

Ratification Vote FAQs:

Who can vote in the ratification vote?

Only members of Unit 1 (TAs and RAs in lieu) may vote in the Unit 1 ratification vote. Both Classification A members (i.e., members holding an undergraduate degree) and Classification B members (i.e., members not holding an undergraduate degree) may vote. Also, the following members of Unit 1 may vote in a ratification vote:

- i. Members who are working as TAs or RAs (in lieu) this term;
- ii. Members who hold a TA/RA (in lieu) funding guarantee or a contract to work as a TA/RA (in lieu) in the 2016-2017 academic year (i.e., “contract in hand”);

Please note that **all** members require personal identification to vote. **Some members** (especially those members in category ii) **may require proof of membership** to vote (see: next question).

• What do I need to vote in a strike vote?

- i. **All members must bring photo ID to vote in the strike vote.** Photo ID includes your student card, and/or a government-issued ID such as a driver’s license. (Please note that we cannot accept health cards for privacy reasons.)
- ii. Members who are not working as TAs or RAs (in lieu) in the current term should bring proof of membership to the vote. Proof of membership may be: a letter of offer indicating your guaranteed funding period (with reference to a TAship/RAship in lieu); a letter of offer for a TAship or RAship (in lieu) for the current academic year; and/or a signed hours of work form from the Fall 2016 term.

• Why is the Union sequestering ballots?

If the polling station staff cannot find your name on our membership list (or if you fall into category ii in the “who can vote” question above), they will ask you to “sequester” your ballot. This means that you will be asked to insert your completed ballot into a blank envelope, which you will then place into another envelope on which the polling station staff will write your name, student number, department and term in which you are (or will) be employed as a TA or RA (in lieu). Sequestering ballots allows the union to include as many votes as possible because it gives the union the opportunity to verify your membership in other ways if you aren’t on this term’s membership list (e.g., by looking you up in our hours of work form records or by verifying your appointment with HR). Once the union has verified your membership, the blank envelope containing your ballot is removed from the outside, identifying envelope, and added to a pile of other anonymous envelopes. Once all of the sequestered ballots have been added, the

scrutineers open all of the blank envelopes and count the ballots as marked. This way, the union can be certain that you are actually eligible to vote while preserving the anonymity of your ballot.

- **Can I vote in the ratification vote online? Is there proxy voting?**

We are not able to set up the ratification vote online for a number of reasons. First, our bylaws do not permit online voting. Second, the online infrastructure to ensure the privacy and eligibility of voters is cost-prohibitive and incompatible with the requirements of our sequestered balloting process.

Proxy voting in ratification votes is not prohibited.

Unlike voting in a student group or club, ratification votes are subject to higher scrutiny because they fall under the Ontario Labour Relations Act.