

# GAMECHANGERS Inc.



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Attn: Christopher Girodat  
Executive Director  
Capilano Students' Union

Chris,

## **Re: Final Report, Capilano Students' Union 2026 General Elections**

This report provides an overview of the elections process including some statistics comparing them to previous elections and provides some recommendations for future elections.

### **Overview**

This report details the findings of the Capilano Students' Union 2026 General Elections. While turnout and response rates saw a slight decrease in several categories, overall interest in the election remained high, with nomination numbers on par with the previous year. Positive outcomes included increased diversity in candidates due to enhanced promotion and the effectiveness of ranked voting once understood. Areas for improvement include refining the nomination process, establishing clearer campaigning guidelines (particularly regarding social media), streamlining the voting process, and evaluating the complaint and appeal system, which is currently prone to frivolous submissions. Recommendations focus on enhancing student participation, ensuring fairness, and improving administrative efficiency for future elections.

## The Numbers

- Turnout: Participation and response rates were slightly lower in some categories compared to previous years.
- Successes: Prize draws, available snacks, information leaflets, and strategic use of sandwich boards effectively enhanced voter engagement. Additionally effective were the mandatory candidate orientation, increased promotion leading to more diversity, the deployment of satellite voting locations, laptop verification for voters, security support, the implementation of ranked voting, and social media updates managing complaints.
- Nominations: The number of nominations in 2026 matched those in 2025, with a notable increase in domestic student participation.
- Complaints: The process experienced numerous complaints, many seemingly frivolous and submitted anonymously.

