

Student Voting Intentions

January 30, 2023

Prepared for VP External Christian Fotang by
Department of Research and Advocacy



Overview

This report combines and compares questions from two UASU Perks surveys:

- "Are you going to vote in the Alberta election this May?" (Jan 19-27, 2023, n=868)
- "Quality of educational experience," which included a voting intention question and a gender demographic question (Sept 20-23, 2023, n=973)
- 544 respondents took both surveys, allowing for limited cross-tabulation by gender and changing intention.

Key findings are as follows:

- Levels of voting intention (yes/no/maybe) remained consistent.
 - However, over ¼ of eligible voters who took both surveys changed their minds between September and January, in one direction or another.
 - Voting intention is stable across year of study, except that fifth-year students or above are much more likely to intend to vote.
- Around 1/4 of students are eligible to vote but undecided about voting.
- In September, voting intention was reasonably consistent across gender. However, in January, women are significantly more likely than men to intend to vote (68% vs 59%). Non-binary students and other gender-minority students are consistently more likely to vote than men or women.
- Consistent faculties of concern: Pharmacy and Nursing.
- Consistent standout faculties: CSJ, Native Studies, and Education.

Voting Intention

Voting intention levels remained very stable between the two surveys. Around 1/4 of students are eligible to vote but undecided about voting. Around 1/10 are eligible but do not intend to vote.

Intention	September 2022	January 2023
Not eligible	11%	13%
Eligible, but not voting	9%	9%
Maybe	25%	23%
Yes	55%	55%

Voting Intention by Gender

The following chart shows the percent of respondents (eligible voters only) who chose 'yes.' It indicates that women and gender minorities are more likely than men to intend to vote. The women/men difference is new since September.

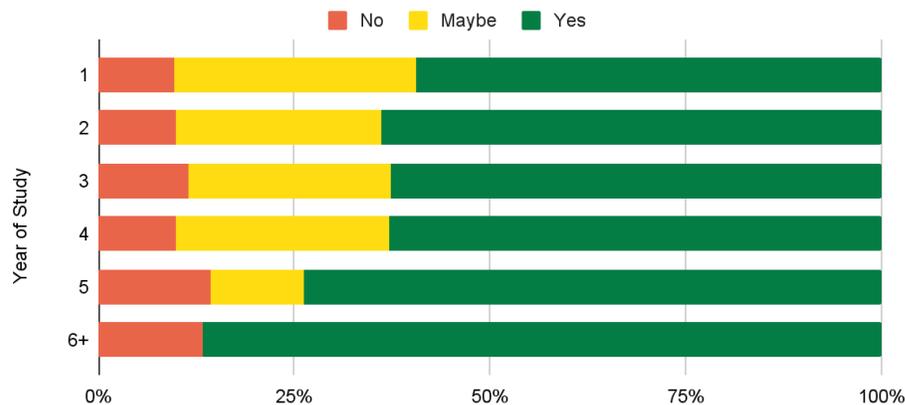
Intention	September 2022	January 2023 (out of the 544 respondents who also took the Sept 2022 gender question)
Man	62%	59%
Woman	62%	68%
Non-binary or other gender identity	72%	65%

Voting Intention by Year of Study

Voting intention is stable by year of study until year 5+.

Are you going to vote in the Alberta election, May 29, 2023?

758 UAlberta undergrads eligible to vote (Jan 19-27, 2023)



This pattern also appeared in the September survey.

Voting Intention by Faculty

Due to the relative sizes of some faculties, take these results with a grain of salt.

- In the September survey, voting intention among eligible students was lowest in Pharmacy, Nursing, Law, and Augustana, and highest in CSJ, Education, Science, KSR, and Native Studies.

- In the January survey, voting intention among eligible students was lowest in Nursing, ALES, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy, and highest in Education, Law, CSJ, Arts, and Native Studies.
- Consistent frontrunners: CSJ, Native Studies, Education.
- Consistent faculties of concern: Pharmacy, Nursing.

Changing Minds

473 eligible voters answered both surveys; of them, 73% answered the same way across both surveys. Students' voting intentions can change significantly in a four-month period.

