



TEXAS
ELECTION SUPERVISORY BOARD

2026 CAMPUS-WIDE ELECTIONS

Advisory Opinion 2026-007

Issued: January 12, 2026

CAMPAIGN MATERIAL APPROVALS

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

The 2026 Election Supervisory Board is issuing an Advisory Opinion (**AO 2026-007**) to clarify the requirement that all campaign materials must be submitted for approval.

Pursuant to **Title II, Chapter III, Subchapter A, §3.1 Campus-Wide Election Code**, the Election Supervisory Board shall be responsible for the administration of campus-wide elections:

“The Election Supervisory Board shall be responsible for the administration of campus-wide elections.”

Pursuant to **Title II, Chapter I, §2.1 Campus-Wide Election Code**, Advisory Opinions issued by the Election Supervisory are defined as:

“ADVISORY OPINION” refers to any opinion issued by the Election Supervisory Board concerning any matter affecting the campus-wide elections that may not be included within the language of the election code. Advisory Opinions issued by the ESB shall be binding and enforceable for the duration of the election to which they apply. Compliance with an advisory opinion shall constitute compliance with this code, and non-compliance shall constitute grounds for violations of this code.”

Title II, Chapter II, §2.5 Campus-Wide Election Code, “CAMPAIGN MATERIALS” are defined as:

“CAMPAIGN MATERIALS” refers to all physical and digital materials and literature of any kind concerning any candidate that have or are intended to have the effect of soliciting votes, support, or interest for a candidate or elective office but excludes any individual endorsement not approved by the candidate.”

Additionally, **Chapter IV, Subchapter B, §4.6 Student Government Specific Election Code** states:

“FILED CAMPAIGN MATERIALS. A sample of all campaign materials must be filed with the Election Supervisory Board prior to its public distribution or publishing.

- (a) *Candidates who distribute, publish, or disseminate their campaign materials prior to approval from the Election Supervisory Board shall be appropriately sanctioned for each violation of this section.”*

Pursuant to **Title II, Chapter II, §2.5 Campus-Wide Election Code**, campaign materials are broadly defined to include all physical and digital materials intended to solicit votes, support, or interest for a candidate. **Chapter IV, Subchapter B, §4.6 Student Government Specific Election Code** further requires that all candidates in a Student Government (SG) election provide all campaign materials with the Election Supervisory Board prior to public distribution or publication and authorizes sanctions for the dissemination of unapproved materials.

Together, these provisions are interpreted to give the Election Supervisory Board authority to review, regulate, and approve campaign materials prior to their public dissemination. The requirement of prior approval is not an expansion of ESB authority, but rather a necessary and reasonable implementation of the codes, enabling the ESB to enforce campaign regulations consistently and equitably.

Therefore, all candidates must submit their campaign materials, either physical or digital, to the Election Supervisory Board for review and either approval or rejection. This includes but is not limited to the following, aimed at garnering votes or support from a public audience.

- Flyers
- Handbills
- Pamphlets
- Posters
- Business Cards
- T-shirts / Hats
- Door hangers
- Stickers / Decals
- Tents
- Buttons / Pins / Badges
- Social Media Posts
- Social Media Graphics
- Social Media Images
- Social Media Commentary
- Social Media Accounts
- Websites

Candidates, however, do not need to submit spontaneous, speech-based, or interpersonal materials. For example:


Candidate A would not need an interpersonal conversation with her roommate approved, nor would she need text message or any speech-based digital contact/communication approved.

When in doubt, please refer to the Election Supervisory Board.

Failure to comply with the approval process, i.e. dissenting material prior to approval, shall be a violation subject to enforcement and sanction by the Election Supervisory Board and may result in penalties up to and including a CLASS D violation, resulting in disqualification.

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


ADVISORY OPINION 2026-007 (AO 2026-007) IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

x 

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SECRETARY

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VOTING MEMBER

LAUREN PHAM
VOTING MEMBER

x 

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