



# EXECUTIVE BRANCH

## ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION

*Jorge Altuna*

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[studentgovernment.ucf.edu](http://studentgovernment.ucf.edu)

**To:** Andrew Collazo Borges, Assistant Supervisor of Elections  
Amarah Presley, Supervisor of Elections

**CC:** Luci Blanco, Student Body President  
Jarib Benitez, Student Body Vice President  
Kirsten Courts, Speaker of the Senate  
Jason Hameed, Senate President Pro Tempore  
Bella Pazera, Chief Justice  
Collin Hoffner, Internal Assistant Chief Justice  
Victoria Marie Villadarez, External Assistant Chief Justice  
Anna Reed, External Legislative Assistant  
Grace Rudie, Internal Legislative Assistant  
Ryan Kaufman, Deputy Pro Tempore of Legislative Affairs  
James Kapinos, Deputy Pro Tempore of Senate Relations  
Zachary Gaudio, Legislative, Judicial, and Rules Committee Chair  
Owen Sherman, Conference, Registration, and Travel Committee Chair  
Niklas Luecht, Financial Allocations for Organizations Committee Chair  
Samuel Rose, Operations Review & Sanctions Committee Chair  
Nghi Chau, Elections and Appointments Committee Chair  
Juan Varela, Government Affairs and Policy Committee Chair  
Mila Teodorescu, Student Body Advocacy Committee Chair  
Jordan Lipner, Caucus Leadership Committee Chair

**From:** Jorge Altuna, Attorney General and Judicial Advisor

**Subject:** Opinion on the Use of Poll Volunteers

**Date:** September 18, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 PM EST

### I. Foreword

I, Jorge Altuna, the Student Government Attorney General, in accordance with the Student Body Constitution, Statutes, and Senate Rules, hereby issue the following opinion:

For the reasons detailed below, it is the opinion of this Office that the Election Commission may recruit volunteers at polling locations to help with supplementary tasks, provided that these volunteers agree to remain non-partisan and under the direct supervision of the Election Commission. Nevertheless, the volunteer's role must be limited to supportive tasks, and they must not exercise any authority reserved for the Commissioners by statute. All volunteer involvement must conform to statutory mandates from the Student Body Senate.



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## II. Question Presented

This opinion is issued in response to an inquiry from the Assistant Supervisor of Elections, Andrew Collazo Borges. The question presented: Is the Election Commission able to utilize poll volunteers to assist in the management of polling stations? If so, what statutory or procedural parameters govern their role and responsibilities?

## III. Background and Statutory Framework

Under Title VI, the Election Commission is composed of appointed and confirmed student officers charged with conducting Student Government elections. The Statutes specify the Commission's duties in detail (Title VI, Chapter 601). Statutorily, Commissioners must fulfill duties such as establishing polling places, arranging necessary materials, enforcing campaign rules, and ensuring impartial elections.

Moreover, the Statutes implicitly recognize that running an election is labor-intensive. Therefore, Commissioners are required to:

### 604.3 Election Times

*F. Shall work a minimum of ten (10) hours during the week in which the Declaration of Candidacy Period occurs and the following week. Election Commissioners shall also work a minimum of ten (10) hours per week during the week in which voting takes place.*

In practice, Title VI does not explicitly mention poll volunteers or poll workers who are not Election Commission members. There is neither a prohibition against using volunteers nor a framework provided for their use. The Election Statutes were written principally with the Election Commissioners themselves in mind as the administrators of the polls. However, nothing in Title VI affirmatively forbids the Commission from recruiting neutral assistants to help carry out the "proper, efficient, impartial, and legal completion of the elections". In the absence of explicit statutory guidance, any use of volunteers must be carefully managed to remain within the bounds of the Commission's authority and the spirit of the Title VI.



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For instance, all Election Commissioners are bound to strict neutrality, since Title VI, §601.4(A) forbids Commissioners from being actively identified with any candidate. Similarly, any volunteer enlisted to assist with polling must also be willing to sign a statement of neutrality, as they cannot be campaigning for any candidate or otherwise be biased. Allowing a partisan individual to volunteer at a polling place would violate the impartiality requirement and could constitute an unfair advantage or even grounds for an election contest (if, for example, a volunteer attempted to influence voters while appearing to act in an official capacity).

Therefore, the Election Commission retains full responsibility for the conduct of the election. Delegating certain supplementary tasks to volunteers does not relieve the Commission of this responsibility. Volunteers must operate under the direct oversight of the Commission. This principle is reinforced by Title VI, §601.4(R), which states that the Supervisor of Elections (and by extension the Commission) “shall not specify rules or procedures in addition to the Election Statutes or the Election Rules of Procedure, unless the Senate has approved them by majority vote.” In other words, the Commission cannot unilaterally create a new class of election officials with independent authority unless they are authorized by the Student Body Senate. Importantly, volunteers cannot be given any role that would amount to creating a new procedure or policy, as they are helpers, not Student Government agents, and impartial, independent adjudicators like the Election Commission.

