



FALL 2025 FIRST-YEAR ELECTIONS

Advisory Opinion 2025-002 (AO 2025-002)

Issued: August, 29 2025

***“CANDIDATE SEMINAR INFORMATION &
ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS”***

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, & CONCERNS SHALL BE DIRECTED TO ESB@AUSTIN.UTEXAS.EDU
SUSPECTED ELECTION VIOLATION? **REPORT IT [HERE](#).**

TEXAS

ELECTION SUPERVISORY BOARD

The 2025 FYE Election Supervisory Board (ESB) is authoring Advisory Opinion **AO 2025-002**.

WHEREAS, The University of Texas at Austin, Student Government Constitution, authorizes the Election Supervisory Board to oversee and decide on cases for First-Year Elections (FYE). This power is vested in the ESB per The **UT Austin Student Government Constitution §6.7**:

“The Election Supervisory Board shall oversee the annual fall first year student elections of the first-year representatives.”

WHEREAS, the Candidate Seminar and Attendance Requirements are outlined in The University of Texas at Austin, Student Government Specific Election Code **§3.15 states**:

“At the time of filing, candidates shall be informed of the candidate seminar and the advantages and requirements of attending.”

WHEREAS, The Student Government Specific Election Code does not provide guidance for requirements, benefits and the consequences of first-year candidates not attending the Candidate Seminars. Furthermore, since First-Year Elections are different from that of Campus-Wide, First-Year Elections do not fall under the authority of the Campus-Wide Election Code. Therefore, the ESB has the authority to determine the date, time and location of the candidate seminar, the benefits and consequences of not attending the candidate seminar.

WHEREAS, the Candidate Seminar shall be held at the following, location, date and time:

WHERE: William C. Powers Legislative Assembly Room – WCP 2.302

WHEN: Monday, September 15, 2025

TIME: 6:00 PM CST – 7 PM CST

WHEREAS, the Election Supervisory Board has determined that candidates must attend the candidate seminar. Absence from the seminar is an unacceptable excuse for ignorance and/or violation of election rules.

WHEREAS, if a candidate has an excused absence as determined by the Election Supervisory Board, then they may send an authorized agent in his or her place but that the Election Supervisory Board must be notified of the substitution at least eight (8) hours in advance of the Candidate Seminar.

WHEREAS, The 2025 First-Year Election ESB is providing the following attendance rules for the Candidate Seminar:

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1. All candidates, or an authorized agent, must attend the Candidate Seminar.
2. Those unable to attend due to valid conflict (e.g. family emergency, illness) must notify the ESB by Monday, September 15th, 2025 by 10 AM CST (8 hours before the Candidate Seminar) and must send an authorized agent in their place. The agent's name, phone number, UTEID, and student email must be emailed to esb@austin.utexas.edu by the 10 AM CST deadline.
3. Any candidate encountering an extenuating circumstance (e.g. family emergency, illness) within the 8-hour window should notify the ESB as soon as possible at esb@austin.utexas.edu. The Board will grant exceptions at their discretion. An agent should still be sent in place of the candidate where possible in this case.
4. To verify attendance, ESB members will conduct roll call at the start and end of the Candidate Seminar. All candidates and/or authorized agents must be in attendance through the duration of the entire seminar.

FINALLY, the Election Supervisory Board would like to remind candidates of the following:

1. All candidates, or an authorized agent, must attend the Candidate Seminar.
2. Candidates who attend the candidate seminar and are present for the Institutional Rules and Policy training are eligible to become a member of temporary campus elections organization.
3. The purpose of the campus elections organization is to simplify candidate organizing and ensure that candidates understand their responsibilities according to the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities. Eligible candidates who join the organization are able to reserve space, banners, a-frames and tables on campus in accordance with university policy and guidelines. Members of the organization may also use and display certain protected marks on campaign materials. To learn more, visit the Campaign Organization and Protected Marks Agreement page and follow the directions outlined on the page.

