



EXECUTIVE BRANCH

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION

Jorge Altuna

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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 Timing of Election Results Announcement

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's only hard deadline for releasing results is 12:00 p.m. on the day following the election, as mandated by statute. Thus, the past practice of announcing results within roughly two hours of poll closure is a tradition rather than a statutorily required timeframe. That tradition, while commendable for promoting timely results and transparency, does not override the clear statutory language that allows the Commission additional time.



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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: While in prior years, Election Results have been announced within two hours of the close of polls on the Final Election Day, what is the latest permissible time for the Commission to announce results?

III. Background and Statutory Framework

Title VI of the Student Body Statutes establishes the rules and timelines for Student Government elections. Specifically, according to Title VI, regular general elections are held over multiple days, with voting typically commencing Monday and concluding at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday of the election week. Once voting has concluded, the Election Commission must wait until UCF IT has finalized tabulating results. Afterwards, the Student Government Advisor and the Supervisor of Elections must certify the results before publicizing them.

Moreover, Title VI establishes a specific deadline by which the election results must be published. The statutes dictate that the Supervisor of Elections:

601.2 Duties of the Supervisor of Elections:

B. Shall post on a Student Government sponsored website and ensure the publication of all election results no later than 12:00 p.m. on the afternoon following each election.

Therefore, this statutory deadline is the supreme authority governing result announcements, as it is grounded in the Student Body Statutes. For context, prior Commissions have traditionally announced the preliminary election results on Wednesday evening, often roughly within two hours of polls closing. This quick turnaround has become an expected norm in recent years, due to the efficiency of electronic voting and the Commission's commitment to transparency. However, it is important to note that the only explicit timing requirement in the governing documents is "no later than 12:00 p.m. the next day." Past practices, no matter how consistent, do not equate to governing authority unless it has been formally adopted into the statutes or Constitution.



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IV. Analysis

Clearly, the latest permissible time for the Commission to announce election results is dictated by the statute's clear deadline of 12:00 p.m. on the day after the election. The statutory language in Title VI §601.2(B) is unambiguous: the Supervisor of Elections "shall post ... all election results no later than 12:00 p.m. on the afternoon following each election." This provides a clear timeframe by which results must be made public. It should also be emphasized that nothing in our governing documents prevents the Commission from announcing results earlier than the deadline. In fact, earlier announcements are aligned with the spirit of open and prompt government. The statutory deadline is effectively a latest-possible cutoff, not an optimal target. **The ideal scenario is for the Commission to continue the practice of announcing results as soon as possible, with urgency, on election night once the votes have been tabulated and certified.** The key point is that if, for any legitimate reason, the announcement happens to take longer than the customary two hours, this does not constitute a breach of the rules as long as the results are published by the deadline.

V. Conclusion

For the reasons discussed, it is the opinion of this Office that the latest permissible time for announcing Student Government election results is 12:00 p.m. on the day after the election, as explicitly mandated by Title VI. The long-standing practice of announcing results within approximately two hours of polls closing on the final election day is a matter of tradition and efficiency, not a binding deadline.

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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VI. 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>