



UTEP STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

ELECTION CODE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

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ELECTION CODE
THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

ARTICLE I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Section 1. This Code may be referred to and cited as the “Student Government Association Election Code.”
- Section 2. This Code shall apply to all aspects of the electoral process for the Student Government Association, to include General and Special Elections.
- Section 3. As used throughout this Code, references to the singular shall be construed to include the plural.
- Section 4. This Code shall be effective immediately after its passage by the Student Government Association Senate, as stated in the Constitution, and shall remain effective until the next election code is put into effect.
- Section 5. Student Government Association Elections, including Special Elections, will be operated and governed following the regulations as stated in the Student Government Association Constitution, and the entirety of the Election Code.
- Section 6. This Code shall empower the Student Government Association Supreme Court to disqualify or sanction candidates for violations of the Student Government Association Election Code.

ARTICLE II – DEFINITIONS

- Section 1. Advisory Board: a board comprised of the Attorney General and two (2) individuals currently holding an elected or permanently appointed position within the SGA executive cabinet or Senate who are not running for re-election, with the exception of members of the Supreme Court. Failure to fill the Advisory Board spots with the above-mentioned positions will result in the selection of Legislative Assistants.
- Section 2. Banner: a sign hung from a structure, or between two buildings, structures, or poles.
- Section 3. Campaign/Campaigning: any statement, literature, object, or activity which may promote the victory or defeat of a candidate, constitutional amendment, or any other issue appearing on the ballot.
- a. Official Campaigning: the distribution of any physical or electronic material, including, but not limited to, posters, social media accounts, websites, signage, e-mails, etc., or any kind of material used to solicit votes or endorsements. This is to include official campaign speeches to Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) or the general student body.
 - b. Unofficial Campaigning: any statement that declares a candidate’s intent to run or form an Executive Alliance, either verbal or written.
- Section 4. Candidate: any student seeking to be elected to an office or position in Student Government Association.
- a. Formal Candidate: any candidate who has completed the filing process prior to the deadline set by the Supreme Court and whose name and/or alliance, if applicable, will appear on the ballot.

- b. Write-In Candidate: any candidate that did not complete the filing process prior to the deadline set by the Supreme Court and whose name will not appear in the ballot. The Supreme Court shall only track write-in candidates who have expressed their desire to run to the Supreme Court in writing prior to the Candidate Information Session(s).
- Section 5. Candidate Information Session(s): an informational session for the candidates conducted by the Supreme Court and Attorney General. Attendance at the Candidate Information Session(s) is mandatory for all formal candidates running in the election. Failure to attend at least one (1) Candidate Information Session will result in disqualification. A minimum of two (2) sessions shall be offered.
- Section 6. Debate/Town Hall: an event which involves appropriate impromptu topics and issues pertaining to the student body.
- Section 7. Electronic Material: any fact, information, statement, or idea which may promote the victory or defeat of a candidate used via website, social media, blog, etc.
- Section 8. Endorsements: any public declaration made by a person, group, or organization in support of any candidate or alliance.
- a. Formal Endorsements: any expressed written consent filled in and verified by the Supreme Court with an Endorsement Form.
- Section 9. Endorsement Form: the form used to formally endorse a candidate or alliance, which must be submitted on the final day of elections by 5 PM MST to the Supreme Court. See Appendix. Candidates must also submit proof to the Supreme Court that the endorsement was obtained during the campaign period.
- Section 10. Executive Alliance: a collaborative campaign plan or activity between a presidential and two (2) vice-presidential candidates.
- a. Only individuals filed as an Executive Alliance are allowed to collaborate, endorse, or otherwise share resources with each other.
- b. No other candidate is permitted to engage in written or verbal endorsement, collaboration, financial, or other tangible support for any other candidate(s) or their respective campaign staff in any campus-wide election; until or unless they are no longer a candidate.
- Section 11. Expenditures: any disbursement of currency or other valuable tangible or digital assets made by the candidate or agent(s), which includes direct expenditures.
- Section 12. Financial Summary Form: the form that lists the candidate's expenditures, which all candidates must submit on the final day of elections by 5 PM MST to the Supreme Court. Failure to submit a financial summary will result in a thirty percent (30%) sanction up to disqualification. See Appendix.
- Section 13. Flyer: any campaign material or literature on a printed sheet of paper that is 8.5"x11.5".
- Section 14. Handout: any campaign material or literature distributed to students, staff, and/or faculty of the University of Texas at El Paso that is smaller than 8.5"x11", including, but not limited to, handbills and leaflets. Any items meant for human consumption must be pre-packaged or individually wrapped.
- Section 15. Hearing: a proceeding conducted by the Supreme Court to resolve an election dispute.
- Section 16. Inappropriate Language: shall constitute language that includes, but is not limited to, vulgar discriminatory, racist, derogatory, sexist, slanderous and/or vile communication.
- Section 17. Independent Candidate: a formal candidate who is not affiliated with an Executive Alliance. All candidates running for Senator are deemed independent candidates.

