

# ASWWU Government Official Referendum Proposal

## **Referendum Title: Food Security Fee Renewal**

WWU Department or Program responsible for implementation of proposed action: Basic Needs Hub

WWU Department/Program Staff Contact: Michael Sledge – Dean of Student Life

WWU Student (or Student Group) Proposing Referendum: ASWWU Executive Board

ASWWU Elected Sponsor: AS VP of Student Services Taylor Carnell

Date(s) Referendum Proposal to be officially presented to ASWWU Governing Bodies:

- ASWWU Executive Board: 04/09/2026
- ASWWU Senate: 04/08/2026

Proposed General Election Ballot for Referendum: Spring 2026

Administrative/ASWWU Advisor Notes: To be entered by Gov Advisor

## **Official Final Draft Referendum Information Packet (what will be available to voters if passed to go on ballot):**

**Note: all information below is exactly as submitted in final draft by referendum sponsor and support program staff.**

### 1) Official Ballot Question:

Shall the Food Security Fee be increased from \$4.50 to \$6.50 per academic quarter for every full-time Western Student enrolled on WWU's Bellingham campus beginning Fall 2027 to support a secondary pantry location on south campus and extend the full-time pantry position? Should a vote of "yes" fail in the Spring general election, the Food Security Fee will expire in June 2027.

### 2) Official Referendum Statement of Support (250 words or less):

The Food Security Fee (FSF) was first implemented in Fall Quarter of 2025 and provided direct, consistent funding to the WHOLE Food Pantry. The FSF covers the funding for food supplies and one full-time WHOLE Pantry staff who is responsible for organizing and restocking the pantry. Before the FSF was passed, the WHOLE Food Pantry had an average of 600 students visiting per week. This year, with the FSF implemented, an average of 2200-2500 students visited the pantry each week. Additionally, increased funding will allow for a secondary pantry location to be created on south campus within the new Student Development and Success Center. Passing this referendum will allow the WHOLE Pantry to continue working to alleviate food insecurity at WWU while expanding the number of students it can reach on campus.

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3) Official Supporting Documentation (additional details)

WHOLE Pantry One Pager with Statistics:

<https://basicneeds.wvu.edu/sites/basicneeds.wvu.edu/files/2026-04/WHOLE%20OnePage%20Winter26.pdf>

<https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025.BasicNeedsReport.pdf>

4) Official Fiscal Note (required for any student-voted Fee referendum)

See attached file for [fee projection](#)

Additional Info Here: [Food Security Fee Report](#) (Attachment N)

This referendum, if approved, increases the Food Security Fee by \$2.00 per student per quarter. It will continue funding the existing position(s) and fund costs associated with stocking the WHOLE Pantry and the secondary location when the Student Development and Success Center is completed in Fall 2027.

5) If the referendum is proposing a student fee, what will the fee oversight structure be?

The Basic Needs Hub will give budget presentations quarterly to the AS Executive Board and AS Senate.