

IN THE STUDENT JUDICIARY
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

No. 23-008

AARON GLIDDEN;
STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA:

Appellant,

versus

COLLIER DOBBS;
CANDIDATE, STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION:

Appellee,

Election Appeal for Judicial Review

OPINION

CHIEF JUSTICE THOME delivered the Opinion of the Court, which was joined in full by the Panel of Justices present on the case.

I

Let it be known that the Judicial process regarding Elections Appeals differs slightly from those cases seen on a regular basis by the Court regarding other matters. In standard Judicial Appeals, the Court would hear a case between a Complainant and a Defendant. However, Elections Appeals differ slightly in that the Court serves as an appellate body to hear matters that have previously been adjudicated by the Elections Board.

II

The issue brought before the Court in Elections Appeal 23-008 is one of alleged elections fraud. In the initial appeal, Appellant Aaron Glidden cites the Elections Manual in making his argument that Appellee Dobbs is connected to voting coercion, specifically as it pertains to a member of [unnamed Greek house]. Specifically, he cites Article XIII. ELECTION FRAUD which states that:

“Election fraud shall be defined as any willful act, deed, or conspiracy that violates the integrity of the electoral process before, during, or after actual voting occurs. Elections fraud shall include, but not be limited to, the following acts:

1. Attempting, with or without success, to vote in place of another.
2. Attempting, with or without success, to coerce or procure votes by the payment, delivery, or promise of money or other article of value.

3. Attempting, with or without success, to coerce or procure votes by the use of threats or intimidation.
4. Retaliation for reporting election violations.
5. Making disparaging assertions with intent to defame other candidates or campaigns.
6. Tampering or interfering with an election or a student's right to vote in the same, including, but not limited to, requiring someone to provide evidence of voting in an election.”

Upon a discussion of this Article and a review of all evidence presented by the Appellant, the panel of Justices found that there was no sufficient tie between the encouragement towards voting for the Appellee by [unnamed Greek house] to violate any of the clauses present in the Article. Simply put, there was no clear indication that the Appellee was in any way made aware of, provided encouragement for, or gave incentive to procure votes.

II

Furthermore, the Appellant cites a previous decision rendered by the Elections Board when making the argument presented before the Court. The Appellant states that:

“The [Elections] Board still ruled in favor of the Complainant [Dobbs]. Case precedent from this year requires that they at least assign the same number of points to Collier [as Richardson received] should they choose to interpret the violation under subsection XIV.A or XIV.B....”

Yet, as noted by both the Elections Board in a retroactive decision regarding the violation that the Appellant references, and the amendment to Elections Appeal 23-003, the violation given to Richardson's campaign in this regard was removed by the Elections Board. Therefore, if both campaigns were to be held to the same standard—as the Appellant suggests they might be—the Appellee should receive no point violations for his lack of knowledge surrounding the endorsement by [unnamed Greek house].

III

Finally, according to the Code of Student Conduct which all students are bound to follow upon their admission into the University of Alabama, offenses against the University Community include:

“1. Acts of dishonesty, including, but not limited to, the following:

- c. Tampering or interfering with campus, local, state, or federal elections or an individual's right to vote in the same, including, but not limited to, asking or requiring someone to provide evidence of voting or evidence of voting for a particular candidate or issue, coercing or using valuable incentives (e.g., organization participation points, food, beverages, etc.) to induce an individual to vote in an election or for a particular candidate or issue, or taking detrimental actions against an individual who refuses to vote or provide evidence of voting for a particular candidate or issue.

This means that any student or student organizations alleged of violating this code may be subject to an immediate conduct referral and hearing(s) by the Office of Student Conduct.

ORDERS

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That no further action be taken with regards to Appeal 23-008, and the case be settled in favor of the Appellee due to a lack of evidence supporting the Appellant's conjectures.

It is so ordered,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caleb Thome". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "C" and "T".

Caleb Thome,

Chief Justice, Student Government Association