

The seal of The University of Texas at Austin is a large, light-orange watermark in the background. It features a central shield with a five-pointed star, flanked by olive and oak branches. Above the shield is an open book. The shield is surrounded by a circular border containing the Latin motto "DISCIPLINA CIVITATIS" and the text "THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN".

**Campus-Wide Election
Code**

2018

The University of Texas at Austin

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CAMPUS-WIDE ELECTION CODE

TITLE I CAMPUS-WIDE STUDENT ELECTIONS

Chapter I GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 1.1 PURPOSE. This code exists to facilitate a fair and educational experience for student governance positions at The University of Texas at Austin. The election of students is designed to expand their knowledge on running for office, navigating political systems, and building community coalitions for the purpose of express advocacy.
- Sec. 1.2 ENACTMENT. This code shall become effective and be implemented immediately after its passage by all entities participating in campus-wide elections and approval by the necessary and proper channels as outlined by Title I Sec. 1.3 of this code. The Campus-Wide Election Code shall supersede any and all previous election codes, and the campus-wide election code shall supersede in cases where subject matter is covered in the campus wide code and an entity's own constitution, by-laws, and/or specific election codes.
- Sec. 1.3 AMENDING THE CODE. Per Regent Rules 50203, An amendment to the constitution or bylaws of a students' association may be adopted by an association, in accordance with its constitution and bylaws, but the change shall not become effective until transmitted to and approved by the chief student affairs officer and the president. The code becomes effective and implemented at completion of the approval process. Amendments to this code must follow the process detailed below.
- (a) This code must be reviewed annually;
 - (b) Each entity participating in the campus-wide elections will put forth one representative to participate in the election code reform process;
 - (c) The representatives will meet to agree upon and draft proposed changes to the campus wide-code. The physical presence of four of the five entities is required to achieve quorum and must unanimously approve proposed changes;

- (d) The representatives will present the proposed changes to their governing bodies for review and approval in accordance with their respective constitution and by-laws;
- (e) Submit a finalized copy of the updated Campus-Wide Common Election Code with proposed changes noted, a copy of the current Campus-Wide Common Election Code, notes from the Rules and Regulations Committee and/or other committees involved, and minutes from the Student Government assembly meeting in which the vote for approval was taken for review to the Senior Administrative Associate. Proposed changes must be submitted no later than December 1 in order to meet timeframes to be included in the next election cycle., and;
- (f) Approval by the chief student affairs officer and the president.

TITLE II

CAMPUS-WIDE ELECTION COMMON CODE

Chapter I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 1.1 UNIVERSAL APPLICATION. The provisions of TITLE II apply to all entities participating in campus-wide elections.
- Sec. 1.2 PARTICIPANTS' COMPLIANCE. All entities participating in Campus-Wide Elections agree to adopt the Campus-Wide Elections Common Code and have their candidates and races adhere to the Code.
- Sec. 1.3 ENTITY-SPECIFIC & UNSPECIFIED SITUATIONS. Entity-specific situations not specified in this Code should be addressed by each entity's respective election code.
- Sec. 1.4 REFERRING VIOLATIONS. All aforementioned entities may refer alleged violations of their election processes to the Election Supervisory Board.
- Sec. 1.5 SINGULAR REFERENCES INCLUDE PLURAL. References to the singular shall be construed to include the plural.
- Sec. 1.6 CANDIDATE REFERENCES INCLUDE ALL CAMPAIGN STAFF. References to candidates shall be construed to apply to their agents and workers as well.

- Sec. 1.7 RESPONSIBILITIES. Candidates, agents, or workers for any election shall be responsible for the regulations relevant to their election, as defined by this Election Code.
- Sec. 1.8 IGNORANCE. Ignorance of this Code shall not be an acceptable defense in response to any offence committed in any election under this Code, either by the candidates themselves, their agents or workers, or the election regulatory bodies, as defined by this Code.
- Sec. 1.9 SINGLE AND SEPARATE APPLICATION. Each election under this code shall be considered a single and separate application of this code.
- Sec. 1.10 RELEVANCY OF RULINGS. Rulings made by the Election Supervisory Board during any election period are relevant only to that election and associated runoff elections.
- Sec. 1.11 UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS. All candidates, and their agents and workers, and the Election Supervisory Board shall be responsible for following all applicable University regulations.

