

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1967)

Heft: 1536

Artikel: Busy Swiss electorate

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696388>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 25.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

of farmers and Commune Councillors and Presidents (the latter include 10 Socialists) come next, followed by 17 managers and directors (9 of these amongst the Radicals). Editors and journalists number 15, teachers and professors 10 and employees and workers 9. The rest is made up of 5 public officials, 6 doctors, engineers and architects, etc. The biggest increase is in the number of *Regierungsräte* and men from trade, industry and commerce, whilst the number of public officials and union and federation officials show the biggest losses.

The first actor ever, Alfred Rasser, has been elected (Basle), and for the first time, too, a blind National Councillor in the person of Dr. Fritz Tanner, Psychologist (Maienfeld GR), both as members of the "Landesring", the former in the Aargau, the latter in Zurich.

As regards voting participation in the elections, it was 65.7% as against 66.1% in 1963. Generally, it fluctuated between 85% in Schaffhausen and Valais and 26% in Obwalden. On the whole, participation for the Council of States was much the same, except for the women whose attendance was disappointingly poor: In Geneva, 24.8 and Vaud 18%. (No figures available for Basle). This is particularly surprising because both these Cantons put up women candidates. The total number of women entitled to vote in the three Cantons numbered 304,000. Note: in Neuchâtel, too, women have the vote, but its Councillors of States are elected by the Cantonal Parliament.

As regards the elections for the Second Chamber, three happenings caused sensations: In Basle, none of the three candidates received the absolute majority, and a second poll was necessary. Before citizens voted again on 11th November, the Radical Councillor of States, Dr. Eugen Dietschi, withdrew his nomination, and the choice was between the Liberal Dr. Alfons Burckhardt and the Socialist Dr. Willi Wenk. (As Basle is a Half-Canton, there is only one representative). The "Landesring" and the Workers combined with the Socialists, and Dr. Wenk was victorious.

The two most surprising results were in Zurich, where the much-respected *Regierungsrat* Rudolf Meier (BGB), in the Council of States since 1960, was defeated, though he reached the absolute majority. The new representatives are Dr. Fritz Honegger, new Radical Councillor, and, for the first time since Gottlieb Duttweiler (1949-1951), a member of the "Landesring", Albin Heimann.

The Conservatives kept the nine seats which were to be filled, which brings their total to 18. The Radicals won one in Zurich and one in Baselland and have now 14. The Socialists have lost two members and now only have two (Solothurn and Basle). Other newly elected Councillors of States are Josef Ulrich (Schwyz, Conservative), Dr. Ulrich Luder (Solothurn, Radical), Dipl. Ing. Werner Jauslin (Baselland, Radical), Councillor of State Jean-Pierre Pradervand (Vaud, Radical) and Dr. Hermann Bodenmann (Valais, Conservative).

The two Chambers taken together, the largest Swiss Party, the Socialists, have further fallen behind the Conservatives and the Radicals by losing four seats (52), whilst the latter's position is unchanged (63). The Conservatives have the same number now that they have lost three seats. The Farmers have 24 seats as against 26, the Liberals with nine show no change. The Democrats has six seats (-1), the Evangelicals three (+1), Dellberg's List one (+1), "Aktion gegen Ueberfremdung" one (+1). The increase of one to six seats of the Workers and the much-improved position of the "Landesring" who have now 17 as against

seven during the last Parliament, make the total of 244 (=200 National Councillors and 44 Councillors of States).

No sweeping changes on the whole we said, but nevertheless a distinct warning that the Federal Government has lost favour. The "Landesring" now form a "Fraktion" i.e. they are entitled to have members on Parliamentary Commissions. The same applies to the Workers' Party (for the third time). They have considerably increased the number of votes. These two Parties are, as it were, the Opposition, for they are not represented in the Government. And their increasing success must be looked upon as a sign that many voters are dissatisfied with the policy of the Federal Council. There is a definite non-conformist tendency. The results as expressed in the number of seats are not even as indicative as the actual votes polled.

