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:

According to their website, "The Leveller" is a publication covering news, current events, and culture at Carleton University, the University of Ottawa, the Ottawa/Gatineau region and, to a lesser extent, the wider world. It is intended to provide readers with a lively portrait of their campus and community and of the events that give it meaning. It is also intended to be a forum for provocative editorializing and lively debate on issues of concern to post-secondary students, staff, and faculty as well as Ottawa residents.

At present, the $2.22 per-term fee that supports "The Leveller", indexed annually to the Consumer Price Index, is a mandatory, non-opt-out levy for graduate students. This referendum question asks whether students wish to introduce choice for those who do not want to contribute to this compulsory fee.

Question: Do you support making the existing $2.22 per term fee, pro-rated for part-time students and indexed annually to the Consumer Price Index, for 'The Leveller' refundable (opt-out) starting in September 2027?

Graduate Students
YES and NO vote: A YES vote supports making the existing per term fee refundable (opt-out). A NO vote does not support making the existing per term fee refundable (opt-out). **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