

FAQ

STRIKE AUTHORIZATION VOTE



Student Workers of Columbia will hold a strike authorization vote (SAV) from **September 15-27**. Here's what you need to know:



WHAT IS A STRIKE AUTHORIZATION VOTE?

A **Strike Authorization Vote (SAV)** is a way for student workers to give our bargaining committee (BC) the authority and democratic mandate to call a strike to win our demands.



WHAT'S THE POINT OF A SAV?

The **credible threat of a strike** through a strong SAV turnout can lead to breakthroughs in negotiation. It is a clear statement of intent to go on strike if Columbia does not meet our demands like compensation, healthcare, and protection from harassment and discrimination.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

- If **2/3 of voters** vote YES via secret ballot, the BC is authorized to call a strike if and when they consider it justified to help us reach a fair contract.
- In 2020, we held a SAV with 1833 YES votes out of 1910 total votes. We hope to break this record in 2021.

DOES A YES VOTE MEAN I HAVE TO STRIKE?

- **Nope!** A YES vote does not obligate you to participate in a strike.
- Should the BC choose to call a strike, it will only be successful with **mass participation**.

CAN I VOTE EVEN IF I CAN'T STRIKE?

- **Yes!** Even if you can't go on strike, you can still authorize the rest of the unit to strike.
- Workers in their first year, who are on an external fellowship, or who have no non-thesis work to strike on can, and are highly encouraged, to vote in the SAV.



WHAT WILL A STRIKE LOOK LIKE?

- We will discuss and **decide how to go on strike collectively**, through dialogues within the departments & programs, at town halls, and GBMs.

Join us for GBMs
Monday 9/13 @ 6 pm
Tuesday 9/14 @ 10 am



WHY SHOULD I VOTE YES?

- YES supports our BC & **advances our bargaining priorities**.
- The BC needs the full strength of the membership behind them at the bargaining table.
- Without the SAV, it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to make any improvements to our working conditions.