Chapter II

DEFINITIONS

- Sec. 2.1 “STUDENT” refers to any individual whose name appears on the current roster of the Registrar of the University.
- Sec. 2.2 “UNIVERSITY” refers to The University of Texas at Austin.
- Sec. 2.3 “CAMPUS-WIDE ELECTIONS” refers to any elections involving multiple entities that are governed by this Code
- Sec. 2.4 “ENTITY/ENTITIES” refers to the organizations that utilize and participate in Campus-Wide Elections. They are currently as follows: Graduate Student Assembly, Student Government, Texas Student Media, the University Co-operative Society, and University Unions.
- Sec. 2.5 “ESB” refers to the Election Supervisory Board established by and defined within this Code.
- Sec. 2.7 “CANDIDATE” refers to any student consenting and/or endeavoring to be elected as expressed by filing to run for office in accordance with this and all applicable election codes.

- Sec. 2.8 “WORKER” refers to any person that contributes time, effort, or services for the purpose of supporting or furthering a candidacy, where the candidate or agent has knowledge of said contributions.
- Sec. 2.9 “AGENT” refers to any candidate-appointed worker who is authorized to speak and act on behalf of the candidate.
- Sec. 2.10 “CAMPAIGN MATERIALS” refers to all materials and literature of any kind concerning any candidate that have or are intended to have the effect of soliciting votes, support, or interest for a candidate or elective office but excludes any individual endorsement not approved by the candidate.
- Sec. 2.11 “CAMPAIGN” and “CAMPAIGNING” refer to statements, literature, activities or deliberate uses or distribution of materials of any kind that have or are intended to have the effect of soliciting votes, support or interest for a candidate or elective office. Campaigning should only occur during the official campaign period as defined in this Code.
- Sec. 2.12 “POLLING LOCATION” refers to any internet-enabled device available for public use that is being used to vote in Campus-Wide Elections.
- Sec. 2.13 “POLLING STATION” refers to any publicly accessible on-campus polling location designated for the use of voting in the Campus-Wide Elections by the Election Supervisory Board.
- Sec. 2.14 “OFFICER” refers to any sitting officer of any entity participating in campus-wide elections.
- Sec. 2.15 “OFFICER-ELECT” refers to a candidate whose election already being decided, has won his/her respective election, but who has not yet been sworn-in nor seated yet.
- Sec. 2.16 “DEFEATED CANDIDATES” refers to candidates, whose elections already being decided, have lost in their respective elections.
- Sec. 2.17 “RULING” refers to any decision or ruling issued by the Election Supervisory Board resulting from a hearing.
- Sec. 2.18 “ADVISORY OPINION” refers to any opinion issued by the Election Supervisory Board concerning any matter affecting the Campus-Wide Elections that may not be included within the language of the election code.
- Sec. 2.19 “CAMPUS-WIDE ELECTIONS FILING AGREEMENT” refers to the document signed by the candidate that acknowledges the candidate is aware of and will adhere to the Campus-Wide Elections Common Code.

- Sec. 2.20 "DAY" is one 24-hour period. A day includes both weekdays and Saturday and Sunday.
- Sec. 2.21 "WEEK" is defined as seven calendar days.

Chapter III

THE ELECTION SUPERVISORY BOARD

- Sec. 3.1 ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS. The Election Supervisory Board shall be responsible for the administration of Campus-Wide Elections.
- Sec. 3.2 JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES. The jurisdiction of the Election Supervisory Board applies both on-campus and off-campus.

SUBCHAPTER A: *Selection*

- Sec. 3.3 ESB SELECTION COMMITTEE. Each entity participating in campus-wide elections will put forward one representative to participate in the selection of the Election Supervisory Board members.
- Sec. 3.4 ESB SELECTION PROCESS. The Election Supervisory Board shall be assembled through an application and interview process, to be completed, when possible, by the last day of classes in the spring semester.
- (a) Members of this Election Supervisory Board are not allowed to serve on any entity with appellate jurisdiction.
- Sec. 3.5 ESB QUALIFICATIONS. A total of nine (9) members will be selected to comprise the ESB from the applications submitted. Each shall possess the following qualifications:
- (a) Shall not hold an elected position, endeavor to run, or be engaged in actively campaigning for an elected position for one of the entities; and,
- (b) Must either be a graduate student, or an undergraduate student who has completed one semester in residence; and,
- (c) Must have and maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average; and,
- (d) Must not be serving a disciplinary penalty.
- Sec. 3.6 ESB CHAIR SELECTION. The chair of the Election Supervisory Board shall be selected in the initial application and selection process.