- Section 18. Joint Financial Summary Form: the form used to document financial expenditures for Executive Alliances. Failure to submit said form will result in a thirty percent (30%) vote reduction for the alliance as a whole. See Appendix.
- Section 19. Lottery: the drawing of the order of the candidates on the voting ballot conducted during the second Candidate Information Session.
- Section 20. Personal Attack: negative campaigning against any individual, regardless of affiliation or status, in the form of an attack on that individual’s character, motives, personality, or background, rather than the substance of their record or platform.
- Section 21. Political Party: a coalition of two (2) or more candidates for Senator who have associated themselves with their campaign statements, literature, or activities. Political parties are prohibited and have been replaced by the Executive Alliance.
- Section 22. Sanction: a ruling or decision issued by the Supreme Court that is imposed on a candidate or alliance.
- Section 23. Senate: The Legislative branch of the Student Government Association.
- Section 24. Sign/Signage: any method of displaying a visual message to others.
- Section 25. Signature: a person’s name written in a distinctive way as form of identification to signify knowledge, approval, acceptance, or obligation.
- Section 26. Special Election: any election under special circumstances as deemed necessary by the Senate.
- Section 27. Student: any person whose name appears on the current registration lists of the Registrar of The University of Texas at El Paso.
- Section 28. Student Body: all registered students at The University of Texas at El Paso and those students under cooperative programs.
- Section 29. Supreme Court: the Student Government Association Supreme Court is responsible for interpreting and enforcing this Code, as constituted and empowered herein.
- Section 30. Supreme Court Appeal Form: the form submitted by a candidate or alliance to request that the Supreme Court reconsider its previous position regarding a sanction or penalty. See Appendix. Submission of this form acts as a formal request for judicial review; it does not guarantee a change, reduction, or reversal of the original penalty or sanction imposed.
- Section 31. Unsolicited Campaigning/Correspondence: communication which does not have clear prior consent of the individual that is being contacted. This is to include reusing group/alliance social media accounts, social media tagging, or its equivalent, and/or group electronic mail (e-mail)/“spamming”, or its equivalent. Campaign messages sent to Student Organization group chats must have prior approval from the highest-ranking officer in the organization.
- a. Belittling, repetitive, and/or threatening behavior directed at an individual is prohibited.
- Section 32. Verification: authentication of the election results containing personal identification of students performed by the University’s Information Technology Department along with the SGA Senior Coordinator and a minimum of one (1) Supreme Court Justice.
- Section 33. Violation Complaint Form: the form used to file a complaint against a candidate or alliance, which must be submitted to the Supreme Court Justices electronically no later than 5 PM MST on the final day of elections. See Appendix.
- Section 34. Vote Counting Process: the process through which the votes are received, tabulated, and from which the results are acquired.
- Section 35. Workers/Agents: any person who contributes time, effort, or services for the purpose of supporting and furthering a candidacy in coordination with said candidate or alliance.

Individuals who repost a candidate's or alliance's social media posts are not considered workers/agents.

- Section 36. Worker Filing Form: the form used to file candidate workers/agents, which must be submitted to the Supreme Court electronically no later than 5 PM MST on the day prior to the start of the election campaign. Failure to submit worker filing form(s) will result in a ten percent (10%) vote reduction. See Appendix.

