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 graduate students.

Preamble:

Carleton Public Interest Research Group (Carleton PIRG) is a student-funded non-profit organization that has operated at Carleton University through a referendum-approved levy since 1981. In 2024, Carleton PIRG formally defederated from the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) provincial network and now operates as an independent organization.

According to their website, Carleton PIRG is a student-led, student-funded non-profit based at Carleton University. They aim to research, educate, and provide action on social and environmental justice using a non-hierarchical and consensus-based space for students to organize.

At present, Carleton PIRG receives a levy of $4.64 per semester for full-time graduate students and $1.39 per semester for part-time graduate students. This referendum asks graduate students to decide whether Carleton PIRG should continue to receive this levy funding as an independent organization following its defederation from the OPIRG.

Question: Do you support maintaining the Carleton PIRG levy fee of $4.64 per term, prorated for part-time students, as of September 2027, now that Carleton PIRG is an independent organization, following its defederation from the OPIRG?

Graduate Students
YES and NO vote: A YES vote supports maintaining the Carleton PIRG levy fee. A NO vote does not support maintaining the Carleton PIRG levy fee. **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 November 19, 2026.

Campaign Period:

The campaign period will begin on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at noon (12:00pm), with the last day of campaigning ending on Monday, November 16, 2026 at 11:59pm.

Voting Days:

Voting days will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, and Thursday, November 19, 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