

**Texas State University**  
**Student Government**  
**Supreme Court**  
**2026 Election Operating Memorandum**

**Overview:**

Under the powers vested to it by the Student Government Code of Laws, the Supreme Court is hereby issuing an election operating memorandum for the 2026 Student Government elections. This memorandum provides detailed instructions, procedures, and rules for all prospective candidates for Texas State University Student Government 2026 elections. This document, issued by the Supreme Court, is grounded in the **Student Government Election Code (SGEC)**, found in the **Student Government Code of Laws**, and serves to maintain integrity, transparency, and fairness throughout the election process. Adherence to the SGEC and the ethical standards of Texas State University is mandatory for all participants. The Student Government Election Code can be found on the Student Government Website under the Student Government Code of Laws beginning on page 36.

**Jurisdiction**

Student Government Election Code (SGEC) Article IV Section A:

*“The Supreme Court governs over all elections.”*

## 2026 Election Timeline & Important Dates

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Operating Memorandum Effective From</b>	<b>January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026</b>
<b>Filing Period</b>	<b>January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026</b>
<b>Exploratory Period</b>	<b>January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026</b>
<b>Campaign Period</b>	<b>March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 – April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at 11:59 pm</b>
<b>Presidential Debate</b>	<b>March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 6 – 8pm LBJ Ballroom</b>
<b>Senate Town Hall</b>	<b>April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 5 – 7pm LBJ 323</b>
<b>Voting Period</b>	<b>April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, at 8:00 am - April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at 11:59 pm</b>
<b>Election Certification</b>	<b>Once all election related court cases are settled</b>

### 1. Eligibility and Filing Requirements

To be considered an official candidate for an office, the filer must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be certified through the Registrar by a Student Government Advisor.
- Sign a form that states that the candidate has read and understood the rules and regulations of the Election Code as outlined by this memorandum.
- Minimum GPA Requirements of 2.5 at the time of appointment.

## 2. Campaigning Rules and Regulations

- No one shall campaign within 25 feet of an academic building or within a residence hall. The two exceptions to this section are whether you are invited by a registered student organization into a meeting or posting physical or digital flyers that have been approved by the proper channels.
- No candidate may utilize any facilities, equipment, or services that receive university funding and are not available to the general student body for use during campaigning
- Public, printed, electronic, verbal, or any other display of campaigning shall be prohibited until the campaigning period.
- Candidates may not offer or facilitate incentives for voting in the Student Government election, including but not limited to point systems, monetary rewards, or service hours. Candidates can be held responsible if a Student Organization they are affiliated with or endorsed by incentivizing voting in the election.

## 3. 2025 Election Advisory Opinions and Rulings

### Opinions:

- **Pre Campaign regulations and Alliances. Decided 02.04.25**

**Summary:** Advisory Opinion #25-01 clarifies pre-campaign regulations and alliance composition under the Student Government Election Code. The Court held that candidates and alliances may create campaign materials, such as photos and promotional videos, before the official campaign period as long as they're not distributed or used to solicit support early. It also ruled that candidates may fundraise alumni prior to campaigning because only university-provided funds are prohibited.

**Precedent:** This opinion establishes that preparation activities and fundraising before the campaign window do not constitute campaigning, provided no voter solicitation occurs, creating a clearer boundary between lawful preparation and prohibited early campaigning. It also sets out a binding interpretation of alliance composition by linking the maximum number of candidates to campaign spending limits, resolving prior ambiguity in the Election Code. Additionally, the Court sets out a procedural precedent by allowing advisory opinion requests via email, encouraging candidates to seek clarification and comply with election rules more effectively.

- **Campaigning. Election Signs. and Student Groups. Decided 02.17.25**

**Summary:** Advisory Opinion #25-02, addresses questions regarding campaigning practices, election signage, and interactions with student organizations under the Student Government Election Code. The Court determined that campaigning is broadly defined to include word-of-mouth communication. At the same time, the Court clarified that campaign signs are permitted to remain posted throughout the voting period and must be removed within two days after the election. These rulings rely on the Election Code's

emphasis on equal access, designated campaigning locations, and clearly defined campaign periods.