ARTICLE III – SUPREME COURT AND ADVISORY BOARD

- Section 1. All elections governed by the Election Code shall be under the supervision and control of the Supreme Court appointed by the Student Government Association as outlined in Article VI of the SGA Constitution.
- Section 2. Supreme Court Justices must meet the qualifications and criteria as stated in this Election Code.
- Section 3. Upon being appointed to the Supreme Court by the Senate, the Justices will immediately assume the responsibility of supervising elections and enforcing the Election Code.
- Section 4. Any Supreme Court Justice may be impeached by a two-thirds (2/3) roll call vote of the Senate in regular or special session.
- Section 5. Following appointment to the Supreme Court, Justices must attend a mandatory training seminar before the Candidate Information Session(s).
- Section 6. A Supreme Court Justice must resign from their appointed position if they choose to run for office due to conflict of interest.
- Section 7. All members of the Supreme Court will manage and supervise both General and Special Elections. The Justices MAY NOT be involved with the campaigning of any candidate or alliance.
- Section 8. The Attorney General and two (2) individuals currently holding an elected or permanently appointed position within the SGA executive cabinet or Senate, with the exception of members of the Supreme Court, will comprise the Advisory Board. Failure to fill the Advisory Board spots with the above-mentioned positions will result in the selection of Legislative Assistants.
- a. Members of the Advisory Board shall be nominated and appointed by a simple majority (50%+1) roll-call vote by the Senate. If there are no elected or permanently appointed members of SGA available to fill the position(s), Legislative Assistants may be appointed subject to a simple majority (50%+1) roll-call vote by the Senate.
 - b. In the absence of the Attorney General, the Senate will nominate and appoint an elected member of SGA to serve on the Advisory Board.
 - c. The Advisory Board will have no voting power and will have an advisory relationship with the Supreme Court.
 - d. Members of the Advisory Board cannot be running for the elected position in question.
 - e. The Advisory Board will be overseen by the SGA Advisor.
- Section 9. Justices shall be responsible for General and Special Elections for the duration of their appointed term.
- Section 10. For the Supreme Court to conduct hearings and hold meetings, they must meet quorum with two-thirds (2/3) of the Court present.
- a. An odd number of Justices is required to avoid ties.

- Section 11. The Supreme Court shall meet a minimum of once per week during their term. Meeting times and dates will be decided in conjunction with the Advisory Board.
- Section 12. The Advisory Board shall be appointed by the Senate, by the first Senate session in February of the election year. In the case of a special election, they shall be appointed a month prior to the election.

ARTICLE IV – ELECTION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SUPREME COURT

- Section 1. The Supreme Court shall manage, supervise, and enforce all regulations relating to campaigning by candidates, alliances, and workers for the Student Government Association positions.
- Section 2. The Supreme Court shall verify and disseminate the results of the recorded votes through collaboration with the Advisory Board and SGA Advisor.
- Section 3. The Supreme Court, in the exercise of its power and duties under this Code, shall ensure the overall success of the elections. They shall clarify any, and all, regulations within this Code. Furthermore, the Supreme Court shall withhold the certification of results until challenges, if any, have been resolved. Sanctions by the Supreme Court shall be finalized no later than three (3) working days after the polls are closed.
- Section 4. The Supreme Court shall assess and execute remedies and sanctions as necessary.
- Section 5. The Supreme Court shall conduct a hearing for each valid complaint filed, as determined by the Supreme Court.
- Section 6. The Supreme Court shall make written rulings regarding election disputes.
- Section 7. The Supreme Court shall regulate the presentations to provide all candidates, for the same office or position, with a fair and equal opportunity to use the facilities.
- Section 8. For hearings and Court meetings, all decisions by the Supreme Court will be decided by a simple majority of those Justices present.
- Section 9. The Supreme Court, after consulting with the Advisory Board or SGA Advisor, may enforce rules and interpret regulations concerning any matter not specifically covered in the Code, to the extent that they are necessary and desirable in carrying out the success of the elections.
- Section 10. After the votes have been counted, the Supreme Court shall certify the results and post them within twenty-four (24) hours. In cases where there are election disputes, the Supreme Court will work with all applicable parties to reach mutual agreement on the certification and posting date. This list will include all candidates in all races, showing the number of votes received by each and the total number of votes cast in the race.
- Section 11. The list of certified results shall be posted at the Student Government Association office. The Supreme Court shall also submit a copy to the Prospector. A copy of the list shall be available upon request at the Student Government Association office.
- Section 12. In the event that a candidate files a complaint directly against the Supreme Court and its procedures, the Advisory Board shall hear the complaint.
 - a. The Advisory Board may receive and consider complaints concerning administrative or procedural matters related to the Supreme Court’s conduct. Any issues involving judicial determinations remain matters for the Supreme Court.
- Section 13. The Supreme Court reserves the right to disapprove any sign, handout, or other campaign literature, which is not in accordance with the University of Texas at El Paso policies.

