

Here's how *The Ubyyssey* covers elections

By News Editors Zak Vescera & Alex Nguyen



Congratulations on your candidacy! We're *The Ubyyssey*, your school paper since 1918. We'll in touch a lot. We know this might be your first time appearing in media, so we've prepared an explainer on how we cover campaigns. This shouldn't be **interpreted as political or legal advice**, but we hope it's useful.

Who are we?

The Ubyyssey is the only outlet covering AMS elections in detail and we're staffed by UBC students.

What you can expect from us?

The Ubyyssey covers campaigns equitably and thoroughly. All candidates will be interviewed once before the start of campaigns for a 'profile.' If you're running in more than one race, we will write a profile for each of your races. Afterwards, you will be contacted for interviews or comment by a reporter (or team of reporters) as needed. We're super friendly, we promise.

When will we contact you?

Our reporters will try to send interview requests for profile pieces as soon as we receive the list of candidates on the Friday before reading break. During the campaign period, *The Ubyyssey* gives all candidates the chance to comment on developments that concern them. We may also reach out with brief requests for clarification to ensure our reporting is accurate.

How will I be contacted?

The Ubyyssey will reach out by phone, email and text, potentially multiple times. *We know it can be annoying*, but we are required to give you a reasonable chance to comment.

What if I don't comment?

When we ask for your comment, this is your chance to tell your perspective of the story and/or provide any corrections or clarifications. Without your comment, the readers would only have the other parties' perspectives, which could reflect negatively on you. You can always decline to

comment or just not respond, but we're publishing once we hit our deadline. We will note whether you didn't respond or couldn't be reached for comment. If you know you don't want to comment, please let the reporters know right away so you don't get bombarded with comment requests.

How will my image be used?

The Ubyyssey photographs and films debates. We also take an 'official' portrait of every candidate. These photos may appear on our social media, in articles, videos and on Facebook live streams.

What does "on the record" mean?

An "on the record" comment is one that can be attributed to you. You are on the record when speaking in a public forum, speaking to a member of the media and campaigning. That includes social media accounts.

What does "off the record" mean?

"Off the record" comments are ones you make to a reporter that they agree will not be attributed to you, although they may still be recorded. An "off the record" agreement needs to be consented to by both parties **and can never be retroactive.**

How does *The Ubyyssey* decide on endorsements?

The Ubyyssey doesn't endorse candidates. Rather, we produce a resume of where candidates stand on major issues that is distributed before voting closes.

I don't like how I'm being covered.

If you feel our coverage contains **factual inaccuracies** or has been gathered **unethically**, you can contact news editors Alex Nguyen and Zak Vescera at news@ubyssey.ca. Remember: **we're going to occasionally cover you critically.** It's our job.

Can I publish a letter in the paper?

The Ubyyssey only publishes letters from candidates in extraordinary cases at the discretion of opinions editor Tristan Wheeler (opinion@ubyssey.ca).

There's something I think *The Ubyyssey* should cover.

Contact the reporter in charge of your race and they'll point you in the right direction.