



TEXAS
ELECTION SUPERVISORY BOARD

FALL 2025 FIRST-YEAR ELECTIONS

Advisory Opinion 2025-008

Issued: September 12, 2025

“PROHIBITION OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS WITH ESB”

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

The 2025 FYE Election Supervisory Board (ESB) is authoring Advisory Opinion **AO 2025-008**.

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 acronym CWEC shall refer to The University of Texas at Austin Campus-Wide Election Code.

WHEREAS, **CWEC Chapter III: Election Supervisory Board – Subchapter C: ESB Positions and Responsibilities, §3.12 ASSIGNMENT OF CANDIDATES** states:

“The remaining members of the Election Supervisory Board shall be assigned an equal group of candidates for whose questions, complaints, and financial statements they are responsible.”

WHEREAS, **CWEC Chapter IV: Violations – Subchapter A: Hearings and Procedures, §4.7 PUBLIC ACCESS** states:

“All Election Supervisory Board hearings, proceedings, records, and meetings must be open to the public, except for the deliberations that determine the outcome of complaint hearings.”

WHEREAS, While ESB hearings, proceeding, records and meetings are open to the public, the deliberations are not.

WHEREAS, In addition to the private deliberations, facilitation of questions, complaints, and financial statements that the ESB handles, the board may also deal with privy information.

WHEREAS, Any and all ex parte communication between ESB members, Student Government representatives, candidates, potential candidates, agents, workers, students, or student-run media outside of PUBLIC ACCESS as stated in **CWEC Chapter IV: Violations, §4.7** or formal channels, is unethical, undermines integrity, and threatens the fairness of the election process.

WHEREAS, To ensure the utmost impartiality, transparency, and integrity in student elections, the Election Supervisory Board orders that all contact with its members be from official channels, specifically the use of the ESB@Austin.Utexas.Edu email address.

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WHEREAS, The Election Supervisory Board will not engage in any ex parte communication, including but not limited to methods such as word of mouth, phone calls, SMS text message, social media platforms, third-party email addresses, social media platforms, GroupMe, Canvas, or the usage of ESB members University of Texas at Austin Enterprise Technology email addresses (@eid.utexas, or @utexas).

THEREFORE, The Election Supervisory Board orders that all communication must be through official channels, specifically its email address as issued by the University of Texas Enterprise Technology office, which is ESB@Austin.Utexas.Edu, in order to create an environment that facilitates the fairest and freest student elections that prioritize objectiveness.

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

ADVISORY OPINION 2025-008 (AO 2025-008) IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

SAMUEL J. HECHT

BRADY E. HOWELL

RILEY T. MCCAIN

ISABELLA HERRERA

KAYA MILLER

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