- Sec. 3.7 ESB MEMBER REMOVAL. Any member of the Election Supervisory Board may be removed for just cause by a unanimous vote of the ESB Selection Committee.
- (a) The Election Supervisory Board selection committee will then convene and determine a replacement.

SUBCHAPTER B: Positions and Responsibilities

- Sec. 3.8 CALLING MEETINGS. The Chair of the Election Supervisory Board shall facilitate and organize the necessary meetings and hearings in order to accomplish tasks set forth by this code.
- Sec. 3.9 SECRETARY. The Election Supervisory Board shall appoint a Secretary; who shall be responsible for recording the minutes of Election Supervisory Board meetings and hearings, and keeping records of all opinions, rulings, and filings required of candidates under this Code.
- (a) The Secretary shall provide a written copy of all decisions concerning individual candidates to the candidates involved.
- (b) Failure to do so may result in revocation of duties by the Election Supervisory Board Chair.
- Sec. 3.10 ASSIGNMENT OF CANDIDATES. The remaining members of the Election Supervisory Board shall be assigned an equal group of candidates for whose questions, complaints, and financial statements they are responsible.

Chapter IV
VIOLATIONS

SUBCHAPTER A: Hearings & Procedures

- Sec. 4.1 FILING OF COMPLAINTS. Members of the Election Supervisory Board are prohibited from filing complaints.
- (a) Any other student may file a complaint with the Election Supervisory Board.
- (b) All complaints must be filed under the name of the student filing the complaint.
- (c) Complaints may be filed up to four (4) hours after the voting period ends.

- (d) The Election Supervisory Board shall act on all complaints within two (2) days after they are received by either dismissing the complaint or calling a hearing under the provisions of this subchapter. If after the two (2) days, the Election Supervisory Board fails to act, the Chair of the Election Supervisory Board shall have original jurisdiction over the matter. During the voting period, the two (2) day period for the Election Supervisory Board to act on a complaint is waived, with all complaints to be resolved by 9:00PM, twenty-four (24) hours after the window to file complaints closes.

Sec. 4.2 DISMISSAL OF COMPLAINTS. The Election Supervisory Board may dismiss a complaint if:

- (a) The complaint was not filed within a reasonable amount of time;
- (b) The complaint fails to state a cause of action for which relief may be granted; or,

Sec. 4.3 NOTIFICATION OF HEARING. If a complaint is not dismissed, then a hearing must be held.

- (a) The Election Supervisory Board shall inform, in writing or via e-mail, the complaining party and all individuals or groups named in the complaint of the time and place of the hearing.
- (b) The parties are not considered notified until they have received a copy of the complaint.

Sec. 4.4 TIMEFRAME FOR HEARING. The hearing shall be held at the earliest possible time, but not within twenty-four (24) hours after receipt of the notice described in the previous section, unless all parties agree to waive the twenty-four (24) hour time constraint.

- (a) This twenty-four (24) hour time constraint is waived if the complaint is filed during the voting period.

Sec. 4.5 TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS. At the time a notice of a hearing is issued, the Election Supervisory Board, by majority vote, may issue a temporary restraining order if it determines that such action is necessary to prevent undue or adverse effects on any individual or entity.

- (a) Any restraining order, once issued, will remain in effect until a decision of the Election Supervisory Board is announced after the hearing or until rescinded by the Election Supervisory Board.

