

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 34 (2007)
Heft: 6

Rubrik: OSA news

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Federal Elections 2007

No seats for the Swiss abroad

The Swiss People's Party (SVP) was the winner of October's general election in terms of votes from the Swiss abroad, although its share of the vote was much higher among the domestic electorate. In the cantons of Geneva, Lucerne and Vaud, whose election statistics show the number of votes by expatriates, the SVP gained between 5 and 5.4 percent more votes from the Swiss abroad than in the last election in 2003.

However the proportion of SVP votes from the Fifth Switzerland remained below the cantonal average in all three cantons. The SP received the most Swiss abroad votes in Geneva and Vaud, while the CVP came top in Lucerne.

With the exception of Councillor of State Filippo Lombardi (CVP/TI), who faces a run-off vote, all sitting CSA federal councillors were re-elected on 21 October, namely National Councillors Thérèse Meyer (CVP/FR), Markus Hutter (FDP/ZH), Hans Kaufmann (SVP/ZH),

André Reymond (SVP/GE) and Carlo Sommaruga (SP/GE). None of the expatriate CSA candidates – Ron Favarger, Peter Kaul, Rolf Schudel and Edgar Studer (all standing for the SVP) – were elected, nor were any other Swiss abroad candidates.

A total of 45 candidates from the Fifth Switzerland stood for election. None of them made it into Parliament, primarily because of a lack of support from their own parties. Raphael Thiémard from Belgium got the most votes (2251). He was the only Green candidate

among the expatriates in the election, and wasn't on a Swiss abroad list, but the official list of the Geneva Greens. In second place, with 2009 votes, was Julien Neirynck from France, who stood for the CVP in Vaud, followed by fellow French-resident Florian Rochat (EDU, VD), with 2000 votes.

Thirty-three of the candidates stood on an SVP ticket. The SVP's popularity with the Swiss abroad has risen steadily ever since the introduction of postal voting in 1992. Whereas its share of the votes was between 10 and

14 percent in the relevant cantons four years ago, it was 15–19 percent this time round.

Voter turnout among the Swiss abroad in the cantons of Geneva (35%), Lucerne (39%), Vaud (33%) and Appenzell-Innerrhoden (10%) was significantly lower than the cantonal average (47%, 53%, 44% and 21% respectively).

Once again, complaints were made about voting documents arriving too late, an issue also pointed out by election monitors from the OSCE.

The results of Swiss abroad candidates (as at 23.10.2007):

		Votes received		Votes received		
<i>SVP Swiss abroad list (Zurich):</i>		SVP ZH	915	Ch. Abächerli Larenas, Sangolqui, Ecuador	SVP ZH	730
Peter Simon Kaul, Radebeul, Germany		SVP ZH	1300	Werner Furrer, Triesenberg, Liechtenstein	SVP ZH	785
Inge Schütz, Stockholm, Sweden (DFA)		SVP ZH	778			
Mario Valli, Edenvale, South Africa		SVP ZH	686	<i>SVP Swiss abroad list (Schaffhausen):</i>		
Urs C. Grassi, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam		SVP ZH	1160	R. B. Schudel, Vico Morcote, Jo'burg, RSA	SVP SH	305
Karl Bachmann, Trnava, Croatia		SVP ZH	1165	Edgar Studer, Berkshire, UK	SVP SH	309
Ueli Maurer, Borgen, Norway		SVP ZH	834			
Heinz Moll, Prague, Czech Republic		SVP ZH	857	<i>SVP Swiss abroad list (Geneva):</i>		
Markus Stöckli, Quito, Ecuador		SVP ZH	778	Andrée-Danielle Chevrier, Sciez, France	SVP GE	1461
Martina Solmes, Battle Creek, USA		SVP ZH	717	Pierre Goldschmid, Brunoy, France	SVP GE	1344
Thomas Frank Daetwyler, Colombo		SVP ZH	728	Jacques Schalk, Thonon-les-Bains, France	SVP GE	1356
Jürg Neuhaus, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia		SVP ZH	712	Ron Favarger, Toronto, Canada	SVP GE	1489
Hubert Brumann, East London, South Africa		SVP ZH	769	Philippe Chollet, Abuja, Nigeria	SVP GE	1353
Thomas Aeschi, Belmont, USA		SVP ZH	761			
Hans-Peter Bieri, Cairo, Egypt (DFA)		SVP ZH	795	<i>FDP Swiss abroad list (Zurich):</i>		
Rinaldo Bucher, Weston, USA		SVP ZH	712	H. Freiermuth, Gainesville, USA & Canada	FDP ZH	1581
Bruno Kaspar, Vilnius, Lithuania		SVP ZH	807	Gil Schneider, Singapore	FDP ZH	1191
Walter Müller, Capetown, South Africa		SVP ZH	891	Hansueli Meili, Yogyakarta, Indonesia	FDP ZH	1063
Yvonne Ochsner, Whitehorse, Canada		SVP ZH	717	Urs Wäfler, India	FDP ZH	1015
Norbert Ehrbar, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam		SVP ZH	750			
Nicolas Szita, London, UK		SVP ZH	803	<i>FDP Swiss abroad list (Schaffhausen):</i>		
Heinz Keller, Huonville, Australia		SVP ZH	708	Hans-Rudolf Gyr, Charlottesville, USA	FDP SH	234
Hans-Rudolf Abächerli, Bolans, Antigua		SVP ZH	698	Sina Kaben, Munich, Germany	FDP SH	263
Claude Abächerli, Bexborough, USA		SVP ZH	687	<i>Individual candidates on domestic lists:</i>		
Herbert J. Abächerli, Caracas, Venezuela		SVP ZH		Raphael Thiémard, Neufchâteau, Belgium	Greens FR	2251

Make new friends and find out more about Switzerland

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad offers young people from around the globe a whole host of opportunities to visit Switzerland. New destinations for winter sports camps are planned, host families are ready to welcome you, and there are plenty of education offers for those with a thirst for knowledge.