ARTICLE V – FILING PROCEDURES AND ELIGIBILITY

- Section 1. The filing period shall run for ten (10) consecutive business days as determined by the Supreme Court. Each candidate is responsible for confirming that their filing information is correct at the Candidate Information Session(s).
- Section 2. Any candidate who fails to meet the following eligibility requirements by date of filing for election shall forfeit their position. Qualifications for candidates are as follows:
- a. A minimum of two (2) long semesters remaining for degree completion at the time of running for office.
 - b. Executive candidates who have applied to an off-campus program that is not located in El Paso, such as, but not limited to, internships, study abroad, and/or employment that would prevent them from fulfilling the previously mentioned requirements during either of the long semesters in which they plan to serve, are ineligible for office.
 1. Executive candidates who accept an out-of-town internship post-election must withdraw from office.
 - c. Undergraduate students must register for a minimum of twelve (12) undergraduate credit hours and complete no less than nine (9) undergraduate credit hours at UTEP in each long semester during their term in office. This stipulation shall not apply to graduating students as long as they comply with the preceding qualification.
 - d. Graduate students must be registered and complete a minimum of nine (9) graduate credit hours at UTEP in each long semester during their term in office. All graduate students who have completed their coursework requirements and have their thesis/dissertation work remaining, must be enrolled in at least three (3) credit hours; out of which three (3) credit hours should be towards the thesis/dissertation for the fall and spring long semesters.
 - e. All undergraduate students graduating from UTEP and continuing immediately as a graduate student during a single administrative year are exempt from the minimum undergraduate course load requirements upon becoming subject to the graduate course load requirements.
 - f. Student(s) must have a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 at UTEP by the date of filing.
 1. Candidates for and holders of the offices of President, Vice-President of Internal Affairs, and Vice-President of External Affairs must maintain a higher standard of a 3.0 cumulative grade point average at UTEP by the date of filing.
 - g. Students must not be on disciplinary or academic probation of any type either prior to or during the election.
 - h. No student(s) may run to serve as an elected official until their eligibility status has been checked by the SGA Senior Coordinator and the Office of Community Standards.
 - i. A student who has been impeached by the Student Government Association in a previous administration is ineligible for office.
 1. Any student who has previously resigned from an elected or appointed position within the SGA must have their eligibility for future office reviewed and affirmed by the Supreme Court before their candidacy is certified.
- Section 3. The Supreme Court shall provide all candidates with electronic copies of the Election Code, Constitution, and Bylaws prior to the Candidate Information Session(s). Each

candidate shall be entitled to all other pertinent materials at the time of filing. Each candidate shall be informed of the time and place of the Candidate Information Session(s).

- Section 4. To be formally recognized and operate as a bona fide Executive Alliance under this Code, the candidates comprising the alliance must complete and officially submit the Executive Alliance Filing Form to the Supreme Court. See Appendix.
- a. An alliance shall not be considered a bona fide Executive Alliance and therefore shall not be exempt from the prohibitions set forth in Article IX, until the Executive Alliance Filing Form has been officially accepted by the Supreme Court.
 - b. The Executive Alliance Filing Form must be submitted no later than 5 PM MST on the working day immediately preceding the second Candidate Information Session as set and determined by the Supreme Court. Submissions received after this time will not be processed, and the alliance will not be reflected on the ballot nor considered authorized.
 - c. Any association between candidates that does not have an officially accepted Executive Alliance Filing Form on record shall be treated as an unauthorized association and any shared support or resources exchanged between the candidates will constitute a violation of Article IX.
- Section 5. All persons campaigning as write-in candidates are governed by the provisions of the Election Code and the Supreme Court rulings. All write-in candidates must supply the Court with their full name, student ID, and a signed release of their student record information in order to verify eligibility no later than 5 PM MST on the final day of polling.
- a. If a write-in candidate fails to comply with the aforementioned requirements, they will not be recognized as a registered candidate and any votes received will not be counted towards them on the ballot.
- Section 6. The ballot positions of all qualified candidates in all elections shall be determined through a lottery that is to be held during the second Candidate Information Session.
- Section 7. Candidates must apply through the UTEP SGA MineTracker page.