- Sec. 4.6 PUBLIC ACCESS. All Election Supervisory Board hearings, proceedings, records, and meetings must be open to the public, except for the deliberations that determine the outcome of complaint hearings.
- Sec. 4.7 PRESENT AT HEARING. All parties involved in an Election Supervisory Board hearing shall present themselves at the hearing or authorize an agent in writing to carry on said proceedings in their stead. Parties may be accompanied by any other student from which they can receive counsel and have the option to be represented by that counsel. The hearings will proceed regardless of whether parties are present.
- Sec. 4.8 ESB QUORUM & CHAIR. For any hearing, a majority of sitting Election Supervisory Board members must be in attendance with the Chair of the Election Supervisory Board presiding.
- (a) In absence of the Chair, the responsibility to preside shall fall to an Election Supervisory Board member designated by the Chair.
- Sec. 4.9 ESB HEARING PROCEDURE. The Election Supervisory Board shall determine the format for the hearing but must require that both the complaining and responding parties appear physically before the Board to discuss the issues through a complaint, answer, rebuttal, and rejoinder format, when applicable.
- (a) The purpose of the hearing is to gather the information necessary to make a decision, order, or ruling that will resolve an election dispute. To effectuate this purpose, the following rules should prevail at all hearings:
- (i) Complaining parties shall be allowed no more than two witnesses; however, the Election Supervisory Board may call witnesses in accordance with previous sections of this Code;
- (a) If said witnesses are unable to appear at the hearing, signed affidavits may be submitted to the Election Supervisory Board Chair for the purpose of testifying by proxy.
- (ii) All questions and discussions by the parties involved in the dispute shall be directed to the Election Supervisory Board;
- (iii) There shall be no direct or cross-examination of any party or witness by complaining or responding parties during hearings;
- (iv) Reasonable time limits may be set by the Election Supervisory Board, provided they give fair and equal treatment to both sides;

- (v) The complaining party shall bear the burden of proof.
- Sec. 4.10 DECISIONS. Decisions, orders, and rulings of the Election Supervisory Board must be concurred to by a majority of the Election Supervisory Board present and shall be announced as soon as possible after the hearing.
- (a) Such decisions may be delivered orally or in writing.
- (b) The Election Supervisory Board shall issue a written opinion of the ruling within twenty-four (24) hours of the announcement of the decision. During the voting period, ESB shall issue a written opinion within eight (8) hours.
- (i) The written opinion must set forth the findings of fact by the Election Supervisory Board and the conclusions of law in support of it.
- (c) Written opinions shall set a precedent for a time period of three election cycles for Election Supervisory Board rulings and shall guide the Election Supervisory Board in its proceedings.
- (d) Upon consideration of prior written opinions, the Election Supervisory Board may negate the decision but must provide written documentation of reasons for doing so.
- Sec. 4.11 SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS FOR APPEAL. If the decision of the Election Supervisory Board is appealed, the Election Supervisory Board must immediately submit its ruling to the Court.

SUBCHAPTER B. *Remedies and Sanctions*

- Sec. 4.12 CLASSES OF VIOLATIONS. Violations of the Code shall be divided into four classifications:
- (a) Class A violation shall result in a fine.
- (b) Class B violation shall result in a moratorium of campaigning.
- (c) Class C violations shall result in a combination of moratorium of campaigning and a fine.
- (d) Class D violation may result in a disqualification from the election.
- Sec. 4.13 DEFINING CLASSES OF VIOLATIONS. Within the ranges established by the Election Supervisory Board, the Election Supervisory Board shall select the amount of the fine or length of the suspension most appropriate to both the severity of the infraction and the intent of the violator as determined by the

Election Supervisory Board. At the candidate seminar, Election Supervisory Board shall clearly define what would constitute each class of a violation.

Sec. 4.14 FINE LIMITS. If a candidate, or a candidate's agents or workers, commits a violation resulting in a fine, the Election Supervisory Board has the authority to fine the candidate.

(a) Any fine or total amount of fines against a candidate in an election cycle may not exceed the spending limit as defined by each race's respective code of origin.

Sec. 4.15 CONSEQUENCES OF A CLASS B OR C VIOLATION. If, after a hearing, the Election Supervisory Board finds a candidate, or a candidate's agents or workers, has committed a Class B or Class C violation, the Election Supervisory Board may restrict the candidate, or the candidate's agents or workers, from engaging in some or all campaign activities for some or all of the remainder of the campaign period. If an order is issued covering only part of the remaining campaign period, it shall take effect within twenty-four (24) hours so that after its termination, the candidate will have an opportunity to resume campaigning during the days immediately prior to and including the election days.

