

Election Supervisory Board Advisory Opinion 2022-003
(Issued: Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022)

Subject: Clarifying the extent to which campaign workers and agents can be recruited during the pre-campaign period

The 2022 Election Supervisory Board deems necessary the clarification of permissible and non-permissible language for the recruitment of campaign workers and agents. A candidate may not campaign for their position until the campaign period begins on **Monday, February 14, 2022 at 12:01 AM** but can solicit campaign workers and agents before the campaign period with certain restrictions.

From Section 2.3 of the Campus-Wide Election Code:

“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.”

Campaign activity that takes place prior to the designated campaign period is considered Early Campaigning and may be punished up to the point of a Class D violation, resulting in disqualification.

From Section 7.4 of the Campus-Wide Election Code:

“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.”

Section 6.4 of the Campus-Wide Election Code clarifies how a candidate should recruit workers for their campaign to avoid early campaigning.

“RECRUITMENT OF CAMPAIGN STAFF MEMBERS. During the filing period, only candidates and their agents may recruit individuals to join a campaign. They must recruit members on a one-to-one basis.

When recruiting a potential new campaign staff member, a candidate or agent should recruit the individual in a manner that is clearly not a solicitation of a vote and make a clear distinction that they will be fulfilling the role of a worker as defined by Section 2.20 or an agent as defined by Section 2.2. Campaigns may not use mass solicitation platforms such as social media, mass texts, etc. to recruit multiple individuals at once.”

Below are two helpful tips candidates and campaign agents can use to avoid early campaigning

when recruiting campaign workers or agents:

1. **Do not send mass messages/group messages.** Such messages include Facebook group messages, group messages through GroupMe, and mass emails to recruit workers and/or supporters. You may only reach out to people individually. If an individual has agreed to be an agent of your campaign, they too may individually solicit campaign workers but are bound by the same outreach rules.
2. **Do not be ambiguous.** Refrain from using vague language when recruiting campaign workers. Simply asking for “support” is considered campaigning. Ask them if they would like to be a campaign worker, be a member of the campaign, work for the campaign, join the campaign staff, etc.

Opinion Authorized by:

Jenny Ainsworth (Chair)

Sanjna Reddy (Vice-Chair)

Carlos Torres (Secretary)

Grace Mineo

Kara Nagasaki

Maria Muñoz

Patricia Dominguez

Riya Gentla

Wesley Brewer