ARTICLE VI – ELECTION PROCEDURES

- Section 1. The Election campaign shall be held for a period of four (4) consecutive working days, with voting occurring during the same time period. The start date shall be determined by the Supreme Court and Advisory Board.
- Section 2. There will be three (3) debates: one (1) Presidential and two (2) Vice-Presidential. The time, date, and location of the debate will be determined by the Advisory Board and Supreme Court. Debate structure will be described below.
- a. The candidates that debate each other must be running for the same position.
 - b. In the event that there are no opposing candidate(s), a town hall shall be held.
 - c. Write-in candidates will not be permitted to participate in the debates or town hall.
- Section 3. The structure of debates should be as follows:
- a. Maximum three (3) minutes for opening and closing statements.
 - b. Question types and numbers of questions are up to the Supreme Court and Advisory Board.

1. If the Court chooses to receive questions from both the student body and candidates, they shall be permitted to submit such questions. However, it is at the discretion of the Supreme Court to deny the use of said questions.
 2. The Supreme Court shall provide the candidates with a list of potential questions twenty-four (24) hours prior to the debate/town hall.
- c. The moderator shall ask a question to a specific candidate. After said candidate has answered the question, the floor will be open to the rest of the candidates to rebut or to question their opponent. The moderator shall decide when to move on to the next question.
- d. Time limits should be determined by the Supreme Court Justices. The Supreme Court shall allocate equal time for each section of the debate for all candidates.
- Section 4. In all elections covered in this Code, voting shall be by secret electronic ballot that will include the position to be elected, and the candidates' names. Each student shall be allowed one (1) vote for the President, one (1) vote for Vice-President of External Affairs, and one (1) vote for Vice-President of Internal Affairs; each student shall be allowed three (3) votes for the position of Senator consisting of: one (1) vote for a Collegiate Senator position of their college and two (2) votes for Senator At-Large positions.
- a. Candidates within an Executive Alliance will be voted on separately.
- Section 5. Only students who are currently enrolled shall be allowed to vote. In the event of an inability to submit votes, students should contact the Supreme Court.
- Section 6. A copy of the Financial Summary Form must be submitted for each candidate, along with all receipts on the final day of elections by 5 PM MST to the Supreme Court.
- Section 7. One (1) designated representative of each alliance or independent candidate may be present to observe vote verification.
- a. Candidates shall inform the Supreme Court in writing of their designated representative twenty-four (24) hours prior to the vote verification.
- b. Failure to do so forfeits their right to representation during the vote verification process.
- Section 8. The results shall be decided as follows:
- a. Collegiate Senator races are decided by the candidate who receives the most votes.
- b. Senator At-Large races are decided by the candidate(s) who receives the most votes.
- c. In the Presidential race and in each of the two (2) Vice-Presidential races, the winners are decided by the candidate who receives the most votes.
- Section 9. Any candidate desiring a re-verification must petition the Supreme Court in writing by 5 PM MST of the next working day following the announcement of the election results. The re-verification, if any, shall be conducted by the Supreme Court and the SGA Advisor in the presence of not more than one (1) representative for each candidate for the position in question, and must be completed within two (2) working days after the deadline request for verification.
- Section 10. In the event of a tie, the Supreme Court shall call for a Special Election within forty-eight (48) of the announcement of the results. The Supreme Court shall determine the date and the special campaign restrictions for the Special Election.
- Section 9. The SGA Senior Coordinator, in conjunction with the Attorney General, shall facilitate all administrative requirements for General and Special Elections, provided the Attorney General is not a candidate for any office within the same election cycle. This partnership shall be mandated to:

- a. Jointly organize and certify academic and disciplinary eligibility, all necessary candidacy forms, filing packets, and financial disclosure documents via MineTracker to ensure compliance with the SGA Election Code.
- b. Coordinate the strategic promotion of all election cycles, including the development and distribution of official advertisements, informational materials, and campus-wide notifications alongside the Advisory Board.
- c. Ensure that all administrative processes – from the initial filing period to the certification of results – adhere to institutional policies and the constitutional standards of the Student Government Association.

Section 11. The Supreme Court will be responsible for informing the student body of election results through, but not limited to, electronic communication no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the vote verification.

ARTICLE VII – CAMPAIGN RESTRICTIONS

Section 1. Any discrepancy of more than 10% on a candidate’s expenditures, as shown in the Financial Summary Form, or any discrepancy of more than 10% between the approved initial budget and the actual expenses, is in violation of this section and is sanctionable. Candidates must submit receipts with their Financial Summary Form.

Section 2. Campaign expenditures for all candidates will not exceed \$100. If an individual candidate is found to be in violation of this rule, the sanction will mirror the amount exceeded.