Sec. 4.16 CONSEQUENCES OF A CLASS D VIOLATION OR OTHER DISQUALIFICATION RULING. If after a hearing, the Election Supervisory Board finds that provisions of this code or the decisions, opinions, orders, or rulings of the Election Supervisory Board have been violated by a candidate, or a candidate's agents or workers, or has committed a Class D violation, the Election Supervisory Board may disqualify the candidate.

Sec. 4.17 VOTER FRAUD. Any complaints concerning voter fraud filed through the Election Supervisory Board must be immediately and wholly turned over to the Office of the Dean of Students.

Chapter V

APPEALS

Sec. 5.1 APPEAL OF ESB DECISION. Any party adversely affected by a decision of the Election Supervisory Board may file an appeal with the entity with appellate jurisdiction within twenty-four (24) hours after the adverse decision is announced, unless the Election Supervisory Board's decision takes place during a voting

period. During the voting period, an appeal must be filed within eight (8) hours after the adverse decision.

(a) The entity with appellate jurisdiction shall have discretionary appellate jurisdiction over the Election Supervisory Board in all cases in which error on the part of the Election Supervisory Board is charged.

Sec. 5.2 DECISION OF THE ELECTION SUPERVISORY BOARD. The decision of the Election Supervisory Board shall stand and shall have full effect until the appeal is heard and decided by the entity with appellate jurisdiction.

Sec. 5.3 HEARING OF APPEALS. Before the voting period begins, the entity with appellate jurisdiction shall hear appeals of the Election Supervisory board rulings as soon as possible, but not within twenty-four (24) hours after the Election Supervisory Board delivers to the Appellant and the entity with appellate jurisdiction a copy of its written opinion in the case. During the voting period, the entity with appellate jurisdiction shall hear appeals of the Election Supervisory board rulings as soon as possible, but not within eight (8) hours after the Election Supervisory Board delivers it decision. During the voting period the entity with appellate jurisdiction shall resolve all appeals within twenty-four (24) hours, or by 5:00am, on the first Friday that follows the closing of the polls.

(a) Appeals may be heard prior to this time, but only if the Appellant waives the right to a written opinion and the entity with appellate jurisdiction agrees to accept the waiver.

Sec. 5.4 REVIEWING ELECTION SUPERVISORY BOARD APPEALS. The entity with appellate jurisdiction shall review findings of the Election Supervisory Board when appealed.

(a) The entity with appellate jurisdiction may affirm or overturn the decision of the Election Supervisory Board, or modify the sanctions imposed.

Sec. 5.5 APPELLATE REVIEW. The entity with appellate jurisdiction shall have full authority to fashion an equitable remedy appropriate to the circumstances of the case, but should endeavor to avoid remanding the case to the Election Supervisory Board.

Sec. 5.6 PROHIBITION ON SERVING ON ESB. Members of any entity with appellate jurisdiction are not allowed to serve on the Election Supervisory Board.

Chapter VI

ELECTION TIMETABLE

- Sec. 6.1 ELECTION DAYS. General elections shall be held on the Monday and Tuesday of the week two weeks prior to the start of the University's spring break.
- (a) Polling hours for the campus-wide elections shall be from 12:01AM on the first day of voting in the campus-wide elections until 5:00PM on the second day of voting in the campus-wide elections.
- Sec. 6.2 PROHIBITION OF ELECTION CODE CHANGE. No changes to the Election Code may be enacted within four (4) week of the Campus-Wide Elections.
- Sec. 6.3 SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATE LIST. A list of all candidates campaigning for races in their organization must be submitted by each group to the Office of the Dean of Students by 12:00 noon on the day of the Candidate Seminar.
- Sec. 6.4 ADVERTISEMENT OF BALLOT. The Election Supervisory Board shall advertise the complete ballot in the student newspaper of the University at least seven (7) days prior to the Campus-Wide Elections
- Sec. 6.5 POSTING OF CANDIDATE INFORMATION. The Election Supervisory Board shall make public on the Dean of Students website (utexasvote.org) the following information on each candidate: name, position sought, major(s), and a statement of no more than one hundred-fifty (150) words at least five (5) days prior to the Campus-Wide elections.
- (a) The Election Supervisory Board shall be able to restrict any false information.
- Sec. 6.6 FILING COMPLAINTS. Complaints can be filed with the Election Supervisory Board from the moment the Election Supervisory Board is created until 9:00PM on the day the polls close to voting.
- Sec. 6.7 WEB ADDRESS. The official web address used for voting shall beutexasvote.org.