It is a warning that the much-talked-about *innenpolitische* stability may not be as unassailable as presumed. It is true, of course, that federal elections in Switzerland are surprisingly subject to happenings in the Cantons. But the man who is sent to Berne, must be and indeed is in the first place a representative of his Canton, its inhabitants and its Government. This is how it should be in a federalistic democracy. It has its advantages, but also its dangers and drawbacks, especially at a time when the Confederation has to take over more and more tasks from cantonal spheres. The Parties are aware of their difficult position; they also realise the necessity and source of strength of free social groupings, and they have to accept that economic and professional organisations compete with them. By differing in principles one from the other, the element of contest often clouds over judgment and fairness. The elections just fought, have proved this.

The Parties in office, i.e. represented in the Federal Council, have received a jolt, and that should make them reconsider their principles. But even more so, the Government will have to study the indications and obvious dissatisfaction in some quarters most carefully, or the next elections will show more than trends of displeasure and turn out to be rigorous censure.

(Compiled by the Editor from news and information received by courtesy of the Agence Télégraphique)

BUSY SWISS ELECTORATE

In a number of Cantons and Communes, the electorate was asked for its decision on various matters at the same time as going to the poll to elect its federal parliamentary representatives.

In **Uri**, the people granted assistance on behalf of the Canton to the Furka-Oberalp-Bahn; a one-time amount of 900,000 and an annual contribution of 45,000 francs between 1971 and 1975. Voting participation: 56.55%.

The citizens of the **Ticino** agreed to a mainly formal alteration of the Cantonal Constitution.

The Evangelical electors of the **Thurgau** agreed to the draft of a partial revision of the Church Laws; this will enable the Church Parishes to engage full- or part-time helpers.

The voters of the town of **Berne** (participation 62%) agreed to all seven proposals, amongst them building plans, a school building credit of 16.7m., the purchase of property for 6m., the plans for the first extension of the Ziegler Hospital for 2.63m. and the Municipality's participation of 2.4m. francs in the new building for the "Städtische Schwesternschule Engeried".

The **Winterthur** citizens accepted all three proposals, i.e. subterranean parking garage in front of the Technical

College (3.433m.), pedestrians' subway and ticket machines for the trolley bus service. Voting participation 77.3%.

The new *Baureglement* and a credit of ½m. francs for the purchase of property were accepted by the **Frauenfeld** electorate.

With a large majority, the **Thun** citizens rejected the 5 million-franc credit for a new school, but agreed to a building plan. Voting participation over 63%.

The 65% of citizens entitled to vote in **Chur** rejected the plans for a parking garage over the river Plessur at a cost of 1.16m. francs.

Nor did the citizens of **Herisau** agree to the credit of 2.4m. francs for a new home for old people, though the majority was very small. Voting participation 71%.

With an almost equally high voting participation, the citizens of **Delémont** granted 1.28m. francs for the construction of a waste-water plant.

Burgdorf citizens agreed to the plan for providing accommodation for troops and the sale of land to an industrial firm.

74.4% of those entitled to vote at **Horgen** granted 5.67m. francs for the new training school.

Rueschlikon's electorate favoured the three proposals put up by the Commune Council: a sports centre (im Moos), land purchase and waste-water plant.

In **Zollikon**, a 2-million franc credit was granted for a new building for the fire brigade.

Arosa's citizens agreed to the new building and zoning plans.

At **Bischofszell**, the Amriswil tradesman Ernst Graf was elected as new *Bezirksvizestathalter*.

The **Amriswil** electorate did not agree to an annual contribution towards cheap rents for 16 flats.

Finally, at **Bolligen**, the citizens elected their Commune authorities, with Theodor Lehmann as President.

[A.T.S.]