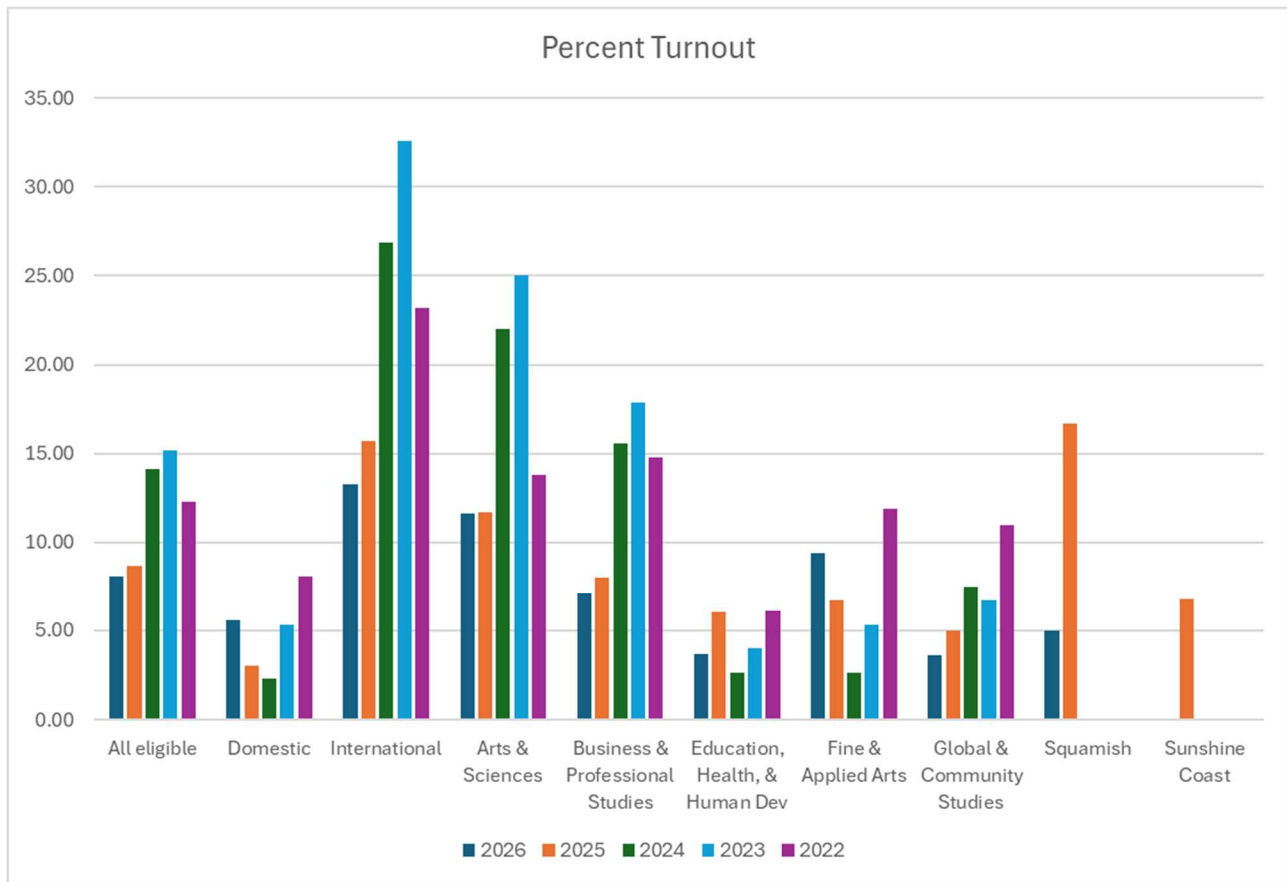


Figure 1: Percent Turnout (2022-2026)