Chapter VII CANDIDATES

- Sec. 7.1 QUALIFICATIONS. All candidates must adhere to the qualifications set forth in this Code, University policy, the General Information Catalogs, and all statutes enforceable by the Election Supervisory Board.

- Sec. 7.2 ELIGIBILITY. All candidates must be deemed eligible by the respective election code of the group for which they are running in order to be able to participate in campus-wide elections.
- Sec. 7.3 EXCLUSIVITY TO STUDENTS. Only students may actively seek office or vote in campus-wide elections.
- Sec. 7.4 SUBMISSION OF CAMPAIGN AGENTS. Each candidate shall be required to submit to the Election Supervisory Board a list of agents they have authorized for their campaign on or before the candidate seminar date.

SUBCHAPTER A: *Filing*

- Sec. 7.5 FILING PERIOD. The filing period shall open at 9:00am on the first day of the spring semester and shall remain open until 12:00pm noon the day of the candidate seminar.
- Sec. 7.6 FILING AGREEMENT. Each candidate must complete and submit a Campus-Wide Elections Filing Agreement for each race s/he is entering.
- Sec. 7.7 CODE AVAILABILITY. A copy of the updated version of this Code shall be made available to each candidate by the time of filing.

SUBCHAPTER B: *Candidate Seminar*

- Sec. 7.8 DATE OF CANDIDATE SEMINAR. The Election Supervisory Board shall set the Candidate Seminar date.
- (a) The exact time and place of the seminar shall be set no later than the beginning of the filing period.
- Sec. 7.9 CANDIDATE SEMINAR AGENDA. The Election Supervisory Board shall set the agenda for Candidate Seminar.
- (a) The agenda must include explanations of this Code, review of the election timetable, and answering of candidate questions.
- (b) Attendance at the candidate seminar is required of each candidate running in a race that is part of the Campus-Wide elections process. Failure to attend the Seminar shall not be an acceptable excuse for violating this Code.

- Sec. 7.10 CANDIDATE SEMINAR ABSENCE. If the candidate has an excused absence as determined by the Election Supervisory Board, then they may send an authorized agent in his or her place.
- (a) The Election Supervisory Board must be notified of the substitution at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the Candidate Seminar.
- Sec 7.11 CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY. Each group will be responsible for certifying each candidate's eligibility before the Candidate Seminar.
- (a) Candidates who fail to meet eligibility requirements will be disqualified immediately and notified of this action in writing.

SUBCHAPTER C: *Financial Disclosures*

- Sec. 7.12 CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE RECORDS. Each candidate must keep accurate and up-to-date records of all campaign receipts and expenditures. A template for financial disclosures for use by all candidates will be developed by the Election Supervisory Board and provided to each group by the first day of filing.
- Sec. 7.13 PROHIBITED AFFILIATION. Except in cases of a bona fide executive alliance as provided for in this Code, no candidate is allowed to contribute financially or provide any other form of tangible support, including but not limited to campaign materials, to another candidate's campaign.
- (a) Sharing campaign money, campaign materials, and resources between and amongst candidates who are not in a bona fide executive alliance is strictly prohibited.
- Sec. 7.14 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, on the first day of campaigning; (b) by 4:30PM, on the last day of the General or Special Election.

Chapter VIII **CAMPAIGNING**

- Sec. 8.1 **START OF CAMPAIGNING.** The sanctioned campaign period shall begin at 12:01AM on the Monday two weeks prior to the opening of the polls.
- Sec. 8.2 **SPENDING LIMITS.** Each group participating in campus-wide elections will set its own spending limits for campaigns and is responsible for enforcing these limits with the candidates running in their respective races.
- Sec. 8.3 **UNAUTHORIZED CAMPAIGNING.** All candidates are prohibited from campaigning, soliciting, or otherwise bringing attention to their campaign or election before the campaign period.
- (a) This prohibition includes all attempts to secure endorsements, sponsorships, or any other presentation of information made for public consumption or use.
- (b) However, this prohibition does not include the personal individual recruitment by a candidate of individual team members.
- Sec. 8.4 **ENTITY-SPECIFIC ELECTION CODES.** Details regarding campaigning for a particular race that are not outlined within this code fall under the jurisdiction of the race's respective group.

