

# Chapter 7. Election Code

## Subchapter A: General Provisions

### 7.11 Definitions

This code generally uses definitions from the Campus-Wide Election Code, except where noted. In this code—

*College* means an academic administrative unit at U.T. Austin.

*Committee* means the TSM Election Committee.

*Director* means the Director of TSM.

*ESB* means the Student Government Election Supervisory Board.

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

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

*Handbook* means the TSM Handbook.

*SG* means Student Government.

*TSM* means Texas Student Media.

*Board* means the Board of Operating Trustees.

*You* generally means a candidate for Board member or *The Daily Texan* Editor-in-Chief, except where noted.

### 7.12 Who must conduct the TSM election?

The ESB must conduct and supervise the TSM election. The ESB must apply the Campus-Wide Election Code and the TSM election code to the TSM election.

### 7.13 What happens when this code conflicts with other codes and regulations?

- (a) The rules of this code must not be construed to violate any rule or regulation of U.T. Austin.
- (b) The rules of this code supersede any rules of the Campus-Wide Election Code.

## 7.14 When do changes to election rules take effect?

- (a) Changes to election rules will take effect immediately upon approval, except that any changes approved after the Candidate Seminar and before the certification of results will take effect after certification.
- (b) *Approval* means approval by the U.T. Austin president.

## Subchapter B: Election Timeline

### 7.21 When are student board and editor applications available?

- (a) At least 14 days before the day of the Candidate Seminar, the Director must provide the following at the TSM Business Office—
  - (1) applications for elected offices, which—
    - (A) must prominently display the following text:
 

You are subject to the TSM Election Code, the Campus-Wide Election Code, and the election timeline, which TSM has provided with this application. You should read these documents carefully. Ignorance is not a defense to complaints of rule violations.
    - (B) must list the requirements for the office, and
    - (C) may include or request other information;
  - (2) copies of this code;
  - (3) copies of the Handbook chapters that define elected offices;
  - (4) copies of the Campus-Wide Election Code; and
  - (5) copies of the election timetable.
- (b) At least 14 days before the day of the Candidate Seminar, and after providing the materials required in subsection (a), the Director must announce the election and Filing Deadline in *The Daily Texan*.

### 7.22 When and what must I file for candidacy?

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

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

### **7.23 When must the Board certify me?**

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

### **7.24 When must the election occur?**

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

### **7.25 Who must declare the winning candidates elected?**

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

## Subchapter C: Voters' Rights and Responsibilities

### 7.31 General Provisions

- (a) In this subchapter, *you* means any student enrolled at the University, as recorded by the Office of the Registrar.
- (b) Your rights and responsibilities are generally those listed in the Campus-Wide Election Code, except where noted.

### 7.32 Whom may I vote for?

- (a) You may vote for—
  - (1) *The Daily Texan* Editor-in-Chief;
  - (2) At-large Board candidates; and
  - (3) College of Communication Board candidates.
- (b) You may vote for all Board candidates, regardless of your own enrollment in a particular college.

### 7.33 How may I file a complaint?

- (a) **Complaint.** You may file a complaint with the ESB under the procedures in the Campus-Wide Election Code.
- (b) **Appeal.** You may appeal the decision of the ESB under the procedures in the Campus-Wide Election Code, provided that—
  - (1) you must file the appeal with the Director;
  - (2) the Committee will hear and decide the appeal; and
  - (3) you may not appeal the decision to anybody other than the Committee.

## Subchapter D: Candidates' Rights and Responsibilities

### 7.41 General Provisions

Your rights and responsibilities are generally those listed in the Campus-Wide Election Code, except where noted.

## 7.42 How much may we spend?

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

| IF YOU ARE A CANDIDATE FOR...          | AND YOU ARE CAMPAIGNING FOR... | YOU AND YOUR AGENTS MAY SPEND NO MORE THAN... |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>The Daily Texan</i> Editor-in-Chief | a general election             | \$500   |
| <i>The Daily Texan</i> Editor-in-Chief | a special runoff election      | \$100   |
| Board member                           | any election                   | \$100   |

## 7.43 May I associate with other candidates?

- (a) In this section, *other candidates* means any other candidate for any office elected in elections conducted by the ESB.
- (b) You and your agents must not—
- (1) participate in candidate associations;
  - (2) form slates with other candidates;
  - (3) endorse other candidates;
  - (4) campaign for other candidates; nor
  - (5) share materials with other candidates.

