

Spring 2024 Muslim Student Association (MSA) General Referendum Results

On Friday, April 26th, the MSA General Referendum was initiated in accordance with the Nominations and Elections Committee [Bylaws](#) and the Undergraduate Assembly [Constitution](#). The ballot, which was released to all full time undergraduate students, concluded on Friday, May 3rd at 11:59 PM.

With a total participation of approximately 22% of the undergraduate student body, the MSA Referendum reached the minimum 15% threshold to be validated and released. For the results and more information on referenda please see below.

- 1. Should the University of Pennsylvania Board of Trustees publicly disclose all investments held through the endowment fund?**

<u>Votes For</u>	<u>Votes Against</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
1483	538	122

- 2. Should the University of Pennsylvania divest its endowment fund from companies and organizations that profit from, engage in, or contribute to the government of Israel's human rights violations?**

<u>Votes For</u>	<u>Votes Against</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
946	541	655

- 3. Should the University of Pennsylvania terminate all partnerships and ties with Ghost Robotics, a company housed in Pennovation and the developers of drone-mounted robot dogs purchased by the Israeli government used to commit human rights violations?**

<u>Votes For</u>	<u>Votes Against</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
1257	681	172

What is a Referendum?

A general referendum is a voting process in which all eligible undergraduate students participate to share their opinions on specific issues or policies affecting the entire student body. This democratic mechanism allows undergraduates to have a direct impact on key aspects of their university experience.

Although administration is not obligated to implement the outcomes of a general referendum, such votes serve a crucial function by providing a platform for students to express their opinions and voice their concerns. This process not only illustrates to the administration what the student body values and believes but also highlights areas where changes or improvements may be desired. By actively engaging in referenda, students can influence university policies and demonstrate the collective priorities and interests of the community.

How do you Initiate a Referendum?

Referendums are approved, operated, and overseen by the Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC), a branch of Penn Student Government (PSG). The NEC is an impartial body that works to provide students direct access to administration through school wide elections, appointments to university wide advisory committees, University Council, and referendums.

A referendum can be requested by any full time undergraduate student or undergraduate UPenn affiliated organization by soliciting signatures from 5% of the student body (~500 signatures). Signatures and the referendum proposal are then subject to NEC approval. To learn more about the process please see the [NEC Bylaws](#) or the [Fair Practices Code for Referenda](#) (FPCR).