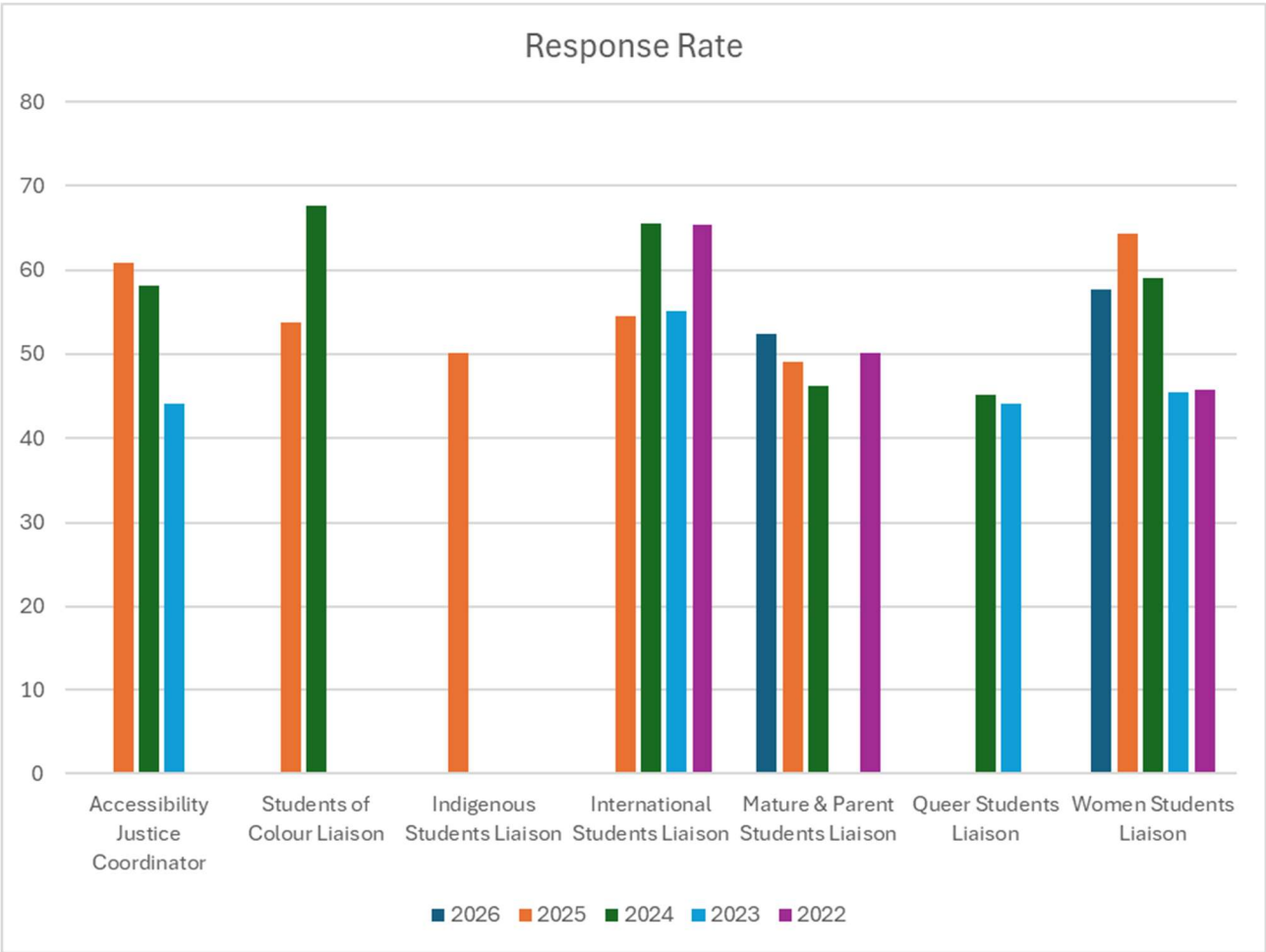


Figure 2: Response Rate per Voting Category 2022-2026)

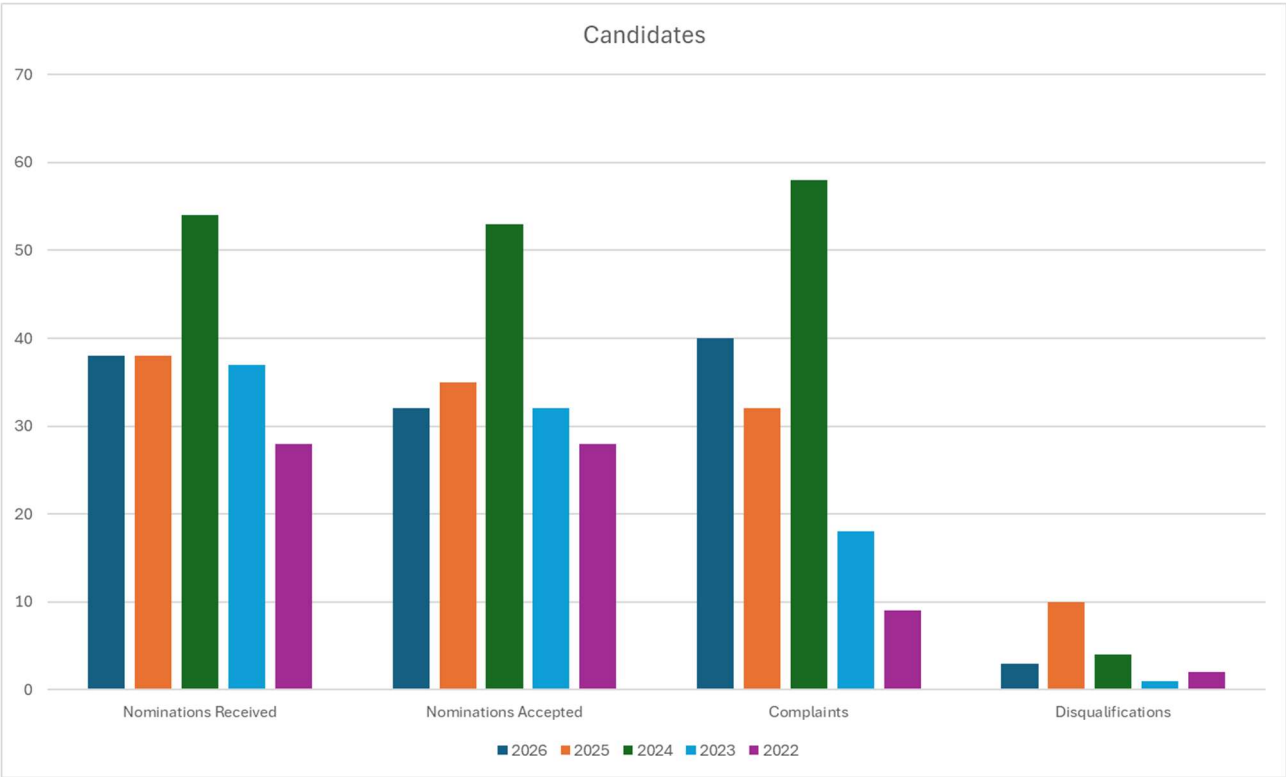


Figure 3: Candidate Statistics (2022-2026)