## 7.44 May we work for TSM during the campaign period?

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

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

- (a) **All candidates.** The Director must provide designated space in *The Daily Texan* to run the text of your personal statement. See *Section 7.22 When and what must I file for candidacy?*

- (b) ***The Daily Texan* Editor-in-Chief candidates.** In this subsection, *you* means a candidate for *The Daily Texan* Editor-in-Chief.
- (1) The Editor-in-Chief must—
    - (A) work with the Director to provide designated space in *The Daily Texan* to run the text of two editorials you write, under a headline you write;
    - (B) notify you of the rules and deadlines for submissions of editorials; and
    - (C) publish the rules governing these editorials each day they appear.
  - (2) You must submit each editorial to the current Editor-in-Chief with a signed statement that the editorial is solely your work, neither written nor edited in whole or in part by anyone else.
  - (3) **Editorial topics.**
    - (A) **Topic of choice.** You may write one editorial covering any topic.
    - (B) **Same topic.** You may write one editorial that must cover a topic of timely interest to the U.T. Austin community assigned by the current Editor-in-Chief and approved by the current Managing Editor. The Editor-in-Chief must assemble all of *The Daily Texan* Editor-in-Chief candidates and assign the same topic to all of them. The Editor-in-Chief must provide the same research and background material to all candidates. The Editor-in-Chief must not provide advance notice of the topic.

## Subchapter E: Election Supervisory Board's Rights and Responsibilities

### 7.51 General Provisions

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

### 7.52 How must the ESB conduct voting for specific positions?

- (a) **Board.** Regarding the Board candidates, the ESB must—
  - (1) place a field on the ballot for each type of position, which means—
    - (A) one field for at-large candidates, and
    - (B) one field for College of Communication candidates;

- (2) group all the candidates for a particular type of position into a single field, not separating them into places or any other subgroup;
- (3) use the following chart to determine how many candidates will be elected out of each field:

| IF THE YEAR IS AN ...<br>NUMBER, | THEN ... AT-LARGE<br>CANDIDATES WILL BE<br>ELECTED, | AND ... COLLEGE OF<br>COMMUNICATION CANDIDATES WILL<br>BE ELECTED. |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Odd                              | Two   | One  |
| Even                             | One   | Two  |

- (4) allow eligible voters to vote in each field a number of times at most equal to the number of candidates that will be elected from that field;
  - (5) add separate fields for candidates certified by the Board to fill unexpired terms under the policies in Chapter 1 of the Handbook;
  - (6) allow all eligible voters to vote for all Board candidates, regardless of enrollment in a particular college; and
  - (7) certify the eligible candidate who wins the largest number of votes in the general election, as well as the eligible candidate who wins the second-largest number of votes in a field where two candidates may be elected, as the winners, without resorting to a runoff election.
- (b) ***The Daily Texan Editor-in-Chief.*** Regarding *The Daily Texan* Editor-in-Chief candidates—
- (1) If an eligible candidate wins a majority in the general election, the ESB must certify that candidate as the winner; and
  - (2) If no eligible candidate wins a majority in the general election, the ESB must certify the candidate who wins using the same method that it uses to determine the elected SG President, including a special runoff election or instant runoff voting.

## 7.53 How must the ESB report after the election?

The ESB must—

- (1) submit results of the TSM election to the chair of the Committee as soon as possible; and
- (2) submit a written report of the results to the Board within one week following the final election.

## Subchapter F: Committee's Rights and Responsibilities

### 7.61 General Provisions

The Committee's rights and responsibilities generally are the rights and responsibilities listed in the Campus-Wide Election Code for entities with appellate jurisdiction. However, the Committee may make exceptions at its discretion and may adopt any rules of procedure.

### 7.62 What constitutes a quorum of the Committee?

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

### 7.63 How must the Committee work with the ESB?

The chair of the Committee must—

- (1) serve as a liaison to the ESB;
- (2) inform the ESB of TSM election rules in the semester preceding the election; and
- (3) inform the candidates and ESB members of TSM election rules at the Candidate Seminar, either personally or by appointing another member of the Committee to do so personally.

## Subchapter G: Board of Operating Trustees' Rights and Responsibilities

### 7.71 General Provisions

The Board must perform the responsibilities listed in other parts of this code and the Handbook. See *Subchapter B: Election Timeline* for some specific duties.

### 7.72 Who must pay for conducting elections?

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

## Subchapter H: Director's Rights and Responsibilities

### 7.81 General Provisions

The Director must perform the responsibilities listed in other parts of this code and the Handbook.