

CUSA^X elections

Notice of Decision from the Chief Returning Officer – 2025 General Election - Complaint #2

Details of Complaint: Between February 6 and 7, 2025 the CRO received numerous complaints from electors alleging that Presidential candidate Chas Nuhn committed a violation of S. 101 of the Electoral Code by bribing voters with candy while participating in candidate tabling.

Findings of Investigation: The CRO investigated the complaint, and learned that the complaints surrounded an issue the CRO had already been made aware of and had issued a ruling on during the previous week.

As per the Campaign Guidelines, candidates were given the opportunity to sign up for candidate tabling from 9am - 4pm for five days from Monday, January 27th - Friday, January 31st in the Nideyinan Galleria. The candidate in question participated in this tabling and had on his table 5 jars of various candies. The purpose of this was to create a guessing game, where students could come up to talk to the candidate and then choose to write a guess for how many individual candies were in one of the jars. On January 29th, the third day of tabling, the CRO was contacted by an individual with an inquiry (not a complaint) into whether this was permissible because they were concerned it was bribery.

The CRO, in considering the context of the circumstances, responded that they were comfortable with such an activity because it presented itself as a harmless, fun game - and candidates were encouraged to be innovative in finding ways to engage with voters. Furthermore, the activity did not present itself as bribery in any way because nothing was being received or promised in exchange for placing a guess.

The CRO confirmed with the candidate what the parameters of the game were and learned that any student was eligible to come up and make a guess, and winners were selected based on which guess was closest to the correct number for each respective jar. Participants were not required or asked to commit to voting for the candidate.

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Analysis and Conclusion: Based on the context that this was a harmless guessing game, utilized as a fun way to engage with voters, the CRO found that no wrongdoing occurred in the matter and that nothing presented itself as a form of bribery. Some complainants argued that this behaviour was no different than the wrongdoing that was found in *Notice of Decision - 2025 General Election #1*. However, the facts and circumstances of the cases are very different. In the 1st decision notice, a candidate's campaign was found to be giving chocolates to students who had or were voting for the candidate in question, during the voting period. In this situation, no candy was being given away (other than to eventual winners - who would not have known at the time if they were going to be successful or not) and there was not an implication of being rewarded for voting for the candidate. It was further observed that no reasonable person would conclude that they were being bribed by the candidate for participating in the guessing game.

Decision: For the reasons outlined above, the CRO does not find any electoral offence and the complaints are dismissed.

Issued: February 12, 2025 by: