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:

Mike's Place has operated at a loss in each of the past seven years, totalling more than $1,000,000. This level of annual deficit is projected to deplete the Graduate Students Association's (GSA) unrestricted reserves within approximately two years. Consequently, the operations of Mike's Place have been suspended, and the former $7.00 per term levy is no longer being collected. Mike's Place continues to incur rent and administrative costs while suspended.

GSA funding comes from student fees, and existing fee allocations are fully committed to current programs and services. Reopening Mike's Place therefore requires a dedicated levy sufficient to cover its full operating costs. The choice before members is between establishing that levy and closing Mike's Place permanently.

Question: Do you support replacing the former Mike's Place levy of $7.00 per term with a new levy of $25.00 per term, effective September 1, 2027, indexed annually to the Consumer Price Index, to reopen and sustain Mike's Place?

A majority YES vote will establish the new levy and allow Mike's Place to reopen.

A majority NO vote will result in the permanent closure of Mike's Place and the repeal of the current $7/term Mike's Place levy.

Graduate Students
YES and NO vote: A YES vote supports establishing the new levy. A NO vote does not support establishing the new levy.

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