- a. Only candidates in an Executive Alliance shall be permitted to divide funds from their individual expenditures towards collective expenditures. All candidates must stipulate with whom they are dividing expenditures with.

Section 3. The maximum number of candidates that an Executive Alliance may register is three (3), which includes the President, Vice-President of Internal Affairs, and Vice-President of External Affairs.

- a. No candidates running for Senator may form a party/alliance of any kind.

Section 4. A minimum of two Candidate Information Session(s) shall be held prior to formal campaigning. The exact date and time of the beginning of the campaigning will be determined by the Supreme Court and Advisory Board. Attendance for at least one of the Candidate Information Sessions is mandatory for ALL students planning to run in the election, including write-in candidates.

- a. Failure to attend at least one (1) Candidate Information Session will result in disqualification.

Section 5. Candidates formally campaigning before the date and time selected by the Supreme Court are subject to disqualification. Unofficial campaigning, as defined in Article II, is permissible.

Section 6. All campaigning materials are subject to the rules of each building and their managers’ posting policies. Furthermore, all campaigning materials shall be in accordance with University regulations.

Section 7. Campaign speeches or demonstrations by any candidate will be permitted in classrooms of the University during class sessions only with the professor’s permission. Public campaign speeches or demonstrations by any candidate will be permitted in Centennial Plaza, Leech Grove, or other outdoor spaces available for use.

- a. Candidates seeking to utilize outdoor spaces for campaign activities shall consult the Student Engagement & Leadership Center (SELC) to ensure compliance with university reservation protocols and space-utilization policies.
- Section 8. Campaigning by individuals or alliances can be done digitally or virtually in the form of web pages and/or social media, as well as the use of television, radio, cell phones, text messaging services, and newspapers. Unsolicited campaign messages or unsolicited correspondence is strictly prohibited, as determined by the Supreme Court.
- Section 9. Campaigning inside of University-operated computer labs is strictly prohibited. While candidates are allowed to use computer labs, campaigning in the computer labs that is presented in violation reports may be subject to sanctions by the Supreme Court.
- Section 10. Negative campaigning against any other individual, regardless of affiliation or status, in the form of a personal attack or harassment, will not be tolerated and will be subject to disqualification. Public challenges and oppositions to an individual's or an alliance's ideas, platforms, prior SGA history, or positions are allowable.
- Section 11. No campaign material may mark, deface, or permanently alter any University property. Any damage accrued to University property will result in ten (10) percent sanction. Candidates will also be responsible for any financial liability resulting from their campaign materials and activities. The Supreme Court may withhold the distribution or posting of any sign or handout which it finds to be in violation of this Election Code.
- a. The use of stickers, nails, and stakes are prohibited.
 - b. No campaign material may be posted in such a way that it damages personal vehicles or personal property.
 - c. Any use of the University mascot, logo (pick), any University department seal, and department names may not be used in any campaign material.
 - d. Use of UTEP Orange, UTEP Blue, and UTEP Silver are prohibited by this Code. Any other combination of orange and blue are allowed. For more information, consult the UTEP Visual Brand Guide.
 - e. The use of individual college names, reference to "The Student Government Association" or "SGA", the use of "The University of Texas at El Paso" or "UTEP", and the use of my.utep.edu may be used in campaign material.
 - f. No campaign material may interfere with the flow of traffic on or off campus.
- Section 12. Any use of sound-amplifying equipment and/or audio/visual equipment must conform to University regulations.
- Section 13. No candidate or candidate worker shall remove, obscure, or damage any sign or electronic material, which is already in place, unless it is their own. This includes, but is not limited to, attaching campaign material to, drawing on, cutting the material of another candidate or alliance, or altering any electronic campaign material.
- Section 14. Candidates shall be allowed flyers totaling no more than fifteen (15) printed sheets of paper, not exceeding 8.5"x11", per individual.
- a. Executive Alliances are permitted a total of fifteen (15) printed sheets between all three (3) candidates.
- Section 15. Candidates shall be allowed no more than one hundred (100) handouts per individual. These handouts cannot exceed 8.5"x5.5". Candidates shall be permitted one (1) flyer per endorsement. Any expenditure needed for endorsement flyers shall come from the candidate(s) budget.
- a. No candidate shall claim the endorsement of any person, group, or organization without their expressed written or electronic consent, which must be filed with and verified by the Supreme Court with an Endorsement Form. These individuals and

organizations are strictly limited to UTEP Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) and UTEP students.

