



## Ombuds Services

Focus on fairness.

### Carleton University Ancillary Fee Referenda – Writ of Election (2026)

**Issued by:** Melanie Chapman, University Ombudsperson and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)

**Important note:** this question is being posed to undergraduate students.

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The volunteer-run Carleton Academic Student Government (CASG) advocates for the academic interests of all undergraduate students, supporting and enhancing their experience at Carleton University. CASG's advocacy efforts, such as Compassionate Grading, Syllabus Archive Initiative, and ongoing work to promote transparency around the use of artificial intelligence ensure that students are represented when it comes to their education. In addition to its advocacy, CASG reinvests in the student community by contributing to student scholarships, club funding, and the Study Snack program.

The existing \$0.73 per-term levy is no longer sufficient to sustain CASG's existing services, due to rising operational costs and the continued reliance on reserve funds, most of which accumulated during the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure the long-term stability of the organization, CASG is proposing a \$0.44 increase to its per-term levy. This increase is intended to maintain and protect CASG's existing programs and to support the organization's sustainability moving forward.

**Question:**

**Do you support increasing the existing \$0.73 per term Carleton Academic Student Government (CASG) fee by an additional \$0.44 - for a total of \$1.17 per term - starting in May 2026, pro-rated for part-time students, and adjusted annually to the Consumer Price Index?**

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#### Undergraduate Students

**YES and NO vote:**

A YES vote supports the increase to the fee, starting in May of 2026.

A NO vote does not support the increase to the fee, starting in May of 2026.

**Budget:**

Per the University's referendum protocol, there shall be only one YES committee and one NO committee. The CEO will grant each committee a credit allowance up to the maximum of \$400.

Each committee must prepare a final, complete, and accurate report of all expenditures made, including all receipts, and other evidence of expenditures to be submitted to the CEO before the polls close on March 11, 2026.

**Campaign Period:**

The campaign period will begin on Monday, February 23, 2026 at noon (12:00pm), with the last day of campaigning ending on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 11:59pm.

**Voting Days:**

Voting days will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 and Wednesday, March 11, 2026.

**Polling:**

Voting will be held online. All ballots will be conducted electronically and sent to students' University-issued email account.

**Further Information:**

All enquiries or concerns regarding the referendum, campaigning, polling process, and conduct should be referred to the CEO via e-mail: [melaniechapman@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:melaniechapman@cunet.carleton.ca).

Campaign rules and referendum protocol will be posted on the website (see below) prior to the commencement of the campaign period.

**Website:**

Please visit the referendum website for additional information. The site will be updated with details as they become available.

<https://students.carleton.ca/referendum>