



STUDENT GOVERNMENT SUPREME COURT
THE UNIVERSITY TEXAS AT AUSTIN

**Advisory Opinion: Clarification on Financial Disclosures
and Establishing Filing Deadlines for First Year Elections**

JUSTICE HASTINGS delivers the opinion. CHIEF JUSTICE PETON
and JUSTICES DODSON, JAMES, and JONNALAGADDA join.

**SUPREME COURT OF THE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

No. Fall 2020 – 002

Delivered July 7, 2020

Summary: This Advisory Opinion seeks to provide financial disclosure deadlines for the 2019 First-Year Election candidates.

The process of filing financial disclosures occurs online and, therefore, is largely unaffected by the University’s social distancing policies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

§3.18 of the Student Government Election Code states that “each candidate in any Student Government election must keep accurate and up to date records of all campaign receipts and expenditures.” In addition, §3.25 of the Student Government Election Code mandates that candidates must submit financial disclosures to the Court which “contain all expenses incurred by the candidate during the campaign.” §3.25 also states if a candidate does not have any eligible expenditures at the time of the filing deadline, they “must still submit a financial disclosure form to the [Supreme Court], indicating such.”



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In the past, the Court required three financial disclosures throughout the campaigning period for First-Year Elections.

However, due to the increased burden on the student body this semester, only two financial disclosures will be required for the 2020 First Year Elections. The filing deadlines for these disclosures will be as follows:

4:30 PM on September 21, 2020

4:30 PM on September 23, 2020

Financial disclosures are an essential element in maintaining transparency and integrity in elections. Therefore, §3.27 of the Student Government Election Code states that “failure to file accurate financial disclosure statements by the deadlines listed in this section, or falsification of financial statements, shall allow for disqualification of the candidate(s) or executive alliance(s) by the [Supreme Court.]” As stated in *Fall 2020 - XXX*, the Court will only act upon late or missing financial disclosures if an aggravated party makes a formal complaint.

It is so ordered.