Chapter IX
POLLING

- Sec. 9.1 **JURISDICTION.** The Election Supervisory Board shall have jurisdiction over all polling locations on the days of elections governed by this Code.
- (a) All polling locations must abide by this Code.
- Sec. 9.2 **PUBLISHING STATION LOCATIONS.** The locations of polling stations must be published online and publicized at least twenty-four (24) hours before the start of the first election day.
- Sec. 9.3 **PROHIBITION OF CAMPAIGNING AND CAMPAIGN MATERIALS WITHIN POLLING LOCATION PERIMETER.** No campaigning or campaign materials may exist within twenty (20) feet of any on-campus polling location.
- Sec. 9.4 **INTERNET-READY DEVICES.** All reported and published polling locations must have an internet-ready device available on voting days, during voting hours, for the express purpose of facilitating voting.

- Sec. 9.5 **RANDOMIZED BALLOT ORDER.** The order in which candidates in a single race appear on the ballot shall be randomized, so each candidate appears in each position an equal number of times across all ballots.
- (a) If this is not possible as determined by the Office of the Dean of Students, the order in which candidates appear on the ballot for each race shall be randomized by the Chair of the Election Supervisory Board. This random order will be the order of candidates on every ballot and shall be made known to the candidates at least forty-eight (48) hours before voting begins.
- Sec. 9.6 **BALLOT LANGUAGE.** The instructions cross the top of each race shall explicitly state that candidates are to be ranked and that not all or any candidates must be ranked to proceed.
- Sec. 9.7 **CONSISTENT POLLING STATIONS.** The same polling stations must be used on both voting days.
- Sec. 9.8 **POLLING HOURS.** The Election Supervisory Board may set limitations on the hours of operation for the polling stations, but may not deny the right to vote to any person standing in line to vote at the time the polling station closes.

Chapter X

ELECTION CALCULATIONS AND RESULTS

- Sec. 10.1 **REVIEW OF DROOP QUOTA.** Annually, the ESB will review and approve the Droop Quota method to be used for the upcoming election to certify election results. The Drop Quota will be communicated in writing to the entities that participate in campus-wide elections and announced at the candidate seminar.
- Sec. 10.2 **CERTIFICATION OF VOTES.** The Dean of Students and the Election Supervisory Board Chair shall certify the votes in all races that are part of Campus-Wide Elections immediately following the closing of polls.
- Sec. 10.3 **VOTE CALCULATIONS FOR SINGLE-WINNER ELECTIONS.** In calculating the votes of any single-winner race, the candidate who receives a majority of first choice votes will be certified in the respective position.
- (a) If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the fewest first choice votes will be eliminated, and each vote cast for that candidate will

be transferred to the next ranked candidate on that voter's ballot. Ballots that did not rank down to this level are discarded.

- (b) If, after transfer of votes above, any candidate has a majority of the votes from the continuing ballots, that candidate will be certified in the respective position.
- (c) If no candidate receives a majority of votes from the continuing ballots, this process of transferring votes will be repeated until one candidate has a majority of votes and they will be certified in the respective position.

Sec. 10.4 VOTE CALCULATIONS FOR MULTIPLE-WINNER ELECTIONS. In calculating the votes of any multiple-winner race, first choice ballot rankings initially qualify as full value votes for those respective candidates. A quota of votes necessary to be certified for a position, the Droop quota, will be calculated as one vote plus the quotient, rounded down, of the number of ballots cast and one plus the number of positions available in a race. When, at any stage of the count, any candidate meets or surpasses that quota, they will be certified in the respective position.

