DSU ELECTION GUIDE FOR REFERENDA QUESTIONS

Please note that in addition the other items addressed in this document and in meetings, the following are also important information to know.

- Levy Questions specifically address changes in membership fees, and Referenda Questions are other questions.

- Campaigns must submit a Nomination Form Package and secure the required number of signatories.

- Late submissions will not be accepted.

- All campaigns must adhere to the Elections & Referenda Policy and any additional guidelines set out by the Elections Committee.

- Please note that all campaign questions must be directed to the Chief Returning Officer (dsuco@dal.ca)

SUBMITTING A DSU LEVY QUESTION OR REFERENDA QUESTION

Important Note About Levy Questions

Members of the Dalhousie Student Union pay levies to various student societies and projects. These levies are set democratically by students through referenda and governed by the DSU Constitution and policy.

All questions to be put forward for the 2020/2021 elections must be submitted no later than January 21, 2021. These questions will be reviewed and edited as per the schedule above.
REFERENDA & LEVY QUESTION SUBMISSION AND REVIEW TIMELINE

In order to ensure a smooth process for referendum question submission and appearance on the ballot, the following schedule has been set:

December 2020 – January 20th, 2021: Deadline for questions and support in finalizing levy proposals from the Chief Returning Officer (dsucro@dal.ca)

January 21, 2021: Deadline to submit levy proposals to the DSU Council Chair (dsuchair@dal.ca) and the Chief Returning Officer (dsucro@dal.ca) (cc the CRO)


January 4 – 21, 2021: Levy questions reviewed for accuracy with Dalhousie University.

January 12 & January 26, 2021: Referendum/levy proposals go to Council for approval.

February 1, 2021: Elections nominations open.

February 9, 2021: Elections nominations close.

February 10, 2021: Release of all levy / referenda questions.

February 10, 2021: All Candidates Meeting & Mandatory Anti-Oppression Training.

February 15, 2021: Deadline to request an advance for campaign expenditures.

February 16, 2021: Deadline to submit Campaign Questionnaires, posters, and handbills.

February 22, 2021: Campaign Period begins.

March 7, 2021: Campaign Period ends.

March 8 & 9, 2021: Voting Period.

March 10, 2021: Unofficial election results released.

March 13, 2021: Deadline for the itemized list of campaign expenses to the VPFO (dsuvpf@dal.ca)
LEVY QUESTION FORM

Levy questions should be posed in the following form:

Do you support increasing the levy for *(Society Name)* from *(current levy amount for full-time students e.g. $4.00)* per semester for full-time students and *(current levy amount for part-time students e.g. $2.00)* per semester for part-time students to *(proposed total levy amount for full-time students)* per semester for full-time students and *(proposed total levy amount for part-time students)* per semester for part-time students. *This question applies only to the Halifax campuses.*

Or (for a new levy):

Do you support the creation of a levy for *(insert levy amount)* per semester for full-time students and per semester for part-time students. *This question applies only to the Halifax campuses.*

Example 1:

Do you support increasing the levy for the XYZ Society from $6.00 per semester for full-time students and $3.00 per semester for part-time students $8.00 per semester for full-time students and $5.00 per semester for part-time students. *This question applies only to the Halifax campuses.*

Example 2:

Do you support the creation of a levy for of *(insert levy amount)* per semester for full-time students and per semester for part-time students. *This question applies only to the Halifax campuses.*

Your question may include a short preamble to provide context. The preamble should be formatted as a series of statements beginning with “Whereas.”

Example 3:

*Whereas Society X currently provides service Y exclusively through volunteer support; and*

*Whereas a $1.00 levy from all students would allow Society X to increase hours of service Y; and*

*Whereas no other group is providing service Y to students;*

*Do you support the creation of a levy for Society X of $1.00 per semester for full- time students and $1.00 per semester for part-time students. This question applies only to the Halifax campuses.*
SUGGESTIONS FOR DRAFTING YOUR OWN REFERENDA & LEVY QUESTIONS

• Keep your question clear and concise.

• If you are referencing the bylaw, include it verbatim.

• Your preamble should provide context for your question, but you should limit your preamble to four or fewer “Whereas” clauses.

• **Remember:** Referendum campaigns are the vehicle to give people all the many reasons they should vote in favour for the proposed fee increase. Your preamble’s just giving people a base understanding of what the fee is for.

• Draft your question in the form above. The question is the only binding element of the referendum so it should only include information about the fee change.

• Include the current fee for full- and part-time students per semester and the proposed fee for full- and part-time students per semester. The DSU assesses fees for three semesters: you cannot pick and choose which semesters you want to assess fees for.

• Include that the fee only applies to students at the Halifax campuses by ending the question with “This question applies only to the Halifax campuses.”