ELECTIONS COMMISSION FAQ

1. General Information

Q: What is the Dawson Student Union Elections Commission?

The Dawson Elections Commission is responsible for organizing and overseeing DSU elections and referenda. It ensures that all voting processes are conducted fairly, transparently, and in accordance with the DSU Constitution and DSU Elections and Referenda Standing Regulations.

Q: What is the difference between an election and a referendum?

An election allows students to choose representatives to serve in DSU positions. A referendum allows students to vote directly on a specific question, motion, or proposed change affecting the Union.

Q: Who is eligible to vote?

All members of the Dawson Student Union are eligible to vote in a referendum. Students eligible to vote in an election may vote for the positions for which they are eligible electors, in accordance with the DSU Constitution. A member is “every person enrolled in at least one class during the current semester at the College, who paid the membership fee, shall be deemed a Member, including both students deemed by the College to be part-time students, and full-time students”. (DSU Constitution)

2. How to vote

Q: How will voting take place?

All voting will take place online through Tap Voter. Eligible voters will receive a personalized voting link at their Dawson College email address.

Q: I haven't received my voting email. What should I do?

First, check your inbox, junk, and spam folders. Make sure you are checking your official Dawson College email account. If you still cannot find your voting link, contact the Elections Commission at elections@dawsonstudentunion.com.

Q: Can I vote more than once?

No. Each eligible voter is entitled to one vote per applicable ballot. Tap Voter is used to manage the online voting process and prevent duplicate voting.

Q: Is my vote confidential?

The Elections Commission should ensure the integrity and confidentiality of the voting process. Students should be able to cast their votes without pressure or intimidation.

3. Quorum and Results

Q: What is quorum?

Quorum is the minimum level of participation required for an election or referendum to be considered valid.

Q: What is the quorum requirement?

The quorum is 3% of eligible members for each referendum and election.

Q: What happens if quorum is not reached?

If the required quorum is not reached, the corresponding election or referendum cannot be considered valid. The Elections Commission will communicate the outcome and any applicable next steps.

Q: How are referendum results determined?

Referendum results are generally decided by a simple majority of votes cast, unless otherwise provided for by the DSU Constitution or applicable regulations.

Q: When will results be announced?

The Elections Commission will announce official results after voting closes and the results have been verified.

4. November 16–17, 2026 Referendum: Motion concerning Bill 9

Voting dates:

November 16 at 8:00 AM – November 17 at 8:00 PM

Platform: Tap Voter

Q: What is the first referendum about?

The first referendum concerns a motion regarding a strike against Bill 9. Bill 9 is the Act respecting the reinforcement of laicity in Québec/*Loi sur le reinforcement de la laïcité au Québec.*

Q: When is the referendum taking place?

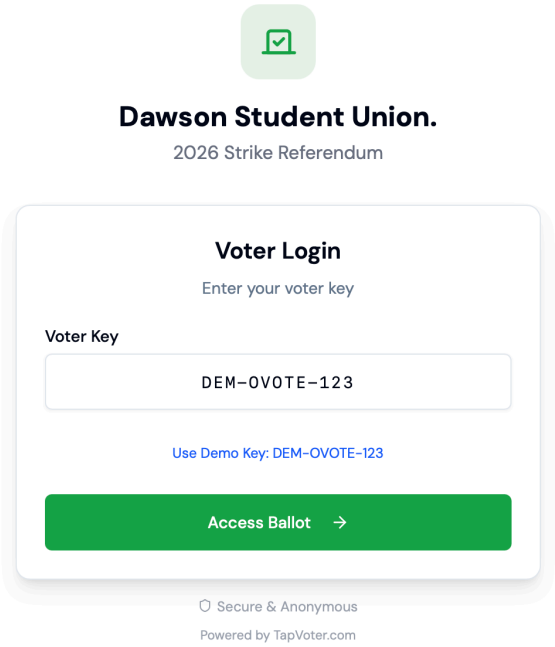
Voting will open on November 16 at 8:00 AM and close on November 17 at 8:00 PM.

Q: Does voting YES mean I support the motion?

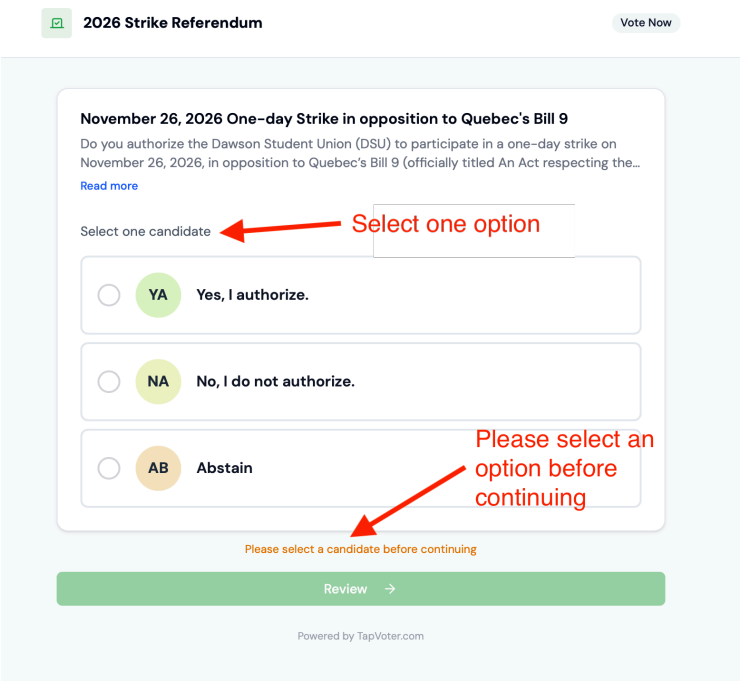
Yes. A YES vote indicates support for the motion as it is worded on the ballot. A NO vote indicates opposition to the motion.

