

Translation of the Final Report of the Nextbike Ballot Vote 2023

Dates and Deadlines

- Publication of the ballot vote announcement: May 22, 2023
- Deadline for changes of the questions voted on: May 29, 2023
- Publication of the final questions voted on: May 31, 2023
- Application deadline for absentee ballots: June 8 2023
- Election days: June 13, 2023 to June 15 2023, each from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Counting day: June 16, 2023
- Publication of election results: June 19, 2023
- Publication of the final report of the election: June 22, 2023
- Deadline for raising appeals: June 26, 2023, 3 PM

Incidents during the Election

Faculty of Health Sciences not Assigned to a Polling Station

Each faculty normally has a permanently assigned polling station, usually on the campus where the faculty is located. The faculty of Health Sciences was accidentally omitted from the assignment of a polling station this year. However, this did not affect the ability to vote, as absentee voting was available at all polling stations.

Question Changed by AStA Board Resolution

The ballot was announced although the details for the voting questions were not finalized yet. The reason for this was that the ballot was to take place parallel to the elections for offices and committees of the University of Potsdam and therefore had to be announced in order to meet the deadlines. Since changes or additions to the voting question are still possible up to 7 days after the announcement of the ballot according to § 25 (4) of the Satzung der Studierendenschaft, missing details for the ballot were to be added in this way.

Such changes have to be decided by a committee according to § 25 (1) Satzung der Studierendenschaft. Since shortly before the expiry of this deadline no such body held a meeting at which such a resolution was possible, the question was instead changed by an AStA board resolution 7 days after announcement in due time. This board resolution was unanimously approved 1 day later at an AStA meeting. The Student Election Committee nevertheless judged the change to have been made in due time, since the AStA Board resolution in its nature reflects a resolution of the AStA, which is merely legitimized afterwards.

Contradictory Wording of the Voting Question and Context.

There were also a few inconsistencies in the final wording of the voting questions and info text that confused some students: On the front page in the "Ballot vote context" it stated that Nextbike was already usable in Berlin, but on the back page this option was

mentioned under the contract terms of the new offer. Furthermore, question 2 in the present wording was only meaningful in the case of a "No" answer to question 1. If, on the other hand, question 1 was answered with "Yes," it was not clear what the effects of the two answer options for question 2 would have been in each case: a "Yes" answer to question 2 would have been in direct contradiction to the "Yes" answer to question 1, because it would have had to be understood as non-acceptance of the new conditions. A "No" to question 2 - if it implied a complete termination of the cooperation - would also have been contradictory to the "Yes" to question 1. In this respect, question 2 in the present formulation was obsolete if question 1 was answered with "Yes". The questions were formulated by the AStA and taken over unchanged by the Student Election Committee in order not to influence the vote on a substantive level.

Faulty Ballots

During the counting it was noticed that there were some ballots printed only on one side. Four of them were placed in the ballot box. Of these, three had only part of the voting context printed on the front and had to be declared invalid. Another ballot paper was only printed on the backside, but since the voting questions were mentioned and also answered here, this ballot paper was counted.

Ballot Cannot be Assigned to any Faculty

There is one ballot box per faculty for the Nextbike Ballot Vote. This year, one ballot was not placed in these ballot boxes, but in a ballot box of the other university elections taking place at the same time, so that in retrospect it was no longer possible to determine from which faculty the ballot originated. This plays a role in determining the electoral participation, which according to § 19 (3) of the Rahmenwahlordnung must be calculated separately for each faculty. The ballot was therefore now only included in the total voting turnout.

Ballot Statistics

Out of 347 ballots received, 31 were declared invalid, resulting in a total of 316 valid ballots. The 31 invalid ballots were rejected for the following reasons:

- Person not listed in the electoral roll (1)
- Missing signature on the paper that features the name of the voter (2)
- Missing paper that features the name and signature of the voter (2)
- Ballots were not inserted in the ballot envelope (9)
- Ballot envelope not sealed (17)

Only 308 of the election letters received contained ballots for the Nextbike Ballot Vote.

A comparison of the number of counted ballots with the voter turnout according to the electoral roll pursuant to § 19 (1) of the Rahmenwahlordnung was not possible prior to publication of the final report, as the voter turnout according to the electoral roll could not yet be transmitted by the election office.

Voting Turnout

Question 1

Should the student body accept the offer of 1,30€ plus VAT per semester per student for the next 2 years from winter semester 2023/24?

Answer	Votes	Amount
Yes	950	76.24 %
No	257	20.63 %
No answer	39	3.13 %

Question 2

Should there continue to be cooperation with Nextbike, but not under these conditions?

Answer	Votes	Amount
Yes	694	55.70 %
No	285	22.87 %
No answer	267	21.43 %

Number of people eligible to vote	19,517
Number of valid ballot papers	1,246
Number of invalid ballot papers	13

Electoral Participation

Total	6.45 %
Digital Engineering Faculty	22.74 %
Faculty of Human Sciences	3.88 %
Law Faculty	6.66 %
Faculty of Science	5.00 %
Faculty of Arts	4.95 %
Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences	8.73 %
Faculty of Health Sciences	0.00 %
Without Faculty	0.00 %

Since the electoral Participation is less than 10 % of all students, the result is not legally binding for other organs of the student self-administration, however, it is merely a recommendation.

Persons Involved in the Organization of the Ballot Vote

Election Workers

The election workers at the polling stations and during the counting in the counting office of the committee elections can be found in the report of the General Election Committee of the University of Potsdam.

Counting Assistants

The Student Election Committee was assisted in counting the votes on June 16, 2023 by:

Tobias Rothe	Romy Karbstein
Ella Rosner	Armin Wells
Emélie Risopp	Felix Roth
Kulud Fayad	Sharif Ghanayim
Julia Pantelmann	Nicole Wiedemann
Frieda Schallert	Vineel Teja Kommu
Jitka Müller	Benita von Randow
Nuria Gadea Harder	Lukas Hagen
Philipp Schmidt	Tobias Jongen
Simon Schöttner	Lennard Schulze
Jenny Sommerfeld	

Potsdam, June 22, 2023

Student Election Committee 2023

Antonio Krühler (Chairman)

Konrad Nareike (Dep. Chairman)

Lola Grubel

Jost Francke