

Election Supervisory Board Advisory Opinion 2021-004
(Issued: Friday, February 26, 2021)

Subject: Extended Campus-Wide Election Timeline

The 2021 Election Supervisory Board is issuing an advisory opinion to announce the extended Campus-Wide Election timeline. Because of the winter storm last week, the University closed from **Sunday, February 14th** through the morning of **Wednesday February 24th, 2021**, halting all election activities. This inadvertently delayed the start of campaigning, the first financial disclosure, the extended filing deadline and subsequent seminar for open races, and a complaint hearing.

Cognizant of the substantially shortened campaign cycle, as well as the stress, academic burden, and lingering insecurities faced by students as they prepare to return to classes, the Election Supervisory Board reached out to the Five Entities involved in the Campus-Wide Elections— Graduate Student Assembly, Student Government, Texas Student Media, University Co-Op Board of Directors, and University Unions Board of Directors— to solicit opinions regarding extending the election timeline.

While Sec 5.1 and 5.2 of the Campus-Wide Election Code respectively state:

“General elections shall be held on the Monday and Tuesday of the week two weeks prior to the start of the University’s spring break,” and

“No changes to the Election Code may be enacted within four (4) week of the Campus-Wide Elections.”

The Office of the Dean of Students informed the ESB that, if unanimously agreed by the entities, it would be supportive of an extended timeline as it would align with University guidance regarding extending deadlines due to the campus closure. Therefore, through an email thread, the entities unanimously agreed to the following extended timeline:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| February 24 th | Wednesday | 8:01 a.m. CST | Campaigning begins |
| February 24 th | Wednesday | 4:30 p.m. CST | Financial Disclosure #1 due |
| February 25 th | Thursday | 12:00 p.m. CST | Extended Filing ends |
| February 25 th | Thursday | 9:00 p.m. CST | Extended Filing Candidate Seminar—via Zoom |
| March 1 st | Monday | 6:00 p.m. CST | SG Candidate Debate—via Zoom |
| March 2 nd | Tuesday | 5:00 p.m. CST | Deadline to submit Candidate Statement to ESB—via HornsLink |
| March 8 th | Monday | 12:00 a.m. – 11:59 p.m. CST | ELECTION DAY 1 - Online voting from any computer |
| March 9 th | Tuesday | 4:30 p.m. CST | Financial Disclosure #2 due |
| March 9 th | Tuesday | 12:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST | ELECTION DAY 2 —Online voting from any computer |
| March 9 th | Tuesday | 9:00 p.m. CST | Deadline to submit a complaint |
| March 12 th | Friday | 3:00 p.m. CST | Election Results Announcement—via Zoom |

Opinion authorized by:

Robert Toto (Chair)

Jenny Ainsworth (Vice Chair)

Jack Bumgardner (Secretary)

CJ Ligon

Jon Bishop

Justin Gonzales

Mayson O'Brien

Serah Sadhwani

Wesley Brewer

Opinion timeline unanimously supported by:

Graduate Student Assembly

Student Government

Texas Student Media

University Co-Op Board of Directors

University Unions Board of Directors