

2017 UWM Student Union Referendum

How Will You Vote?

REALITY CHECK

Our Union is
BIG
328,000 ft²

SERVES
22,000
VISITORS/DAY

LAST
FOUR-YEAR
UW SYSTEM SCHOOL
to build/renovate
UNION

60 AGING SYSTEMS* = \$ \$ \$
YEAR OLD SYSTEMS* REPAIRS \$



*roofs, windows, electrical, plumbing, heating/air conditioning, fire safety

VOTING OPTIONS (You can vote early in PAWS as soon as Nov. 6)

Would you support an additional student fee of no more than \$124.00 per semester to be phased in over five years starting as early as fall 2019 in order to support the renovation and/or replacement of the existing Student Union?

Vote Yes

Pay an additional \$124 fee per semester to get...

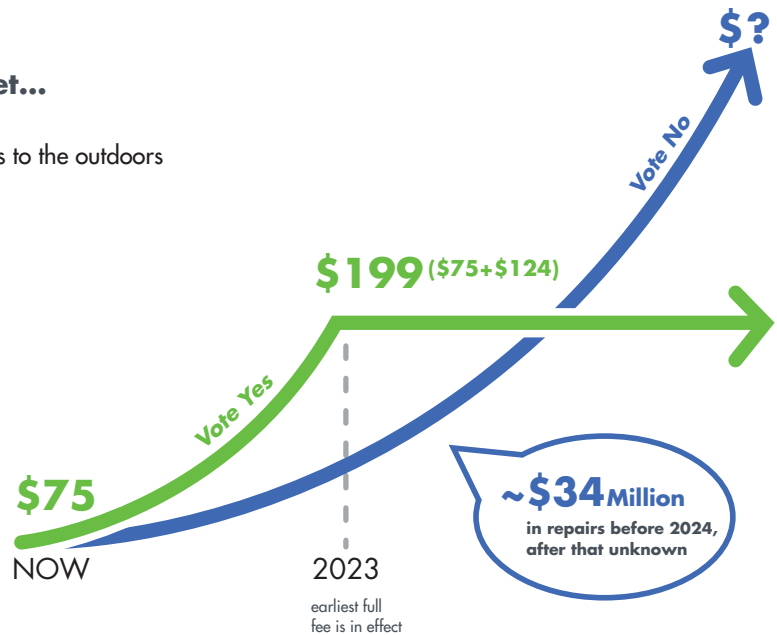
-  A more sustainable/green building
- A building featuring more natural light and greater connections to the outdoors
- More and improved dining options/restaurants
-  More collaborative student organization spaces and services
- State of the art event and meeting spaces
- A Student Union that becomes a point of campus pride

Vote No

Continue to pay at least \$75 per semester and expect that fee to increase as repair and maintenance needs become more urgent.

Abstain

You are choosing to not voice your opinion.



WHEN COULD WE GET OUR NEW UNION?



2017 UWM Student Union Referendum

How Will You Vote?

Frequently Asked Questions

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

The Union doesn't seem that bad, what's so wrong with it that we have to rebuild?

As you might imagine, a building where some parts are over 60 years old is simply wearing out. Architects and engineers found over \$34 million in urgent/emergency repairs will be needed in the short run just to keep operating the facility.

- They found failures (or anticipated problems) in plumbing and electrical systems.
- They described the heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems as inefficient and "beyond their useful life."
- While built at the applicable codes in place at the time of the various phases, the building today no longer meets current ADA or fire safety codes.
- The current Union with minimal wall/roof insulation and single pane windows is not very energy efficient.

Addressing any/all of these issues would be just about maintaining the status quo and would not significantly improve the amenities or atmosphere of the building that students experience every day.

COST

How much will student fees increase? Student Fees are proposed to increase no more than \$124 per semester to fund this project.

Depending on the final project costs, it is hoped this fee increase may be less than this amount.

How much will it all cost? While a final project budget is not known until the design is completed and bids are solicited for construction, it is estimated that it may cost as much as \$129 million. This is a really big number but the Student Union is a really big building serving 22,000 people per day and the whole building needs attention in a project.

WHAT DO STUDENTS GET?

What will be different about a new union? It is hoped the building would have:

- comfortable spaces for students to hang out (filled with natural light)
- improved meeting and event spaces with up-to-date technology
- collaborative space to bring students together
- improved restaurants and food options.
- more natural way finding (less like a maze)
- sustainable/green features

Any project will address the major maintenance and code issues that exist in the current building. Students will likely see a building that appears mostly new, even though portions may be renovated rather than built new.

STUDENT INPUT

Who can vote? All UWM Students not graduating in December, 2017 will be required to vote.

When do I vote? Beginning November 6, the referendum will appear as a "to-do" list item on PAWS. You can then vote early (and clear the "hold" you'll have) or at the time you are eligible to register for Spring 2018 classes. You will not be able to register until you vote in the referendum. You may abstain from voting if you don't want your opinion to be counted in the referendum.

How will the new union's design be decided? A building committee made up of students and campus staff will work with architects to design the building. As this building impacts so many students, student input will be sought via surveys, focus groups and info sessions as well during the design process.

If we vote yes, will we get a new Union? The UW System Board of Regents views the results of a referendum as input into their ultimate decision to support a building project such as this. The project will ultimately need to be included in a future State Budget and receive the approval of the Assembly, Senate and Governor before it will move forward.

Will the new student fee happen if the building project doesn't go through? No, student fees will only increase if a project is ultimately approved by the State. And the timing of the fee being phased in could be later than Fall 2019 if State approval comes farther down the road.

CONSTRUCTION

How long will it take before we can use the new building? The earliest construction could start would be 2020. Because the project will be phased, it may take 3-4 years to complete.

Will the Student Union close during construction? The plan at this point is to have a phased project where there will always be a portion of the Union open and serving students. So, while parts of the building will be closed at different points during the project, it is hoped that you will always have at least a portion of your student union available.

How will parking be impacted? A project goal is that the Union Parking Garage will continue operations during the construction.