Civics and politics

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad**

Band (Jahr): **9 (1982)**

Heft 3

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

Civics and Politics

In future, from time to time, we intend to publish articles under this heading which deal with the exercising of Swiss basic rights. The first subjects we have chosen are the following: Indirect Democracy – Fundamental Rights – People's Initiative – Referendum – the Instruments of a Federal Parliamentarian – the Stages of Legislation – Voting Modalities.

The Editors

How to fill in the Election forms

On 30th October 1983, the Swiss will elect the National Council for the legislative period 1983–1987. This seems the right moment to explain to our Swiss compatriots abroad how they have to fill in the election form for the National Council. (If you are not yet on the electoral register of a Swiss Commune for the purpose of exercising your political rights, you should get in touch with your Swiss representation where you are registered. See our article in issue 3/1978 of this periodical).
The election of the National Council is one of the most striking events in Swiss political life. The results of the election to the People's Chamber enable one to draw significant conclusions with regard to general political tendencies in the country.
Each Canton or Half-Canton is entitled to at least one representative in the National Council, even if it does not reach the minimum quotient. In order to attain the correct distribution of seats, the population of Switzerland is divided by the number of seats, i.e. 200. The allocation of the seats each Canton gets depends on how often the number of its inhabitants is divisible by the quotient. The majority in the National Council, therefore, consists of representatives of the highly populated Cantons of Zurich, Berne,

Vaud, Aargau, St. Gall and Geneva, just to mention those whose population surpasses 300000.
The election to the National Council takes place every four years. All citizens, male and female, above the age of 20 may offer themselves as candidates or as electors, with a few administrative reservations. So for instance, Swiss citizens resident abroad can take part in the elections only if they have been registered beforehand, as explained above.

This is how it works...

1) Gathering information from the media

2) Considering the possibilities and then selecting

3) Filling in of election form

4) Going to the polling station (or for the majority of Swiss resident abroad: posting the voting papers from the Commune of residence to the Commune where one is registered as voter.

Filling in the electoral forms
It is important that the names of the candidates are written in full. Repeat signs are not allowed.
The lists are not valid, if they contain more names than the number of seats the electoral district in question has. (An electoral district has the size of a canton).

There are the following possibilities:
The explanations should be studied carefully every time, since changes of the eight models given below are always possible.

1
Complete list
Unchanged official list of a party. The names are printed.

⛊	
National Council Election of	
List N° 31 Party A	
My vote goes to:	

1. Albert C.
2. Alexis H.
3. Alice K.
4. Angèle V.
5. André P.
6. Auguste R.
7. Anne T.

One votes for a party and accepts their choice of candidates. (This is the simplest way of electing members).

2
Altered list
A changed list with names crossed out by hand.

⛊	
National Council Election of	
List N° 31 Party A	
My vote goes to:	

1. Albert C.
2. ~~Alexis H.~~
3. Alice K.
4. Angèle V.
5. André P.
6. ~~Auguste R.~~
7. ~~Anne T.~~

One votes for a party, but crosses out the candidates one does not support.

3
Compiled list
A party list with candidates from various parties, but a least one of the candidates of the electoral district

⛊	
National Council Election of	
List N° 35 Party C	
My vote goes to:	

1. ~~Christian K.~~ Edith G.
2. Clément M.
3. ~~Cécile I.~~ Alice K.
4. Constant N.
5. ~~Cyrille P.~~ Denise M.
6. Christophe M.
7. ~~Catherine B.~~ Edmond L.

One votes for a party, but also for certain candidates of other parties.

4
List without specified Party

⛊	
National Council Election of	
List N°	
My vote goes to:	

1. Albert C.
2. Angèle V.
3. Beatrice B.
4. Bruno S.
5. Constant N.
6. Daniel W.
7. Edmond L.

The blank list is filled in by hand with the names of candidates of one or several parties.

5
Incomplete list without specified Party.
Some lines remain blank.

⛊	
National Council Election of	
List N°	
My vote goes to:	

1. Alice K.
2. Bernard S.
3. Christian K.
4. Denise H.
5. Edouard T.
6.
7.

As number 4, except that not all the chances of electing candidates are taken up.

6
Cumulated list

⛊	
National Council Election of	
List N° 31 Party A	
My vote goes to:	

1. Albert C.
2. ~~Alexis H.~~ Albert C.
3. Alice K.
4. Angèle V.
5. André P.
6. Auguste R.
7. ~~Anne T.~~ Alice K.

To cumulate means to repeat the name of one of the candidates (once only).

7
Compiled and cumulated list

⛊	
National Council Election of	
List N° 35 Party C	
My vote goes to:	

1. Christian K.
2. ~~Clément M.~~ Christian K. = cumulation
3. Cécile J.
4. Constant N.
5. Cyrille P.
6. Christophe M.
7. ~~Catherine B.~~ Alexis H. = compilation

On a party list, one cumulates one or more candidates and replaces others by candidates of other parties.

8
Invalid list

⛊	
National Council Election of	
List N°	
My vote goes to:	

1. – Blank list
   – Non-official
2. list
   – Illegible
3. – No official candidate
4. – Insult
   – Typewritten
5. Changes by strange hand or by typewritter
6.
7.

If a list contains one or more of these features, it is declared invalid.

Lucien Paillard