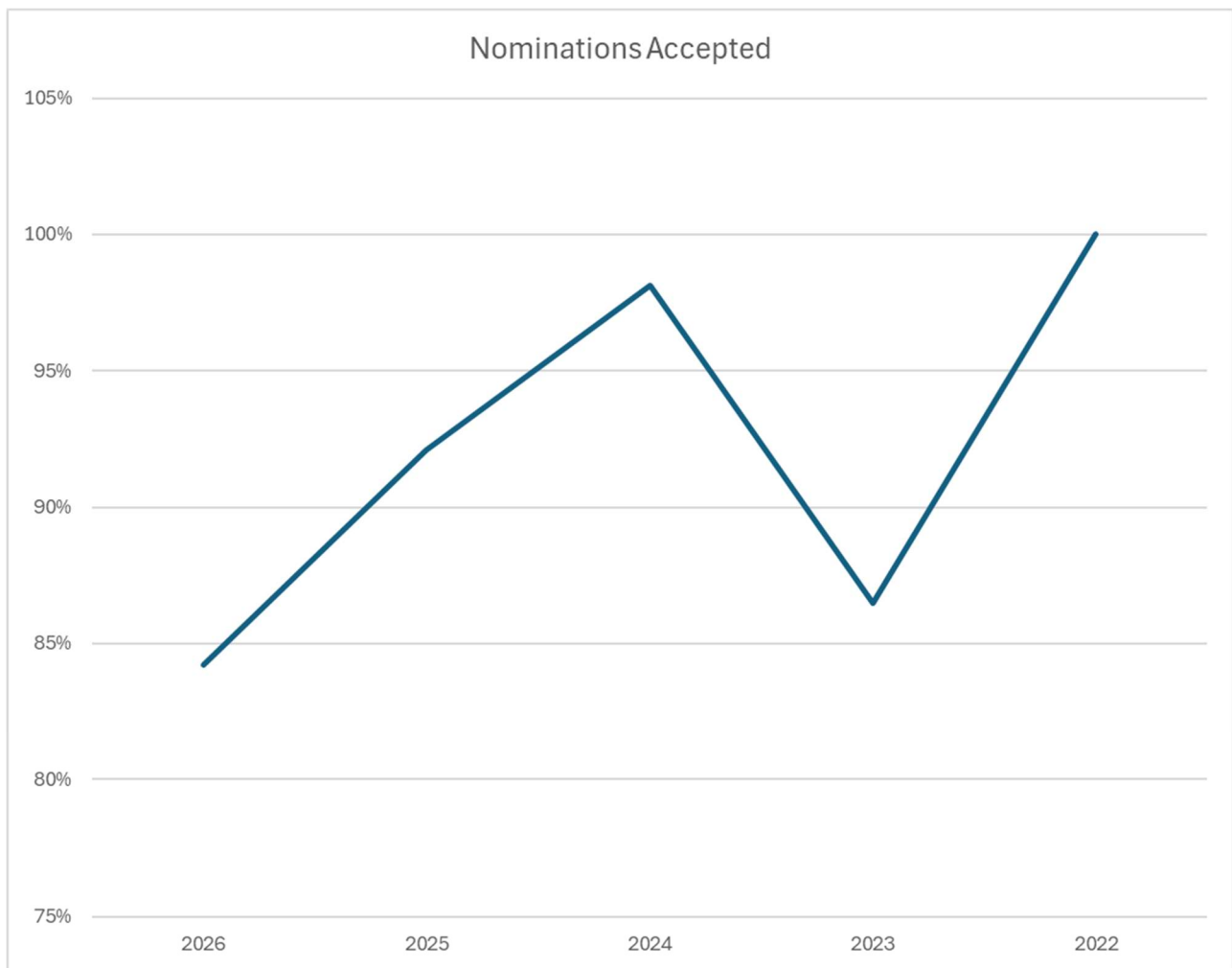


Figure 4: Nominations Accepted (2022-2026)

## I. Election Performance

The 2026 elections experienced a slight decrease in turnout and response rates across several categories compared to previous years (Figures 1 & 2). However, the number of candidates submitting nomination papers remained strong, comparable to 2025 figures. Notably, there was a significant increase in the participation of domestic students as candidates, exceeding numbers from 2025, 2024, and 2023. The percentage of nominations accepted also remained consistent (Figures 3 & 4).

