

Election Supervisory Board Advisory Opinion 2023-006
(Issued: December 19, 2022)

Subject: Accessibility of Resources

The 2023 Election Supervisory Board sees fit to issue an opinion on the accessibility of resources for campaigners to file in their financial statements.

In Sec. 6.14 of the Campus-Wide Election Code the instructions for campaign expenditure records include that, “Each candidate must keep accurate and up-to-date record 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.”

Campaign receipts and expenditures include campaign materials, which is defined in Sec. 2.4 of the Campus-Wide Election Code.

“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.”

The Election Supervisory Board recognizes that there are some materials candidates may want to use for that are provided by the university and require no cost to the candidate. If these materials are available to all candidates from the university, they should *not* be included in the financial statement. However, if the material is not available to all candidates, the fair market value of that material should be included in the candidate’s financial statement.

For example:

Student Activities in the Office of the Dean of Students allows students in the Campus-Wide Campaign Organization to check out tables for no charge. In this instance, any candidate who uses this service *should not* include it in their financial disclosure as it is available to everyone participating in the Campus-Wide Elections.

Free posterboards are only offered to students in the McCombs School of Business. Candidates running in the Business Representative race *should not* include its fair market value in their financial disclosures as this resource is accessible to every student in this race.

However, a student in the McCombs School of Business who is running for a race other than the Business Representative race—such as U-Wide Representative—*should* include the poster board’s fair market value in their financial disclosure because not everyone in the race has access to this resource.

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