

Election Supervisory Board Advisory Opinion 2023-010
(Issued: Thursday, February 23, 2023)

Subject: Ballot Order and Candidate Withdrawals

The 2023 Election Supervisory Board is issuing an opinion regarding the creation of the ballot for the 2023 Campus-Wide Election, concerning the name order and procedures if a candidate withdraws from the election after creation of the ballot order.

Section 8.6 of the Campus-Wide Election Code reads:

“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.”

As such, the first method of randomizing the ballot was determined to not be possible. Therefore, the Chair of the Election Supervisory Board will create the randomized ballot for each race. Using a random list generator, each name was typed into the program in the order they filed in and as reflected on the [candidate list](#) on utexasvote.org. From there, a computer program randomized the list, and the first generated list is the order in which the candidates’ names will appear on each ballot.

Once created, the randomized ballot order is final and will not be re-randomized. If a candidate withdraws or is disqualified from the election after the creation of the ballot, the candidates listed after theirs will all move up one space in the order they are listed.

As such, the ballot order will be made known to candidates **by 12 AM CST on Saturday, February 25, 2023.**

Furthermore, the Election Supervisory Board aims to further clarify timeframes in which candidates in each race may withdraw their candidacy. Any candidate that wishes to withdraw must do so by emailing the Election Supervisory Board at esb@austin.utexas.edu in accordance to the timelines below. Should a candidate withdraw after the deadline, their name may still appear on the ballot.

Section 3.09 of the Graduate Student Assembly Specific Election Code reads:

“3.09 Any candidate wishing to withdraw from an election may do so by turning in a written request no later than four (4) class days before the voting period.” **This deadline will be 8 AM CST on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.**

Section 3.17 of the Student Government Specific Election Code reads:

“Sec. 3.17 WITHDRAWAL. Any candidate wishing to withdraw from an election may do so by turning in a written request no later than one (1) class day before the voting period.” **This deadline will be 8 AM CST on Friday, February 24, 2023.**

Section 4.13 of the Co-op Specific Election Code reads:

“4.13 Any candidate wishing to withdraw from the Co-op election may do so by turning in a written request no later than four (4) class days before the election.” **This deadline will be 8 AM CST on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.**

The Texas Student Media and the University Unions Specific Election Codes does not provide a timeline for candidate withdrawal.

Due to no guidance being provided and the administrative aspects of creating and maintaining the ballot, candidates participating in these races who wish to withdraw should do so by turning in a written request no later than one (1) class day before the voting period. **This deadline will be 8 AM CST on Friday, February 24, 2023.**

Should a candidate wish to withdraw after the deadlines outlined above, their name may still appear on the ballot when voting opens **at 12:01 AM CST February 27, 2023.**

Opinion Authorized By:

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