**Precedent:** This advisory opinion establishes that residence halls and meetings of student organizations held outside designated campaign areas (unless posting digital flyers or invited by the organization) are not permissible locations for campaigning.

- **Campaigning at Sewell Park. Decided 03.18.25**

**Summary:** Advisory Opinion No. 25-04 addresses whether Sewell Park should be considered a permissible location for student government campaigning. The Court unanimously held that candidates are allowed to campaign in Sewell Park, provided they comply with all applicable university policies and election regulations.

**Precedent:** By approving Sewell Park as a permissible campaign zone, the Court clarified that general-use campus spaces may be authorized for campaigning when they comply with election rules and university policies. This opinion provides guidance for future cases, allowing campaigning zones to be evaluated and expanded on a case-by-case basis while reinforcing the Court’s authority over election governance.

## 4. Financial Regulations and Reporting

- No campaign may use any funds, directly or indirectly, from the university on campaigning. This clause excludes paychecks distributed by the University to an individual worker.
- Each Executive ticket may spend no more than \$1000.00 on its campaign. Senatorial and Representative candidates may spend no more than \$500.00 on their respective campaigns.
- A single donation to a candidate or Executive ticket may not exceed \$250.00. If a candidate is to seek out a donation from an individual or a business, that person may make a one-time donation valued at \$250.00 or multiple donations throughout the campaign that cannot exceed \$250.00 when combined.
- All candidates for President, Vice President, House, and Senate shall submit to the Supreme Court a report containing their total campaigning expenditures verified by receipts or bank records within 72 hours of the posting of election results. The cost of any donated items must be included in calculations of total campaign expenditures. This shall include discounts not available to the public and all donations that the candidate has received. Candidates may not receive any donations from university funds; this does not include paychecks.

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## 5. Complaint Procedures and Violations

### Violations:

- Class A offenses are “considered the most egregious form of violation” to the Election Code, as they “undermine the integrity of Student Government elections.” “This shall include, but is not limited to bribery, voter intimidation, forged financial statements, monetary violations, early campaigning, ethical violations, and illegally campaigning in academic or residential halls.” The Supreme Court may designate similar violations as class A violations. Punishment for Class A offenses ranges from a 72-hour suspension to a complete disqualification from the election, as determined by the court on a case-by-case basis. “Disqualification should be reserved for extremely egregious violations that undermined the fairness of the election.”
- Class B offenses are “considered moderate violations of this Election Code.” “This shall include, but is not limited to, vandalism and defamatory statements.” The Supreme Court may designate similar violations as Class B violations. Punishment for Class B violations

ranges from a 24-hour suspension to a 72-hour suspension, as determined by the court on a case-by-case basis.

- Class C offenses are considered minor or unintentional violations of the election code. This includes, but is not limited to, failure to obtain approval for signs from Student Involvement and Engagement and failure to remove campaign materials after the election. The Supreme Court may designate similar violations as Class C. Punishment for Class C violations ranges from a written warning to a 24-hour suspension, as determined on a case-by-case basis by the court.

If the court is notified of a violation affecting election integrity/fairness after the election ends, it has two remedial options. If found guilty before swearing in, the candidate is disqualified; if found guilty after swearing in, the case is referred to the Senate for an impeachment trial. “Any candidate who is disqualified by the Supreme Court is barred from any future Student Government election.” “All Supreme Court decisions are final.” However, a candidate may appeal election results or disqualification decisions to university authorities. Supreme Court rulings “may only be overturned in the case of egregious misapplication of the code.”

Candidates are responsible for the actions or conduct of their campaign members and, on a case-by-case basis, may also be held accountable for the behavior of individuals not officially affiliated with their campaign.

Any individual may file a complaint or request an interpretation of the code by contacting the Supreme Court at [sgsupremecourt@txstate.edu](mailto:sgsupremecourt@txstate.edu) or by filing a complaint through our complaint form located on our website.

### **Protests:**

Protests of the results of the election must be sent to the Supreme Court “within two weeks of the election results”. The Court can waive this deadline if egregious evidence is discovered at a later date. Electronic media election protests must be filed with the Student Success Office immediately. If valid, voting may be extended “beyond the voting deadline of the amount of time during the electronic complication.” Other remedies may be agreed upon by the contestant and the Student Success Office. After the Supreme Court rules, either party may appeal in writing to the proper University authorities within two business days.