The OSA winter sports camps are extremely popular with the Swiss abroad. They offer young people from around the world a chance to spend ten days living and enjoying on- and off-piste activities with likeminded youngsters. The OSA's trained ski and snowboard instructors show participants all the latest techniques and ensure that everyone has fun and progresses in their chosen sport. And it doesn't matter if it's your first time in the snow or you have years of skiing or snowboarding experience. The exciting

thing about the camps is the interpersonal contact between people who share a common bond with Switzerland. You'll find out all about the land of your forefathers and can discuss your experiences and background. An exciting range of off-piste activities make for a varied and entertaining stay. And of course it wouldn't be complete without a lavish camp party. So if you'd like to spend an unforgettable winter holiday in Switzerland, come to one of the Swiss abroad camps.

Winter sport week in Langwies/Arosa (GR) 23.2.–1.3.2008

A ski and snowboard camp for young adults aged 18 and up at the renowned Arosa ski resort. And the OSA has reserved a cosy, spacious lodge in Langwies. What better way is there to discover a new area?

Easter sports camp in Fiesch (VS) 22.3.–29.3.2008

Because Easter is so early this year, you needn't worry about



NEWLY-FOUNDED SCHOOL IN QUERÉTARO OFFICIALLY OPENED

On 29 September, the third Swiss school in Mexico formally opened with a major celebration in Querétaro. In the presence of Swiss Ambassador Urs Breiter and a representative of the local education authority, the school's pupils enthralled some 300 assembled guests with songs and dancing from Mexico and Switzerland.

The Querétaro campus began operating on 21 August, and has 43 teachers covering all levels from pre-school to the end of 4th grade. It also forms an integral part of the Swiss School in Mexico, which previously consisted of the secondary school in Mexico City (684 pupils) and the Cuernavaca campus (277 pupils), both of them mixed-sex. Classes from the schools in Mexico City and Cuernavaca also took part in the opening celebrations, proving that the three schools are elements of the same structure even though they lie about 300 kilometres apart.

Querétaro is currently one of the most dynamic business locations in Mexico. The foundation of the new Querétaro campus by the Swiss School in Mexico comes in reaction to demands by the local population for bicultural, multilingual education.

there being enough snow. Instead you can enjoy the benefits of the ever-longer days to the full. A winter sport camp for young people aged between 14 and 25 providing plenty of entertainment. There's fun on the pistes in the Aletsch region and a lodge in which you'll never get bored!

Study trips:

The OSA also enables you to combine holidays with learning. And we provide individual assistance in finding out about the education establishments in Switzerland. Get a taste of Switzerland's most famous universities. Alternately, the OSA can provide practical insight into your dream profession. Relaxed host families look forward to your stay.

The OSA language courses will take place in Berne and Fribourg from 7.1. to 18.1.2008.

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Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad: Summer camp 2008

Are you aged between 8 and 14? Would you like to spend 14 days in Switzerland and get to know your home country better? Then register for one of the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad holiday camps! We run summer camps in the most beautiful part of Switzerland every year in July and August.

Programme

At our camps you'll get to see local sights, explore lakes, mountains, rivers and the surrounding countryside, go on short hikes and maybe also visit nearby towns and cities. There will also be days when we simply stay at the camping lodge and play games or sports or take part in various workshops.

Aside from this, there are plenty of opportunities to find out lots of interesting things about Switzerland. For instance, we look at the Swiss language, Swiss songs, Swiss recipes, and typical Swiss games and sports.

Living together and spending time with people from other linguistic, cultural and

geographic backgrounds is an unforgettable experience and a great way to make many new friends.

Cost

Attendance of the camps costs CHF 900 per child. The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad would like as many Swiss expatriate children as possible to be given a chance to spend at least one holiday in Switzerland. For this reason, subsidies are available in certain circumstances. Application forms may be requested during registration.

Meeting point

The participants always rendezvous at Zurich Airport at lunchtime.

Parents are responsible for organising and paying for the outward journey to Zurich

Airport on the first day and the return journey on the last day.

Staff

An experienced multilingual team of camp leaders ensures that everything runs smoothly and no-one gets bored at our holiday camps.

Registration

Precise information on the various camps as well as application forms will be available at www.aso.ch (under "Youth", "Discover Switzerland", "Holiday camps") from January 2008 onwards. On request, we can also send you our information brochure by post. Registration ends on 15 March 2008.

Winter camp 2008

Please note: there are still a few places available for the winter camp in Flumserberg (2–9 February 2008)! If you're interested, please register soon!

For more information, contact our staff in Berne, who will be happy to help you:

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ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD

Our services:

- Legal Department
- Youth Service
- Association for the Promotion of Education for Young Swiss Abroad (AJAS)
- Committee for Swiss Schools Abroad (CSSA)
- Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA)

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