- Section 16. Campaigning inside the Library building is strictly prohibited.
- Section 17. The use of outdoor space for tabling or any other campaign event is subject to approval as stated by university policy. If an individual or alliance wishes to table, they must do so through the current SGA administration with a minimum of two weeks' notice so the SGA administration may follow proper SELC (Student Engagement and Leadership Center) protocol for reservations. The individual must submit a Reservation Form for this process to commence. This option is listed on the UTEP SGA MineTracker page.
- Section 18. Any registered student shall have the power to bring a complaint to the Supreme Court about any campaign material which they believe is posted in violation of the Election Code.
- Section 19. The candidates must remove all campaign signs on university property within forty-eight (48) hours after the polls close.
- Section 20. When disputes arise among candidates, they are encouraged to negotiate, in good faith, in an attempt to reach a settlement consistent with the Code and the Court's rulings. If the dispute is not resolved between the candidates, the situation can be escalated to the Supreme Court for a hearing.
- Section 21. It shall be the responsibility of all candidates prior to campaigning to become familiar with the provision of the Election Code and to see that their workers and endorsers understand and abide by them.
- Section 22. ABSOLUTELY no campaigning or campaign planning will be allowed in the UTEP SGA office.
- Section 23. All workers must be registered with the Supreme Court through the submission of a Worker Filing Form on the day prior to the start of the election campaign by 5 PM MST.
- Section 24. All candidates must adhere to the Election Code, SGA Bylaws, Supreme Court rulings, the Constitution of the Student Government Association of The University of Texas at El Paso, and all University Regulations.
- Section 25. All types of donations presented to any candidate and/or Executive Alliance are strictly prohibited, regardless of their origin or value.

ARTICLE VIII – BANNERS

- Section 1. Regulations for banners posted within exterior spaces of the Union Building.
- a. Five to seven (5-7) spaces on the Union Building East overhang in the South Plaza facing the Union Building West.
 - b. Three (3) spaces on the Union Building West overhang in the South Plaza facing the Union Building East.
 - c. Five to seven (5-7) spaces on the Union Building East overhang in the North Plaza facing the Union Building West.
 - d. Four to five (4-5) spaces on the Union Building West overhang in the North Plaza facing the Union Building East.
 - e. Banners may not be placed on the railing along University Avenue in front of the Union Building facing the Liberal Arts Building due to landscaping.
- Section 2. Regulations for banners posted within interior spaces of the Union Building.
- a. Six to eight (6-8) spaces in the Union Building East 3rd floor overhanging into the lounge area of the 2nd floor.

- b. Other indoor spaces will be determined and considered for approval by the Union Services Office.
- Section 3. Banners cannot be secured with duct tape, stripping tape, packing tape, or any other form of tape. Banners can ONLY be hung with rope.
- Section 4. If a banner is in a foreign language, there must be an English translation accompanying the banner.
- Section 5. Banners must be removed by the candidates after the day of the event or approval time has expired, whichever comes first.
- Section 6. Candidates are responsible for adhering to University policies regarding the Union, which can be found at www.utep.edu/union.
- Section 7. Regulations for signage posted on buildings other than the Union Building:
 - a. The authorization and policies concerning campaigning, or placement of campaign literature can be obtained from the Dean of Students, for all other areas please contact the building's manager.
 - b. With the exception of signs belonging to candidates running for Collegiate Senators, who have the approval of college departments, signs may not be placed on departmental bulletin boards. Placement of signs must comply with the particular college of department's policies.
 - c. Signs shall not be affixed to public billboards, such as the Office of Special Events and/or Magoffin Auditorium marquees. This regulation is not limited to just these marquees.
- Section 8. Each candidate shall be allowed one (1) banner that is no larger than 3x5 ft.