## II. Factors Contributing to Success

Several initiatives proved effective in enhancing the election process:

- Prize draws and the availability of snacks successfully attracted voters.
- Distribution of information leaflets raised awareness of the election.
- The use of sandwich boards at polling locations was effective.
- Mandatory candidate orientation provided valuable information.

- Increased promotion led to greater diversity in candidates.
- Satellite locations improved accessibility for voters.
- The use of laptop Excel worksheets for voter verification was efficient.
- The support of the Capilano University security team was invaluable.
- Ranked voting proved highly effective once voters understood the system.
- Election Specialists provided crucial support and monitoring.
- Social media updates on complaint and appeal outcomes maintained transparency.

### III. Areas for Improvement and Recommendations

To further enhance future elections, the following improvements are recommended:

#### 1. Nomination Process:

- Conduct a thorough evaluation and enhancement of the nomination process and simplify the nomination form further.
- Implement a concerted effort to increase the participation of domestic students as candidates.
- Reduce the required signatures for the Mature and Parent category nominations to five, acknowledging the challenges faced by part-time students. Align this with the lower requirement for the Squamish Campus representative.
- Include a dedicated section for 'Campaign Manager' on the nomination form.
- Ensure all candidates attend a session on ethics and will consent to abide by an Oath of Office.
- Clarify on the form that submitted content and photos are final and cannot be altered.
- Ensure complete candidate bios and photos are provided to Elections Specialists before polling opens.

#### 2. Campaigning:

- Maintain the permanent ban on campaigning within the Library Commons and the Library itself.
- Continue the effective ban on campaigning during the voting period.
- Establish clear guidelines for social media use during both the campaign and voting periods.
- Make the list of individuals banned from running or campaigning available to new nominees.

#### 3. Candidate Forums:

- Maintain candidate forums as a mandatory component.
- Limit questions to current Capilano University students.
- Improve process control, adhering to a structure of 3 minutes for candidate pitches and 2 minutes for questions.
- Encourage Elections Specialists to attend candidate forums.
- Offer snacks at candidate forums to increase student attendance.

#### 4. Voting Process:

- Provide advance training to Election Specialists on the use of voting iPads.
- Implement a system, if feasible, to verify that iPads used have not been used for duplicate voting.
- Request candidates to refrain from remaining in the voting area after casting their ballots.
- Ensure a security presence for the entire duration of each voting day, with permanent staffing at the Library Lounge and rotating presence at other locations – for safety and ensuring election integrity.
- Improve promotion of voting at satellite locations.
- Consider increasing voting hours in the Birch building near the cafeteria.
- Ensure advance setup (30 minutes prior to polls opening) to prevent voters from having to queue during station setup.

#### 5. Complaints and Appeals:

- Evaluate the complaint process, which appears to be burdened by frivolous submissions, while acknowledging genuine safety concerns. Address the prevalent request for anonymity.
- Streamline the process so that a complaint results in a decision and an appeal then goes to the Appeals Committee.
- Clearly inform all individuals filing appeals that they are limited to one appeal per complaint decision.

#### IV. Conclusion

The 2026 General Elections demonstrated the positive impact of implemented changes, maintaining a high level of student interest despite enrollment fluctuations. The notable increase in domestic student participation is particularly encouraging. Continuous refinement of the election process, incorporating the recommendations outlined above, will further enhance participation and efficiency in future elections.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at [ksolanki@gamechangerssolutions.com](mailto:ksolanki@gamechangerssolutions.com)

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Solanki', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

Kalpna Solanki CWP CPHI(C) BSc MBA  
President and CEO