BY THE POWER VESTED IN THE ELECTION SUPERVISORY BOARD OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN,

ADVISORY OPINION 2025-002 ([AO 2025-002](#)) IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

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SAMUEL J. HECHT

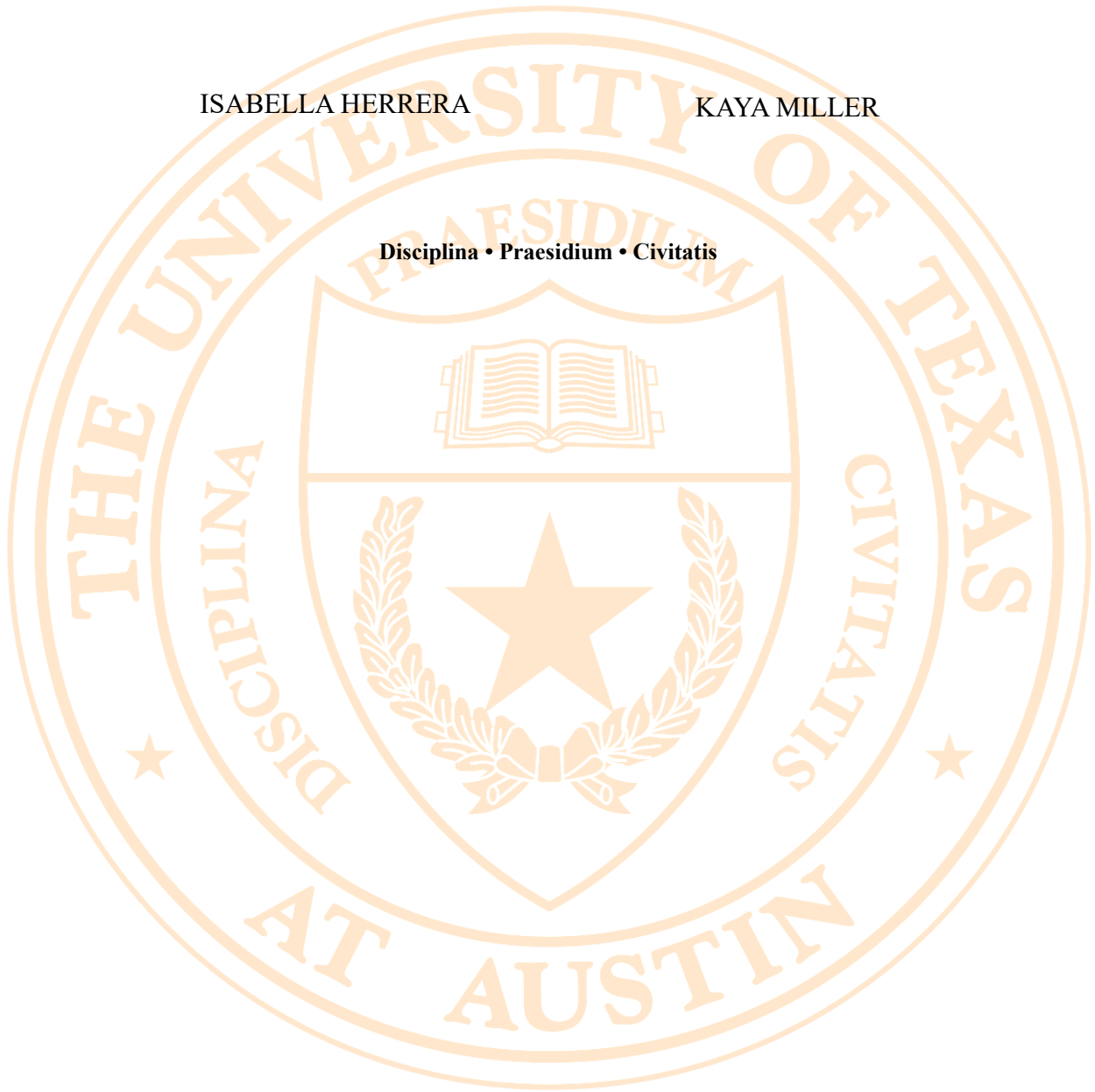
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