disclosed expenses do NOT have to include shipping on the product.
4. If a service or product was free to the candidate, it still must be disclosed on the form as a \$0 expense. Additionally, proof that this product was available to all candidates for free must be appended to the disclosure submission.
5. Receipts/Invoices MUST be attached at the end of the new electronic Financial Disclosure Form.

Any candidate that does not follow these guidelines will be found in violation of Sections 7.14 and 7.17, and may have a complaint filed against them.

Nicholas Andrew Molina, Chair

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