ARTICLE IX – EXECUTIVE ALLIANCES AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

- Section 1. Three eligible students, one (1) seeking the office of the President and two (2) the office of Vice-President, may create an Executive Alliance. Only candidates that have jointly filed under this Code as an Executive Alliance are allowed to participate in campaigning together, endorse each other, and otherwise engage in joint, collaborative campaigning planning or activities.
 - a. All non-Executive Alliance candidates in the election must campaign separately, without written or verbal endorsements, collaboration, financial or other tangible support from any fellow candidate in any General or Special Election.
 - b. The use of any colors, symbols, or names associated with a prohibited political party, slate, or faction is strictly prohibited.
- Section 2. A candidate is prohibited from contributing financially or providing any other form of tangible support to another candidate, unless and until such time as one or both cease to be a candidate, or except in cases of a bona fide Executive Alliance as provided for within this Code.
 - a. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, the donation or sharing of campaign materials, campaign funds, campaign organization resources (including personnel), and the joint solicitation of votes between candidates who are not members of a bona fide Executive Alliance.
- Section 3. Any candidate determined to be in violation of this rule shall be subject to the sanctions provided within this Code, up to and including disqualification.
- Section 4. For access to all official deadlines, application forms, filing procedures, and current contact information, candidates shall refer to the UTEP SGA MineTracker page.

ARTICLE X – FILING VIOLATIONS

- Section 1. Any registered UTEP student or staff member may file an Election Violation Complaint Form alleging that a candidate has violated the election regulations provided within this Code.
- Section 2. All forms must be made available in the SGA office and/or the SGA website.
- Section 3. The signed Election Violation Complaint Form must detail as much information about the alleged violation as possible, including the date, time, and location of the violation. All other witnesses may remain anonymous until the hearing.
- Section 4. The Election Violation Complaint Form must be submitted only to the SGA Attorney General prior to the end of voting.
- Section 5. The Supreme Court shall call for a hearing on each violation complaint form submitted unless they deem it is unnecessary.

ARTICLE XI – ELECTION HEARING PROCEDURES

- Section 1. Both the petitioner and respondent may assign a representative to act on their behalf.
- Section 2. The Supreme Court shall conduct hearings on complaints within forty-eight (48) hours of the filing of the Violation Complaint Form. All rescheduling should be within the given window.
 - a. No hearings will be conducted on the weekends and/or university-approved holidays. Hearings should be scheduled by the Court at the next possible availability in such situations.
 - b. The Court must be notified of any rescheduling request at least six (6) hours before the originally scheduled meeting time. If a party requests to reschedule the hearing after this window, it will not be granted.
- Section 3. All parties to the case must be notified by the Supreme Court at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the hearing by phone and email. Additionally, the respondent shall be provided with a copy of the filed Election Violation Complaint Form within the same notification. If proper notification is not given, charges will be dismissed.
- Section 4. The Supreme Court shall hear all complaints filed using the Election Violation Complaint Form. All parties must abide by the hearing procedures outlined in the Supreme Court Procedures.
- Section 5. All parties, including witnesses, must appear before the Supreme Court at the scheduled hearing time. If an individual fails to appear, either party to the hearing may petition the Supreme Court for sanctions against the individual at the time of the hearing.
- Section 6. The Supreme Court will base its decision solely on the evidence presented at the hearing.
- Section 7. The verdict shall be made by a simple majority vote by the Supreme Court.
- Section 8. All hearings shall be open to the public; however, deliberations shall be open only to the members of the Supreme Court, or any individual(s) deemed suitable by the Supreme Court and the Advisory Board.
- Section 9. If a candidate or alliance is found to have violated the Election Code, the Supreme Court may impose any appropriate sanction, up to and including disqualification.

- Section 10. The decision of the Supreme Court shall be prepared in writing and published within three (3) hours of the conclusion of the hearing.
- Section 11. Any dissenting opinion may be published with the decision of the Supreme Court but shall not be binding.
- Section 12. In matters where the Supreme Court has jurisdiction to determine a matter, the Court's decisions, opinions, and orders are the final authority on the matter; however, a party may file a motion to reconsider any decision, opinion, or order rendered by the Court within twenty-four (24) hours of the publication of the verdict.
- Section 13. Before voting officially begins, the Supreme Court will set vote deduction percentages for candidate(s) who violate the Election Code. These sanctions will be listed and submitted to the Advisory Board. If a candidate is found guilty after campaigning ends, and no other penalties are practical, the predetermined vote deductions will be applied. The Supreme Court has full authority to modify sanctions that have been submitted through the appeal process.
- a. The Supreme Court shall inform the student body of election results via electronic communication, and any other means deemed appropriate, no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the Verification by Candidate's Representatives, provided no sanctions have been filed or all verdicts have been issued.
- Section 14. The Court will decide whether the hearing will be in-person or online based on the circumstances. If the date, time, or setting are modified, all parties involved must be notified no less than six (6) hours before the original hearing time. The Supreme Court is responsible for notifying all parties.