- (a) When, at the end of any stage of the count, the number of votes received by any such elected candidate exceeds the quota, the excess votes are transferred to the voters' next preferred candidates, but each vote will be transferred with a value equal to A divided by B . " A " will be defined as the product of the number of excess votes of the transferring candidate and the value of the vote when received by that transferring candidate, and " B " will be defined as the total number of votes received by the transferring candidate. The initial value of a first preference vote is one (1) vote. Ballots that did not rank down to this level are discarded.
- (b) The above step will be repeated for each candidate with excess votes, in descending order of excess votes. If a new candidate meets the quota due to a transfer, they will be certified for the respective position. If they exceed the quota, their excess votes are also transferred.
- (c) After this process, if any positions remain to be filled, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. Those votes are transferred to the voters' next preferred candidates at the same value when received by the eliminated candidate. This process of distributing excess votes and eliminating candidates will be repeated until the number of candidates

meeting the quota equals the number of positions to be filled or the number of continuing candidates equals the number of remaining unfilled positions, in which case, the continuing candidates will be certified in the respective positions.

Sec. 10.5 TIE IN ELIMINATING CANDIDATES. In the case of a tie between candidates to be eliminated with the fewest number of votes, the candidate with fewer votes from the previous round will be eliminated. If the tie occurs on the first round, then one candidate shall be eliminated with the flip of a coin and verified by the Chair of the Election Supervisory Board or Justice of the Supreme Court.

Sec. 10.6 ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT. Results of any election under this Code shall be announced no later than seventy-two (72) hours after the polls close for the election. This timeline allows for all complaints and appeals to be fully resolved before election results are ratified and announced. The location of both the announcement and posting of the results is to be announced by the Election Supervisory Board no later than the candidate seminar.

*Approved by the Student Assembly January 27, 1998
As Amended by the Student Assembly January 18, 2000 A.B. 21
Establishing Judicial Commission Oversight for
Absentee Balloting and A.B. 22 Amending the Election code
As Amended by the Student Assembly 02/01/2000 by A. B. 24 Amending
the Election Code
As Amended by the Student Assembly 02/08/00 (Amendment addition
approved by ESB chair Nathan Brown) by A.B. 25
Amending the Election Code.
As Amended by the Student Assembly 11/14/00 by A.B. 11 Amending
the Election Code As Amended by the Student Assembly 12/05/00 by
A.B. 14 Amending the Election Code As Amended by the Student
Assembly 01/30/01 by A.B. 18 Amending the Election Code
As Amended by the Student Assembly 02/13/01 by A.B. 19 Amending
the Election Code to Require an Advisory Opinion of the Election
Supervisory Board
As Amended by the Student Assembly 01/22/02 by A.B. 13 Amending
the Election Code As Amended by the Student Assembly 12/03/2002 A.B.
13 Amending the Election Code As Amended by the Student Assembly
02/03/2004 A.B. 15 Amending the Election Code As Amended By the
Assembly 11/30/2004 A.B. 13 Revising the Election Code
As Amended by the Assembly 03/08/2005 A.B. 17 Enforcing the Dispute
Resolution Requirement
As Amended By The Assembly 4/19/2005 A.B. 1 Election Improvement
act of 2005
As Amended by the Assembly 1/24/2006 AB 27. Code Clarifications for
Fall 2005
As Amended by the Assembly 1/24/2006 AB 28 Code Clarifications for
Fall 2005 (Finances)
As Amended by the Assembly 4/4/2006 A.B. 33 Amendment to the
Student Government Election Code*

Campus-Wide Election Code
2016

*As Amended by the Assembly 4/1/2008 AB 24 Changing Election Code
– Miscellaneous Things*

*As Amended by the Assembly 4/1/2008 AB 25 Changing Election Code
– Tickets As Amended by the Assembly 4/1/2008 AB 26 Changing
Election Code – Polling As Amended by the Assembly 4/1/2008 AB 27
Changing Election Code – Publicity*

*As Amended by the Assembly 10/07/2008 AB 15 Amending the Election
Code-Spending Limits and Management of
Polling Locations*

As Amended by the Assembly 9/29/2009 Election Reform

*As Amended by the Assembly 10/19/2010 AB 14 Student Government
Election Code for 2011*

*As Amended by the Assembly 01/15/2013 AB 9 Student Government
Election Code for 2013As Amended by the Assembly 02/20/2018 AB 19
Amending The Constitution of The University of Texas at Austin Student
Government to Implement a Single Transferable Voting System
Modifications to the Student Government and Campus-Wide Election
process, approved by the Dean of Students & VPSA, and President Fenves
12/19/2018*