

I. Forward

Every member of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Community, involved in campaigning, is responsible for having a working knowledge of all pertinent rules that apply to the Referendum elections.

II. Definitions

The following shall be the definitions of some of the key terms used throughout the present document unless noted otherwise:

- a. **Campaigning:** Any action and/or event, organized by the Sponsors, in support of the Referenda.
- b. **Campaign Material:** Any physical or electronic material used for the purpose of supporting the Referenda including, but not limited to, flyers, posters, signs, electronic mail, and clothing— otherwise known as “UTRGV swag” — and/or any other free item.
- c. **Elections Committee:** A Committee formed and chaired by the SGA Chief Justice, created to serve in any elections-related affairs and serve all duties listed in section III of this document.
- d. **Member(s) of the UTRGV Community:** All students, faculty, and staff of the University.
- e. **Polling Location:** An area, specifically designated by the Elections Committee, for the purpose of collecting votes.
- f. **Promoting:** Any action in support of the Referenda involving the interaction between two or more individuals— with at least one of them being a supporter of the Referenda— resulting in the exchange of a conversation or campaign materials.
- g. **Referenda/Referendum:** A campus-wide student vote administered through designated university channels for the purpose of recommending approval of proposal(s) related to official UTRGV business, which may be initiated by student(s) or department(s) or the UTRGV president.
- h. **Sponsor(s) of the Referenda:** A UTRGV community-based unit who will conduct research, submit a proposal, and educate stakeholders throughout the referendum process.
- i. **Unauthorized Polling Location:** Any polling area not specifically designated by the Elections Committee.
- j. **UTRGV Member:** Any Student, Faculty and Staff of the University.

III. Elections Committee

- a. The Elections Committee shall:
 1. Follow the Procedures for Conducting the Student Referenda.

2. Maintain an unbiased opinion from the moment the Elections Committee is created until the election's time frame has ended.
 - i. None of the Members of the Elections Committee shall be allowed to promote nor campaign, in favor nor against, the proposed Referenda.

IV. Campaigning and Advertising

- a. Campaigning shall adhere to the [Handbook of Operating Procedures \(Facility Use ADM 10-301\)](https://www.utrgv.edu/hop/policies/adm-10-301.pdf), [Solicitation ADM 10-104](https://www.utrgv.edu/hop/policies/adm-10-104.pdf), [ADM 02-300 Speech, Expression, and Assembly](https://www.utrgv.edu/hop/policies/adm-10-104.pdf), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and all applicable [UT Regents Rules and Regulations](#).
- b. Disruptive Activity
 - i. Noise levels must be kept at appropriate levels. Campaigning cannot disrupt any academic or registered campus event with loud music or noise.
 - ii. Campaigning may not interrupt the flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic or interfere with academic sessions.

V. Campus Computer Labs / Stations / Solicitation of Votes

- a. No soliciting may occur within 25 feet from any campus computer lab or station.
- b. Distributing campaign material or literature is allowed within any university building. Individuals must abide by letter (a) under section IV.
- c. Individuals cannot publicly solicit students to submit their vote on an electronic device in their possession.

VI. Violation and Enforcement of Rules

- a. The Elections Committee is responsible for addressing campaigning violations
- b. Election complaints must be submitted on the Student Government Association Elections V Link page. Complaints may be filed until three (3) class days after online voting has concluded.
- c. The Elections Committee cannot address violations that are not within scope of the committee's authority and may defer to the Dean of Students.
- d. All official election complaints will be reviewed by the SGA Judicial Branch in accordance with the SGA's Constitution and By-laws.

VII. Voting

- c. All currently enrolled students are eligible to vote.
- d. Ballots will be sent via e-mail to individual students.

VIII. Polling Locations

- e. The date, time and location of polling locations will be determined by the Elections Committee.
- f. Poll workers are responsible for reporting violations of the Election Guidelines to the Elections Committee.
- g. Poll workers cannot influence voting.
- h. Sponsors cannot serve as poll workers.
- i. Polling locations cannot be left unattended

Elections Committee Chair

- Samantha Lara, SGA Chief Justice- sgachiefjustice@utrgv.edu

Election Guidelines are subject to review and edit by the Elections Committee. For additional information, please contact the SGA Chief Justice at sgachiefjustice@utrgv.edu.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you have a documented disability and would like to receive an accommodation, please inform the Elections Committee Chair and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodation requests must be submitted to the **Student Accessibility Services in accordance with university policy ADM 03-200 section E.**

2. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in BMSLC 1.107 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via e-mail at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg**

Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 EUCTR and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via e-mail at ability@utrgv.edu. The following is a link to the appropriate UTRGV policy <http://www.utrgv.edu/hop/policies/adm-03-200.pdf>.

Election Guidelines approved by Rebecca Gadson, Dean of Students on 10/21/21.