Additionally, the Commission has Election Rules of Procedure, which are an internal set of guidelines for running elections, approved by the Student Senate. As of this opinion, there is no indication of a detailed volunteer program. However, any change to formally integrate volunteers (such as training them or assigning specific duties) might warrant an update, subject to Senate approval, to legitimize and standardize poll volunteers. In state and federal elections, it is common to have poll workers or volunteers supervised by election officials assisting at polling places. However, this addition would require the approval of the Student Body Senate.

### IV. Analysis

It is the opinion of this Office that the Election Commission may utilize poll volunteers in a limited, supportive capacity. The absence of an explicit statutory provision does not mean volunteers are prohibited; rather, the Commission has reasonable flexibility to organize the logistics of polling as long as it does not conflict with any statute. Volunteers can enhance efficiency by providing help and engaging students.



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However, the Commission's ability to recruit poll volunteers is conditional on strict adherence to the Student Body Statutes, neutrality, impartiality, and oversight by the Supervisor of Elections. Any volunteer assisting at a poll must be neutral. The Commission should only accept volunteers who are willing to affirm in writing that they have no stake in the election outcome and will not engage in any campaign activities during the election period.

Additionally, volunteers must not have decision-making power. For example, volunteers may assist with tasks such as setting up limited equipment, directing students to the correct area, reminding voters of the rules, and keeping the area organized. What volunteers should not do is adjudicate violations, determine voter eligibility, handle official ballots or voting software, or in any way substitute the judgment of an Election Commissioner. All enforcement actions should also be referred to an Election Commissioner on duty.

Consequently, the Election Commission cannot delegate any of its statutory duties to volunteers. The Commission is solely empowered to enforce election rules and run the voting process. Volunteers are an extension of the Commission's capacity, not a replacement. For instance, if a violation occurs at a polling site, a volunteer can alert the on-site Commissioner or the Supervisor; however, the Commission as a whole must deliberate and act on the violation in accordance with the procedures outlined in Title VI. Similarly, the closing of polls and certification of results are core Commission duties that volunteers should not participate in, except perhaps as observers or assisting with physical tasks.

The Commission should seek authorization from the Elections & Appointments Committee or the Student Body Senate, acknowledging that volunteer poll workers may be used under Commission's supervision.

## V. Recommendations

As mentioned, since the Statutes do not explicitly define volunteers, the Election Commission should seek approval from the Student Body Senate. First, the Commission must ensure that any procedures involving volunteers do not conflict with existing statutes or formally adopted rules. Title VI, §601.4(R) forbids adding new procedures without Senate approval. While using volunteers in itself is arguably an operational choice rather than a new rule of procedure, the Commission should be cautious.



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To ensure the proper statutory use of poll volunteers, this Office recommends the following actions to the Elections & Appointments Committee and the Election Commission:

The Student Body Senate should consider changing Title VI to provide clear guidance on this issue. If the Student Body Senate concurs, this will provide direction to the Supervisor of Elections when recruiting neutral and impartial poll volunteers to assist with election administration. The Election Commission and the Elections and Appointments Committee should draft a document that outlines the guidelines for Poll volunteers. Here, the Commission should specify volunteer duties, prohibited actions, and the requirement of impartiality, confidentiality, and neutrality. This document can be used as a training tool and as a written acknowledgment that each volunteer signs and agrees to prior to helping the Commission. As a best practice, the Commission should also ensure that at no point is a volunteer left to run a polling station alone. At least one Election Commissioner or the Supervisor/Assistant Supervisor should be physically present with any volunteers at a polling location. This allows the Commission to maintain oversight and reassures voters that an appointed and confirmed member of the Commission is always available to address any substantive issues.

## VI. Conclusion

Yes, the Election Commission may employ poll volunteers to assist in managing polling stations. These volunteers must be neutral parties and operate strictly under the supervision and direction of the Election Commission. There is no explicit statutory prohibition on utilizing additional help, and doing so can help the Commission in carrying out smooth and fair elections. However, the Election Commission is statutorily bound to the Student Body Senate's mandate. Importantly, these volunteers must function as extensions of the Commission, not independent election officials. They cannot take on any decision-making roles or tasks that involve exercising judgment on compliance issues, those responsibilities remain with the Election Commissioners and the Supervisor of Elections.

Issued with due consideration and in service to the Constitution,

Jorge Altuna  
Attorney General & Judicial Advisor  
University of Central Florida Student Government



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### VII. References

University of Central Florida. (2025). UCF Student Body Constitution. University of Central Florida Student Government. Retrieved from <https://studentgovernment.ucf.edu>

University of Central Florida. (2025). UCF Student Body Statutes. University of Central Florida Student Government. Retrieved from <https://studentgovernment.ucf.edu>