## **6. Ethics and Conduct Standards**

- Elected officials should consider it their responsibility to gather and heed the advice and consent of their constituents. However, the right of an elected official to represent their constituents in whatever way and in whatever manner they dictate is a right reserved to the elected official.

- All members of Student Government shall be considered members at all times and in all places and shall be subject to its rules and to proper punishment should a violation of those rules occur
- All members of Student Government are bound to this document to act ethically and non-discriminatory to any person(s) on or off campus and not engage in any form of libel or slander based on race, sex, economic class, social standing, sexuality, or private affiliation upon their confirmation as a member.
- No member of the Judiciary shall express support for an SG candidate in any circumstances whatsoever.
- At no time will a member of the judiciary prejudge a case that is pending before them or discuss said case with anyone outside of formal meetings and conferences of the court until a decision is rendered and published.

## **7. Polling Regulations and Election Day Rules**

As per Article X of the Student Government Election code the judiciary in conjunction with the executive branch and advisors of student government has determined polling will be done in two ways:

- Polling stations on the day of voting shall be set up inside and outside LBJ where students will be allowed to vote in person.
- Polling shall occur online with students being able to submit their votes through a link or QR code that leads to the Bobcat Organization Hub form.

## **8. Recounts, Protests, and Appeals**

- Any person protesting the results of the election must send their protest to the Supreme Court within two weeks of the election results. This deadline can be waived by the Court if egregious evidence is discovered at a later date. If this occurs after the swearing in of the candidate, it will be referred to the Senate for an impeachment trial
- After the Supreme Court rules, either party may within two business days, submit a written appeal to the proper University authorities
- Any person contesting the election on the grounds of electronic media must file with the Student Success Office for written notice immediately. If the Student Success Office, in conjunction with Student Success Information Technology, determines the protest is valid, then remedy shall be offered by the extension of voting beyond the voting deadline of the amount of time during the electronic complication. Other remedies can be agreed upon by the contestant and the Student Success Office during this review.

## **9. Communication and Publication of Rulings**

- All Supreme Court hearings, proceedings, records, including those collected under the Election Code, and meetings must be open to the public, except for the deliberations and records related to deliberations that determine the outcome of hearings.
- The Supreme Court will determine the format for a hearing but must invite both the complaining and responding parties to appear before the Supreme Court to discuss the issues pertaining to the complaint. The purpose of the hearing is to gather the information necessary to decide on the complaint.
- All candidates who were elected for a spot in the Student Government shall be notified by email from the Supreme Court within 48 hours of results being posted.
- All complaints filed must receive a response of accepted or dismissed within 5 business days, except for election complaints. Election complaints must be responded to within 2 days. If a complaint is accepted, the Supreme Court will notify the accused through a Notice of Complaint. The Notice must include the date, time, and location of the hearing. Once a Notice of a Complaint is sent, a hearing must be held within 10 business days, but not less than 5 business days. Election hearings must be held within 5 days, but not less than 2 days.
- A written syllabus must be delivered within 24 hours of a decision made by the Supreme Court but must be followed up with a written Opinion.

- A written opinion must be delivered within 10 business days after the hearing. For election complaints, this must be done within 5 days.
- Student Government, as a student organization, shall not endorse or support any campaign for office, but may promote voting days and election events in a non-biased manner, and the President may allocate funds for the non-biased promotion of said events.

## **10. Conclusion**

This document serves as an outline for the processes and procedures, violation of classifications, dates, interpretations, and advisory opinions for the 2026 Student Government Election. All candidates are reminded that a comprehensive list of rules and regulations can be found enshrined in the Student Government Election Code, found in the Student Government Code of Laws. The Supreme Court wants to ensure that each student is informed about the existence of this document.

**By reading this document, the Court holds that each candidate is aware of Article IV, Section H of the SGEC: “Ignorance of the Election Code will not be an acceptable defense in response to any offense committed in any election under this code; either by the candidates themselves, their managers, or the election regulatory bodies, as defined by this code.**