

2024 STUDENT GOVERNMENT FIRST-YEAR ELECTIONS BALLOT ORDER AND CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

(Updated September 25, 2024)

The 2024 First-Year Election Candidate Statements posted below do not represent the views or opinions of the Office of the Dean of Students, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the University of Texas at Austin, or any of the University's units, officials or employees. Students interested in running for an elected position as part of the University of Texas at Austin's Student Governance Organizations crafted their own Candidate Statements to speak in their personal capacity. Thus, these statements by student candidates may contain platforms or policy preferences that the Student Governance Organizations may not be able to put into effect given that the Organizations must comply with all applicable University policies, as well as state and federal law.

The ballot order for the 2024 Student Government First-Year Elections has been rerandomized for the revote taking place on Thursday, September 26, 2024.

1. Madilyn Ng

No candidate statement submitted.

2. Adrian Raj

I am running for First-Year Representative at UTSG because I feel our university can improve in multiple ways. Recently, we have seen many events happen on campus and our nation, which led to a vast disapproval of modern government. I have lived in Cedar Park, Texas since 2016, where the community welcomed me with open arms like I never expected beforehand. As someone with autism, it showed me that everyone has various beliefs and ideas on a wide range of topics, similar to UT Austin. In high school, I held leadership positions in various clubs, including Key Club (Historian), AFJROTC (Unit Leader), and Calculus Club (President & Co-Founder). I also have work experience for The Aerospace Corporation (Aerospace Engineering Intern) and Whataburger (Certified Restaurant Trainer). I know the Class of 2028 is exceptionally talented to stand up for the improvement of UT Austin. Thank you for your vote and Hook 'em!

3. Josh Bober

"Diversity is our strength." We've all heard some version of the saying, but being "diverse" is hard! I'm a curly-haired Cuban-Chinese kid who's moved across the country to Texas; finding community and common ground is daunting. Moreover, it's easy to feel out-of-place while starting college. We're all trying to make dorms into homes and classmates into friends. If you want a rep that knows that feeling better than anyone, Vote Bober. If you want a rep with the speaking skills to platform your views, Vote Bober. If you want a rep presently working in congressional policy and US Senate campaigns, Vote Bober. If you want a rep committed to improving dining halls, campus accessibility, and student rights, Vote Bober. If you want a rep that's walked a mile in your shoes, vote for Josh Bober, because a campus becomes a community when we move forward together. Vote online @ <https://linktr.ee/vote4bober>.

4. Constantina Kyriazis

No candidate statement submitted.

5. Lane Wessels

In this election, ask yourself: ARE YOU LOCKED IN? Or are you cooked? As a freshman, I can say that I love UT but our experience entering wasn't perfect. At times, it felt like I was missing out on opportunities that I was unaware of. Everything happened so quickly, before I could even process the

fact that I was now in college. I know I'm not the only one who's felt this way, and that's why I'm running. I want to make sure every freshman knows how to navigate UT, get involved, and actually enjoy our time here without feeling FOMO. We're all in this together—let's make it a year where none of us feel left behind. LOCK IN WITH LANE, and let's secure a freshman year we can be proud to look back on! Follow us on Instagram @lane.vote <https://www.instagram.com/lane.vote>

6. Piper Connor

Hey y'all! I am so excited to run for first-year representative at UT Austin! Currently, I am a government major at the College of Liberal Arts. I moved to Austin from a small town named Pawleys Island, South Carolina, where I was my class president, and it was such a joy to lead my class throughout high school. Also, during my junior year, I attended the U.S. Senate Page program in Washington, DC, learning alongside our nation's leaders. I am running so that our class can have an unbiased voice regarding the state of our university. I want to be the messenger for the entire class's ideas. I'd love to initiate some forum where members of the Class of 2028 can contact me directly to voice their opinions. I'm asking for your vote to support a fantastic future for our class! Hook 'em!

7. Blake Gonzales

Hey Longhorns! I'm Blake Gonzales, and I'm running to be your student body first-year representative because I believe in a UT Austin that will prioritize student concerns above all. When it comes to representation, a leader is useless unless they advocate for the issues YOU actually need changed. If elected, my top priority will be to listen and reform based on my fellow students' needs through the use of consistent polling on social media, suggestion boxes, etc. Further, food insecurity is a matter that needs to be tackled on UT's campus as 43.7% of UT students have experienced some sort of this according to the 2023 National College Health Assessment. This must and will be further advocated for if elected. For more info follow the official campaign account at [instagram.com/blake4firstyearrep](https://www.instagram.com/blake4firstyearrep). Thank you and VOTE BLAKE!

8. Ishan Pandey

No candidate statement submitted.

9. Abigail Egbujor

Hello Longhorns, my name is Abigail Egbujor, and I am thrilled to be running for the position of First Year Student Representative at UT Austin. As the founder and president of Abby's Alms Foundation, I have had the honor of speaking in front of over 36000 people internationally, helping over 5000 people in Nigeria and India, and collaborating with esteemed individuals and organizations, such as the Texas Secretary of State and the NAACP. My primary goal is to build a community where every voice is heard. One of my goals is to provide freshmen with more opportunities to develop their resumes and broaden their worldview. I am a leader who feeds those around me before I feed myself. It's time for a new beginning for freshmen at UT, your vote is crucial in shaping the future direction of our university. I appreciate your consideration and work towards our shared success.

10. Hayden Victoria

No candidate statement submitted.

11. Devon Stevenson

No candidate statement submitted.

12. Angelina Encinia

No candidate statement submitted.

13. Spencer Sundberg

Hi everyone! My name is Spencer Sundberg and I am running for the Class of 2028's First Year Representative! For some background, I used to serve as the student council president at my old school as well as manage employees at a coffee chain, both experiences I feel will aid me in the leadership and communication needed for this position. As for my campaign, I would like to focus on three issues I feel are imperative to improve for current and future UT students: Safety, Diversity, and Accessibility. If you would like to learn more about these goals and ideas I urge you to visit the following link: "<https://docs.google.com/document/>" or contact my Instagram: "[@spencer.sundberg](#)". Lastly, I just want to thank you for reading all of this and hopefully I have gained your vote! And remember! "Brighten Your Future With Sundberg!"

14. Yash Gupta

As a dedicated and passionate Statistics and Data Science freshman student at UT Austin, I am running for 1st Year Representative to advocate for the needs of our freshmen class. My goal is to help address the unique challenges we face as new students by focusing on powerful albeit realistic solutions. With my experience working with multiple Congressional campaigns, I know how to advocate for meaningful change and work with people from diverse backgrounds to promote meaningful policies. Additionally, as a cancer survivor, I understand firsthand the importance of access to physical and mental health services. I'll prioritize initiatives that foster a stronger sense of community, promote student involvement, and empower first-years to succeed in the competitive internship and job market. Follow at [instagram.com/ygforut](https://www.instagram.com/ygforut) for more info about me, my campaign agenda, and why I'm running.

15. Kamryn Pena

No candidate statement submitted.

16. Alexander Bani-Esraili

My name is Alexander Bani-Esraili, and I am running for University-Wide Representative to ensure your voice is heard. Leadership isn't just about coming up with new ideas or policies; it's about listening—truly listening—with an open mind. The most important quality a leader can have is the ability to understand the needs and concerns of others. Through weekly forums or everyday interactions, I commit to hearing your suggestions, complaints, and ideas, whether it's about campus life, classes, clubs, or social events. My goal is to implement changes that reflect your input and make UT Austin a better place for everyone. Everyone on campus should feel as if their voice is valued, and that is my mission.