Q: How does voting look like?

1. Enter your voter key that was sent to your Dawson College email.

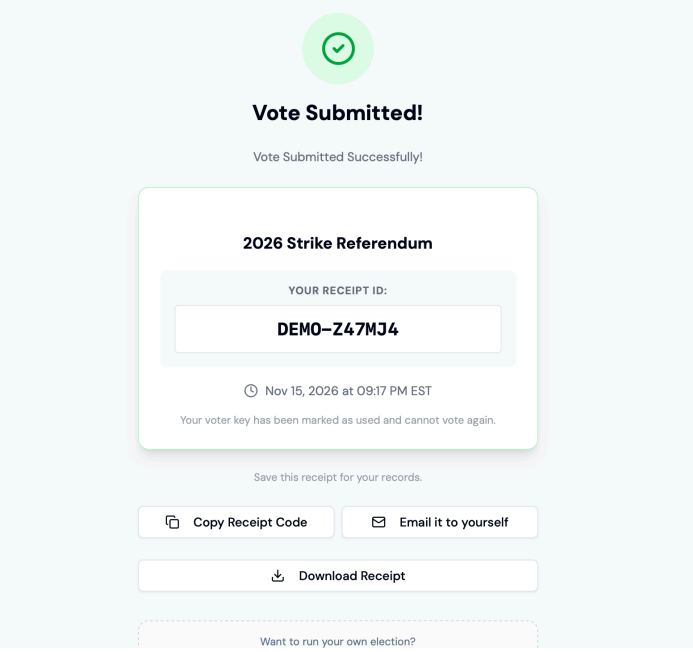


2. Select one option. (Don’t mind that it is written candidate)



3. Review your ballot and submit it.

4. You have voted! You can save your receipt.



Q: When is the proposed strike?

The proposed strike date associated with this motion is November 26, 2026. Participation in the strike would likely result in a modification to the current Academic Calendar by the College.

5. November 24–25, 2026 Referendum: Supplementary Letters Patent

Q: What is the second referendum about?

The second referendum concerns a proposed change to the DSU's Supplementary Letters Patent.

Q: What are Supplementary Letters Patent?

Supplementary Letters Patent are official legal documents that record changes to an organization's founding documents. They establish or modify certain legal aspects of the organization.

Q: Why are students being asked to vote on this change?

The proposed amendments concern the legal and organizational framework of the Dawson Student Union. Students are being asked to approve these amendments to reflect the changes to the DSU Constutition, including the changes to the structure of the Student Council, which were approved in May 2026 and came into effect on June 1, 2026.

Q: When will voting take place?

Voting will take place on November 24 and 25, alongside the DSU by-elections.

Q: Does this referendum affect the by-election ballot?

The referendum and by-election are separate voting matters. Students will have the opportunity to vote on the referendum question and the applicable vacant positions.

6. By-Elections

Q: What is a by-election?

A by-election is an election held outside the regular general election period to fill vacant positions within the DSU.

Q: Which positions are up for election?

The November 2026 by-elections will fill the following positions:

- Vice-President of Communications
- First-Year Student Councillor
- Social Science and Business Technologies (SSBT) Student Councillor

Q: What does each position do?

- **Vice-President of Communications:** Responsible for the DSU's communications and public-facing information, in accordance with the DSU Constitution.
- **First-Year Student Councillor:** Elected to Student Council to bring the concerns and perspectives of First-Year students while representing the interests of the entire membership (student body).
- **Social Science and Business Technology (SSBT) Student Councillor:** Elected to Student Council by the SSBT academic sector to bring the concerns and perspectives of SSBT students while representing the interest of the entire membership (student body).

Q: When can I vote in the by-election?

Voting will take place on November 24 and 25, alongside the second referendum. The exact opening and closing times will be published closer to the voting dates..

Q: Where can I learn about the candidates?

Each candidate has their own campaigning platform. Most of them have Instagram accounts and posters throughout Dawson College. The Elections Commission also will share candidate information on its Instagram account.

There is also an All-Candidates Debate (Q&A session) taking place today, November 16th, in the Upper Atrium from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.