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Dr. med. Emil Huegi (51), Lucerne, medical practitioner; member of the Protestant Church Commune since 1953; as Liberal member in the Greater Municipal Council for some time.

Dr. phil. Hans Leemann (85), Arlesheim, BL, Hon. President of Sandoz AG which he joined as chemist in 1908; Technical Manager from 1923; Director since 1933 and Chairman of the Board from 1952 to 1963; for 9 years President of the "Basler Volkswirtschaftsbundes"; member of many employers' organisations and on the Board of the Union Bank of Switzerland; well-known philatelist and art collector; Honorary Doctorate ETH in 1942.

Dr. Pater Zoëlestin Merkt (61), Einsiedeln, theologian and biologist; since 1937 lecturer at Einsiedeln Monastery; for many years President of the "Naturforschende Gesellschaft" of the Canton of Schwyz; great lover of nature.

Dr. phil. Gottlieb Heinrich Heer (64), Zurich, well-known writer and author and holder of a number of literary awards.

Henri Decollogny (56), Morges, member of the Commune Council and its President in 1964; from 1952 to 1957 Radical member of the Vaud Cantonal Council.

Dr. Otto Gruetter (68), Basle, mineralogist; in charge of the collection at the Natural History Museum, but above all head of the Mineralogical Institute of Basle University from 1934-1964.

Dr. med. Hermann Schachenmann (68), Basle, medical practitioner; President of the Medical Society and its Honorary Member since 1959; Liberal Democrat member of the Basle Cantonal Parliament from 1947 to 1967; Commandant of a *Militärsanitätsanstalt* (Colonel).

Dr. Albert Schubiger (55), Lucerne, in charge of family business (rubber and sanitary goods); Liberal member of the Greater Citizens' Council of which he was elected President a few weeks ago; distinguished pharmaceutical historian.

Joseph Berdat (70), Courroux (Berne), founder and leader of the "Chanson Populaire de la Vallée de Delémont"; organist.

Emile Unger (72), Geneva, Administrator of the "Orchestre de la Suisse Romande" since 1943; member of the Geneva Administratice Council from 1935 to 1943; for over 30 years member of the Prosecution Chamber.

Prof. Laure Dupraz (72), Fribourg, former Professor at Fribourg University and in charge of the Pedagogical Institute; sister of the former Commune President Louis Dupraz.

Prof. Gebhard Frei (62), Schoeneck (Nidwalden), for 33 years Professor of Philosophy at *Missionsseminar Schoeneck*; already in the 'thirties actively engaged in ecumenical work.

Brigadier Charles Folletête (59), Berne, Chief of Territorial Service and Airdefence Troops; citizen of Noirmont; in various administrative jobs in Berne and from 1931 with the Cantonal Police Office; from 1943 in federal service (*Genie- und Festungswesen*) began his military career as Lieutenant of Infantry; in command of Infantry Regiment 9 from 1956 and Brigadier since 1962.

Meinrad Schuler (65), Rothenthurm (Schwyz), for years member of the Commune Council and Schwyz Cantonal Parliament; member of the Schwyz Government (Liberal) since 1957.

Prof. Coelestin Zimara, (Soazza, GR), for 37 years Professor of Fundamental Theology and Dogmatics at the Missionary College of Schoeneck, NW; at times Minister at Mergoscia (Ticino).

Mgr. C. Trezzini (85), Fribourg, former Professor at Fribourg University and Rector in 1947/8; Papal *Haupraelat*.

Dr. C. H. Gossweiler-Wander (72), Berne, former Vice-President of Wander A.G.; in command of a Zurich Regiment and Colonel of General Staff.

Otto Bolli (52), Lucerne, Social Democrat member of the Greater Municipal Council for many years; in charge of family building firm; for the last few years *Oberbauleiter* at the electricity works Lucerne-Engelberg.

[A.T.S.]

Sole Distributors: Buser & Co. Ltd., 12 Grafton Street, W.1. Tel: 01-629 5977