

# ASWWU Government Official Referendum Proposal

## Referendum Title: Renewal of the Legislative Action Fee: ASWWU-SP26-REF2

### Official Final Draft Referendum Information Packet

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

1. Official Ballot Question:

Shall the Legislative Action Fee (LAF) be increased from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per academic quarter for every Western Student taking 2 or more credits starting in the Fall quarter of 2027 through Summer Quarter of 2030? Should a vote of “yes” not pass with the required voting thresholds as outlined in the current ASWWU Election Code, the fee will be retained at \$1.00 per student per quarter.

The LAF will expire after Summer 2030 without an additional vote of ASWWU membership to renew the fee.

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

The purpose of the Legislative Action Fee (LAF) is to more directly represent WWU students in local, state, and federal legislative manners through the decisions of the ASWWU. The LAF has been used to fund our ASWWU Lobby Day, support our full-time student lobbyist during legislative sessions, and pay membership dues to the Washington Student Association to participate in a student power coalition. Increasing the LAF from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per academic quarter will allow WWU students to maintain and strengthen our voice in critical policy conversations that affect tuition, financial aid, housing, and overall access to higher education. Without this adjustment, our capacity to advocate effectively may be limited while costs and demands continue to rise. While a surplus developed after COVID, current expenditures match annual revenue, making it unsustainable to rely on that surplus to continue delivering strong services and programming in the future. With this increase, the LAF can be allocated to support more than just one Lobby Day trip a year. Opportunities for students to represent themselves to their legislators like forums, topic-specific Lobby Days, townhalls, or trips to testify on certain bills are crucial to maintaining and expanding student power in the state and beyond. A “yes” vote is an investment in student power. It ensures that Western students remain active, informed, and influential participants in the policies that shape our education.

3. Official Supporting Documentation (additional details)

This referendum proposes renewal of the current Legislative Action Fee, with an increase of \$0.25 per student per quarter. At this time, the increase will support our ongoing work to represent Western students including updating a long-term legislative outreach plan to accessibly engage students in advocacy while maintaining and improving the programming it provides currently (i.e.

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Lobby Days, WSA participation, etc). Major recent expense increases include our WSA dues (increased from \$1 to \$1.50 per student) and inflationary costs associated with Western Lobby Day. Future plans to support student voices include potential expansion of program opportunities, and the need to establish more effective student engagement mechanisms. The update (if approved) will begin in Fall quarter of 2027 and is maintained as a quarterly fee until Summer 2030. It will be up for another renewal vote Spring 2029. The fund is currently spending more annually than it brings in. A small fee increase now, allows us to carefully draw down the current fund balance while continuing to support students' participation in legislative action at a level we believe is critical.

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

See attached for fiscal note data: [2026 LAF Fiscal Note Data](#)

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

As chartered by the ASWWU Government, the Legislative Affairs Council is authorized and expected to approve an annual operational budget for the Legislative Action Fund including projected expenditures and revenue.