

Referendum 47-02
Referendum Concerning the Creation of a Student Media Fee

**Associated Students of
Washington State University
Forty-Seventh Senate**

**Authored by:
Senator Hyllseth
Sponsored by:
Senator Holze**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE FORTY-SEVENTH SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED
STUDENTS OF WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

Section 1: Referendum

The Daily Evergreen has been “the student voice of Washington State University since 1895.” For the first time in over 120 years, it is facing cuts to print-frequency, and other operations, without student support of these cuts.

Washington State University's Office of Student Media, which houses *The Daily Evergreen*, is suffering from a significant drop in advertisement-based revenue and needs a new Student Media fee to be created in order to sustain itself.

Currently, the Office of Student Media uses \$255,264 of student Services and Activities Fees, or 2.47 percent of the total allocation of 10,350,659. Each full-time student commits \$548 per academic year to S&A fees and \$13.51 of that goes to Student Media.

This alone is not enough to sustain the entirety of the Office of Student Media, as four out of six of its departments contribute to the day-to-day operations of *The Daily Evergreen* and various parts to their publication.

The proposed two-semester fee of \$5 would give the Office of Student Media a sustainable source of funding amid diminishing revenue for print newspapers and general media.

This fee would also keep *The Daily Evergreen* running at full capacity while giving it the chance to expand operations and, thus, the overall quality of journalistic product. This would continue to benefit not only the Evergreen itself, but most importantly, the students it serves.

As the only free, independent news source in the Palouse, the Evergreen provides important information to the students of WSU and the wider community.

In order for the culture of a newsroom to effectively exist, it requires revenue, which has declined 61 percent over the past three years. This culture has driven over a century of student-run and operated media at WSU.

Edward R. Murrow, legendary news broadcaster and famed WSU alumnus, once said that “difficulty is the excuse history never accepts.”

While this may be a difficult task to approach, it is necessary for the WSU community to decide on the future of *The Daily Evergreen*.

This referendum serves two basic purposes:

- Giving the Evergreen a much-needed lifeline during its darkest hour.
- Letting the students of WSU decide if they want to give the paper the opportunity to stay alive and fully functioning.

Referendum Question:

To keep *The Daily Evergreen* fully functioning, do you support the implementation of a \$5 student fee to fund the WSU Office of Student Media?

- Yes
- No

Section 2:

Upon passage this referendum will go to the undergraduate student body for a vote in the ASWSU Spring 2018 General Election. If approved by the qualified voters of this Association, the new fees would be presented to the Board of Regents of Washington State University for implementation beginning the 2018-2019 academic year.