*Advisory Opinion of the Indiana University Student Government Election Commission*

Received Request: 03.18.19

Issued: 03.18.19

*Hello,*

*We are wondering if tee shirts that are more than $2 per piece can be given out to students if they are NOT given while tabling. There are some civic leaders requesting we provide them shirts for them to wear at the Civics debate tonight. We assume we can give shirts to anyone formally affiliated with the campaign (in a GroupMe). Is that true? Can we give shirts to others who are not in a campaign GroupMe but who want one tonight (i.e not being handing out during election days or at a tabling event)?*

*Thanks and sorry for the short notice,*

*Vision*

*Most students who would be getting a shirt will be in a GroupMe when they have a shirt. Most of the students receiving shirts have been a part of our campaign since the beginning- before officially applying.*

*The second group of students learned about the campaign from their friends and came to our launch party/in the GroupMe/were planning on talking to us tonight to be added to the GroupMe. These students have told us/their friends that they intend on being involved in executive committees or congress if they are able.*

The Election Commission refers to Section 601 of the Election Code listed below:

Section 601: Voter Fraud. Voter fraud shall be defined as, but not limited to, any act that prevents a voter from casting a vote in any IUSG Election, any act that attempts to remove a voter’s right to cast a vote for himself or herself, any act that attempts to purchase the ability to vote for a voter, or any act in which anyone attempts to cast a vote for another voter without their expressed consent. Examples of voter fraud include, but are not limited to, the following: ● **Intimidating a voter or offering a voter any amount of money or services in exchange for a vote. Goods given to voters after a vote must be below two dollars ($2.00) in value (stickers, candy, pens, etc. are acceptable). The Election Commission has full discretion to rule on this matter, so written notification seeking the Election Commission’s permission is encouraged**. ● Preventing a voter from casting a vote or preventing a voter from casting a vote for the candidate they desire. ● Changing a vote once it has been cast or using false information to cast a vote. ● Pressuring a voter to vote one way or another while they are in the immediate process of voting. ● Providing technology of any sort to a voter through personal solicitation – essentially serving as a polling station.

The Election Commission has determined that students intending to join Group Me for the campaign are de facto part of the campaign. Students already in the Group Me for the campaign are also considered a part of the campaign. Students who are already members of the campaign or intend on joining the campaign can receive a t-shirt. However, general students not intending to participate in the campaign either during the election or once elected should not receive a t-shirt. The t-shirts should also not be given out while tabling, as general students would have access to them.

Signed,

Hannah Eaton, Chair

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