



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 master's students of
The Norman Patterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA).

The NPSIA Students' Association (NSA) is dedicated to representing and supporting all students within the School of Public and International Affairs. Its mandate includes fostering academic and professional development, promoting community and engagement within the program, and organizing events and initiatives that enhance the overall student experience. Each year, the NSA coordinates workshops, networking opportunities, social events, and the annual Soirée—contributions that enrich the academic, professional, and social life of NPSIA students.

In recent years, the NSA has experienced a loss of several traditional funding sources, creating financial pressures that limit its ability to sustain this level of programming. To ensure the continuity of these initiatives, the Executive Committee is proposing a \$20-per-term levy for all NPSIA master's students enrolled in at least one NPSIA course per term.

This levy would provide stable funding for key NSA activities—including workshops, community events, and the annual Soirée—which sponsorships and fundraising alone cannot reliably support. The levy would provide the security we need to preserve these valued traditions and ensure future NPSIA students can benefit from the same vibrant community we enjoy today.

Question:

Do you support the introduction of a \$20 per-term levy (Fall and Winter) for the NSA, to be applied to all NPSIA masters students registered in a minimum of one course beginning in May 2026 and indexed annually to the Consumer Price Index?

Master's Students of NPSIA

YES and NO vote:

A YES vote supports the introduction of the levy, starting in May of 2026.

A NO vote does not support the introduction of the levy, 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.

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>