



FALL 2026 FIRST-YEAR ELECTIONS

Advisory Opinion 2026-003

Issued: August 30, 2026

“PROHIBITION ON EARLY CAMPAIGNING”

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

TEXAS

ELECTION SUPERVISORY BOARD

The 2026 FYE Election Supervisory Board (ESB) is authoring Advisory Opinion **AO 2026-003**.

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 **UT Austin Student Government Constitution Article IV, Elections, §6.6** states:

“Campaigning shall begin the day after the filing deadline and last for one full week”

WHEREAS, The **UT Austin Student Government Constitution Article IV – Elections, §6.6 (a)** states:

“All campaign regulations shall be determined by the election code of the Student Government.”

WHEREAS, the Student Government Specific Election Code, Article IV – Campaign Provisions and Procedure, Subchapter B: Campaigning and Endorsing, §4.5 states:

“No campaigning or endorsing will be allowed until the official campaign period has begun as determined by the Election Supervisory Board.”

WHEREAS, this section shall be interpreted by candidates to mean:

1. All candidates and their campaign staff are prohibited from campaigning, soliciting, or otherwise bringing attention to their campaign or election before the campaign period.
2. This prohibition includes all attempts to secure endorsements, sponsorships, or any other presentation of information made for public consumption or use.
3. However, this prohibition does not include the personal individual recruitment by a candidate of individual team members.

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FURTHERMORE, §2.3, §4.7, and §4.17 of the Student Government Specific Election Code state:

Chapter II – Definitions, §2.3:

“CAMPAIGN STAFF” refers to any and all individuals coordinating with candidate, including, but not limited to, all agents and workers.”

Chapter IV – Campaign Provisions and Procedures, Subchapter B: Campaigning and Endorsing, §4.7:

“Candidates are responsible for all electoral actions and conduct of their campaign staff.”

Chapter IV – Campaign Provisions and Procedures, Subchapter B: Campaigning and Endorsing, §4.17:

“All electioneering activities of a candidate and/or [their] respective campaign staff must adhere to the parameters set forth by this code, the Student Government Constitution, University policy, system rules, state and federal law, and any other established policy applicable to the actions in question.”

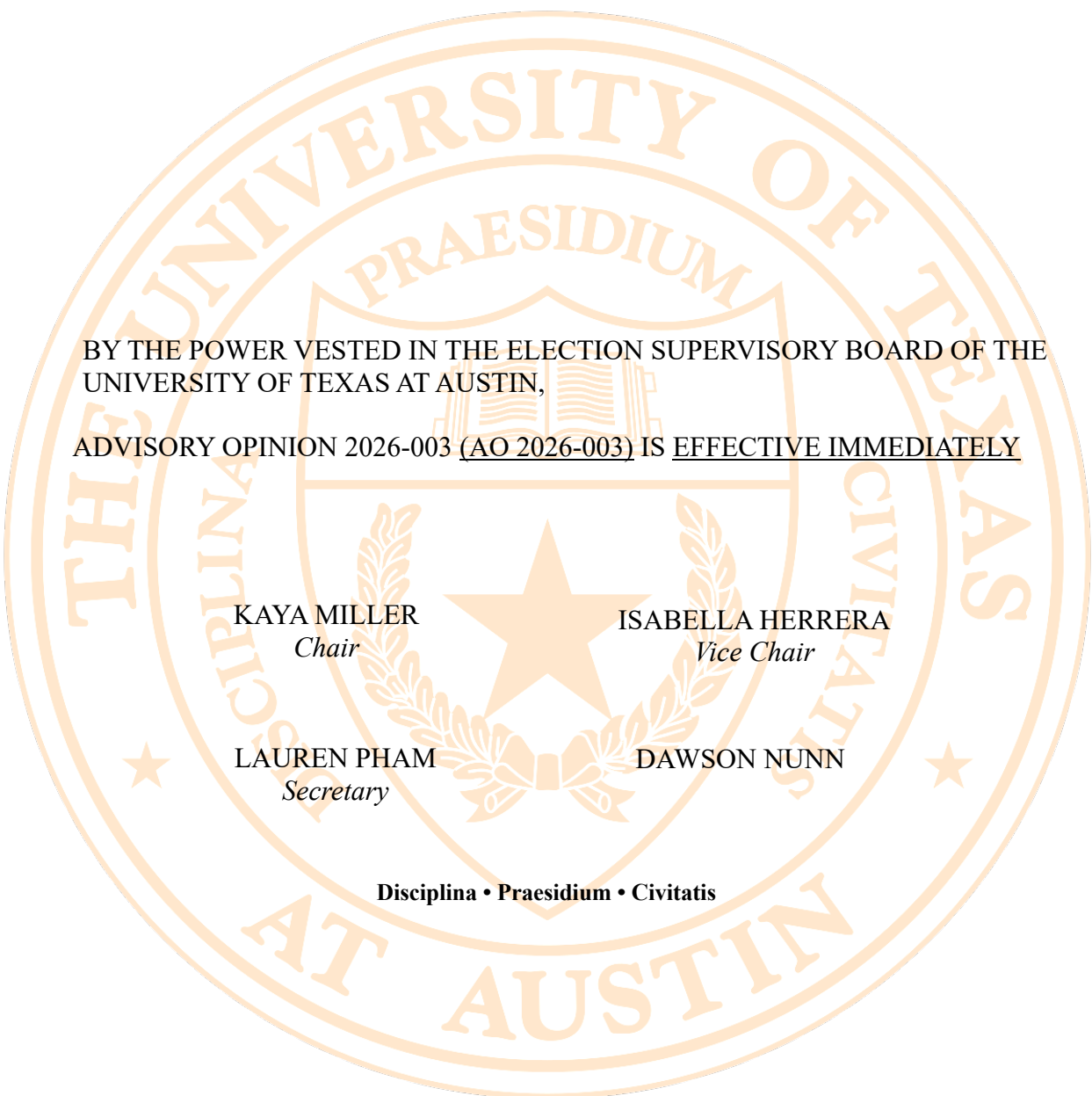
ESB has set the official campaign period for the 2026 First-Year Elections to begin on Tuesday, September 15th, 2026, at 12:01 AM CST and end on Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026, at 5 PM CST.

FINALLY, the Student Government Specific Election Code does not provide a clear definition on what constitutes “campaigning.” §4.5(a) of the Student Government Specific Election Code, erroneously states that a definition of “campaigning” can be found in §2.3 but this definition is for “Campaign Staff”. Thus, ESB would like to clarify what entails campaigning and will refer to § 2.3 of the Campus-Wide Election Code for guidance in that "campaigning" shall refer to:

“... statements, literature, activities or deliberate uses or distribution of materials of any kind that have or are intended to have the effect of soliciting votes, support or interest for a candidate or elective office.”

THUS, campaign activity that takes place prior to the start of the designated campaign period on **Tuesday, September 15th, 2026 at 12:01 AM CST** is considered early campaigning and may be punished up to the point of a class D violation, resulting in disqualification.

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The seal of The University of Texas at Austin is a large, circular emblem in the background. It features a five-pointed star in the center, surrounded by a wreath. Above the star is a shield with a book and a torch. The words "THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS" are written in a circle around the top, and "AT AUSTIN" is at the bottom. The Latin motto "DISCIPLINA • PRAESIDIUM • CIVITATIS" is written in a smaller circle around the star.

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

ADVISORY OPINION 2026-003 (AO 2026-003) IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

KAYA MILLER
Chair

ISABELLA HERRERA
Vice Chair

LAUREN PHAM
Secretary

DAWSON NUNN

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