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Voting by correspondence

The 1995 National Council elections: Registration

In order to exercise their voting rights at the federal level Swiss Abroad must register well in advance. This means that if you wish to vote in the National Council elections on October 22, 1995, as also in all future referendums (usually four times a year) and elections

you do not need to re-register for the elections.

You may register to vote in your municipality of origin or in any municipality in which you have resided. Your choice determines the constituency (canton) in which you will vote in the National Council elections.



Our compatriots abroad vote in person only very exceptionally – but this does not prevent them from voting.
(Photo: Keystone)

(every four years), you must apply either personally or in writing to your Swiss diplomatic post (embassy or consulate) or use the accompanying form. If you have already voted in a referendum

Your Swiss diplomatic post sends your registration to your chosen municipality, and your name is then entered in its voting register.

If your voting municipality receives your registration no later than six weeks before a referendum or an election, you should be able to receive your voting material in time. But – the sooner the better.
ANP ■

Ticino: cantonal voting rights

With effect from March 1, 1995, Swiss Abroad who are on the voting register of a municipality in Canton Ticino may also vote in cantonal referendums and elections, but only if they have chosen their municipality of origin or that in which a close family member (parent, spouse, child, etc.) resides. The registration procedure is the same as that for voting at the federal level.

The optional pension scheme

How do I claim my pension?

- If you are a member of the optional scheme (AHV/IV), you will automatically receive an application form for an old-age pension from your Swiss diplomatic post a few months before you reach pensionable age.
- If you are not or are no longer a member of the optional pension scheme but belonged for at least one year to either the compulsory or the optional state pension schemes, you will not be automatically informed of your rights. In such case you should apply to your Swiss diplomatic post a few months before you reach pensionable age, since you will be entitled to at least a partial pension.



Registration form for Swiss Abroad entitled to vote

(please write clearly in block letters and send to your embassy or consulate)

Addressee

To the Swiss diplomatic post at _____

Sender

Family name _____

First name _____

Maiden name _____

Precise address abroad _____

Date of birth _____

Place of birth _____

Marital status _____ since _____

Place of origin _____

Canton _____

Post code _____

Family name/First name of father _____

Family name/First name of mother _____

On the basis of the Federal Law of December 19, 1975, and the Ordinance of October 16, 1991, on Political Rights for the Swiss Abroad, I wish to exercise my right to vote in federal elections and referendums and to sign popular initiatives and demands for referendums.

As voting municipality I wish to choose:

Place _____

Canton _____

Post code _____

- * because this is my municipality of origin
- * because I resided here from 19..... to 19.....
- (* Cross out where not applicable)

Language of voting documents:

- German
- French
- Italian

Place/Date _____ Signature _____



Taxation at source on pension fund benefits

Rates announced

From January 1, 1995, taxation at source on benefits provided by pension funds came into force (see Swiss Review 4/94). Cantonal authorities have now announced their rates for this tax.

In line with the new Law on Direct Federal Taxation, all cantonal taxation laws (except that of Aargau) have been revised and also took effect from January 1, 1995. The resulting total tax burden is shown in the table alongside (the rate applicable being that of the canton in which a pension fund has its head office).

State pension scheme not affected

None of the above applies to benefits provided by the state pension scheme (AHV/IV). These are exempt from taxation at source and remain taxable in the country of residence only.

Information

Pension funds, the Federal Tax Administration and cantonal tax administrations should be contacted for further information.

Paul Andermatt ■

Canton	Tax rate ¹
Aargau	1% ²
Appenzell Outer Rhodes	7%
Appenzell Inner Rhodes	10%
Basle City	11.5%
Basle Rural	9%
Berne	10%
Fribourg	10.09%
Geneva	10%
Glarus	9%
Grisons	13% ³ /7% ⁴
Jura	11%
Lucerne	10%
Neuchâtel	11%
St. Gall	7%
Schaffhausen	8%
Schwyz	6%
Soleure	6%
Thurgau	11%
Ticino	20%
Uri	6%
Lower Unterwalden	7%
Upper Unterwalden	9%
Valais	11%
Vaud	11%
Zug	9%
Zurich	7%

¹ Federal and cantonal

² Direct federal tax – cantonal rate not yet fixed

³ Benefits under public law

⁴ Benefits under private law

Since the beginning of the year the federal government has levied tax at source on pension fund benefits paid abroad. (Photo: Keystone)



Acquiring Swiss citizenship

If you would like information about acquiring Swiss citizenship (e.g. for your children or your foreign spouse), you should apply to your Swiss diplomatic post.

This can supply you with the appropriate leaflets or provide you with personal and competent advice. Any naturalisation procedure is also set in motion through your embassy or consulate.

Initiatives in brief

“Halt to the debt economy!”

Since the beginning of the economic slowdown Switzerland’s federal finances have been a matter of frequent discussion, most recently in the context of the 1995 budget and the third austerity package. The National Association of Independents thinks that the debate has yielded little and has therefore decided to take radical counter-measures.

With a popular initiative entitled “Halt to the debt

economy!”, it would like to achieve the following:

- Federal expenditure should not exceed revenue over successive periods of four years.
- If this condition cannot be fulfilled, a new federal law should lay down how expenditure is to be cut.
- However, transfer payments to cantonal authorities and federal contributions to social security should be excluded from any cuts.

ANP ■

Current popular initiatives

The following popular initiatives are still open for signature:

62 – until May 22, 1996
Green Party of Switzerland, Bernhard Pulver, Waisenhausplatz 21, CH-3011 Berne

For controlled immigration – until September 9, 1995
Philipp Müller, P.O. Box, CH-5734 Reinach, Aargau

For guaranteeing the state pension scheme (AHV) – to tax energy instead of work – until May 22, 1996

To reduce by half motorised road traffic in order to maintain and improve living space (traffic reduction initiative) –

Green Party of Switzerland, Bernhard Pulver, Waisenhausplatz 21, CH-3011 Berne

until March 20, 1996
Beat Schweingruber, Seefeldstr. 102, P.O. Box, CH-8034 Zurich

Halt to the debt economy! – until July 31, 1996
National Association of Independents (LdU), Rudolf Hofer, Gutenbergstrasse 9, CH-3011 Berne

For a flexible state pension scheme (AHV) – against raising the pensionable age for women – until May 15, 1996
Rita Schmid Göldi, Hans-Huber-Strasse 4, P.O. Box 687, CH-8027 Zurich

Yes to Europe! – until August 21, 1996
Reto Wiesli, P.O. Box 22, CH-3000 Berne 15

For a flexible pensionable age for men and women after

No hydroplanes on Swiss lakes! – until October 25, 1996
Franz Weber, Helvetia Nostra Foundation, P.O. Box, CH-1820 Montreux