

**Comparative Study of Electoral Systems**  
**Module 4: Macro Report**

September 10, 2012

Country: Switzerland  
Date of Election: 23 October 2011

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Date of Preparation: February 2013

NOTES TO COLLABORATORS:

- The information provided in this report contributes to an important part of the CSES project. The information may be filled out by yourself, or by an expert or experts of your choice. Your efforts in providing these data are greatly appreciated! Any supplementary documents that you can provide (e.g., electoral legislation, party manifestos, electoral commission reports, media reports) are also appreciated, and may be made available on the CSES website.
- Answers should be as of the date of the election being studied.
- Where brackets [ ] appear, collaborators should answer by placing an “X” within the appropriate bracket or brackets. For example: [X]
- If more space is needed to answer any question, please lengthen the document as necessary.

**Data Pertinent to the Election at which the Module was Administered**

1a. Type of Election

- Parliamentary/Legislative  
 Parliamentary/Legislative and Presidential  
 Presidential  
 Other; please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

1b. If the type of election in Question 1a included Parliamentary/Legislative, was the election for the Upper House, Lower House, or both?

- Upper House  
 Lower House  
 Both  
 Other; please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

2a. What was the party of the president *prior* to the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was presidential?

NA

2b. What was the party of the Prime Minister *prior* to the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was parliamentary?

NA

2c. Report the number of cabinet ministers of each party or parties in cabinet, *prior* to the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write "all".) Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights. List also cabinet members that are 'independent'. If known, specify if the 'independents' are affiliated or close to certain parties.

<u>Name of Political Party</u>	<u>Number of Cabinet Ministers</u>
<i>SPS (Swiss Social Democratic Party)</i>	2
<i>FDP (FDP. The Liberals)</i>	2
<i>SVP (Swiss People's Party)</i>	1
<i>CVP (Christian Democratic People's Party)</i>	1
<i>BDP (Conservative Democratic Party)</i>	1

2d. What was the size of the cabinet *prior* to the election (total number of cabinet ministers detailed in 2c)? Please include only full ministers and the prime minister in the count. Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights.

*7 Ministers*

3a. What was the party of the president *after* the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was presidential?

NA

3b. What was the party of the Prime Minister *after* the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was parliamentary?

NA

3c. Report the number of cabinet ministers of each party or parties in cabinet, *after* the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write "all"). Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights. List also cabinet members that are 'independent'. If known, specify if the 'independents' are affiliated or close to certain parties.

<u>Name of Political Party</u>	<u>Number of Cabinet Ministers</u>
<i>SPS (Swiss Social Democratic Party)</i>	2
<i>FDP (FDP. The Liberals)</i>	2

*SVP (Swiss People's Party)* 1  
*CVP (Christian Democratic People's Party)* 1  
*BDP (Conservative Democratic Party)* 1

3d. What was the size of the cabinet *after* the election (total number of cabinet ministers detailed in 3c)? Please include only full ministers and the prime minister in the count. Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights.

#### 7 Ministers

4a. How many political parties received votes in the election? In this answer, we want political parties, not merely alliances or coalitions of political parties. Please include all parties that received votes, but do not include independents. Where coalitions are present, please count all member parties separately – for instance, a coalition of three parties would count as three parties in your answer, not as one party. Please provide separate information for elections held contemporaneously (e.g., legislative and presidential voting), when voters cast separate ballots.

4b. Please provide a source of data and link to a website with official, detailed election results (votes and seats) for all parties participating in the election. If the data is not available electronically, please provide the information in paper format if possible.

<http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/de/index/themen/17/02.html>

4c. Please list all parties who received at least 1% of the vote nationally, and the applicable electoral results for each, in the following table. Please indicate the source (even if the same as in Question 4b), and add additional rows to the table as necessary. Please provide party names both in English and in the original language, if applicable.

Source: <http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/de/index/themen/17/02.html>

<b>Party Name</b>	<b>Number of Votes</b>	<b>% of Vote</b>	<b>Number of Seats</b>	<b>% of Seats</b>
SVP (Schweizerische Volkspartei – Union démocratique du centre – Swiss People's Party)		26.6	54	27
SPS (Sozialdemokratische Partei der Schweiz – Parti socialiste suisse – Swiss Social Democratic Party)		18.7	46	23
FDP (FDP. Die Liberalen – PLR. Les Libéraux-Radicaux – FDP. The Liberals)		15.1	30	15
CVP (Christlich Demokratische Volkspartei der Schweiz – Parti		12.3	28	14

démocrate-chrétien suisse – Swiss Christian Democratic People’s Party)			
GPS (Grüne Partei der Schweiz – Parti écologiste suisse – Swiss Green Party)	8.4	15	7.5
GLP (Grünliberale Partei Schweiz – Parti liberal écologique suisse – Swiss Green Liberal Party)	5.4	12	6
BDP (Bürgerlich-Demokratische Partei Schweiz – Parti bourgeois-démocratique suisse – Swiss Conservative Democratic Party)	5.4	9	4.5
EVP (Evangelische Volkspartei der Schweiz – Parti évangélique populaire suisse – Swiss Protestant People’s Party)	2.0	2	1
EDU (Eidgenössisch-Demokratische Union – Union démocratique fédérale – Federal Democratic Union)	1.3	0	0
Others	4.7	4	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

4d. What was the voter turnout in the election? Please also provide an official Internet address (preferably) or other official source where this information is available.

48.5 percent

[http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/de/index/themen/17/02/blank/key/national\\_rat/wahlbeteiligung.html](http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/de/index/themen/17/02/blank/key/national_rat/wahlbeteiligung.html)

4e. Please provide the following six statistics for the country at the time of the election studied, so that we may calculate voter turnout in various ways. Some definitions, where provided, are based on those developed by International IDEA. Please also provide an official Internet address (preferably) or other official source where this information is available.

▪ Total Population:

*7'954'662*

Definition: The total population includes all inhabitants, of all ages, both citizens and non-citizens (including illegal aliens).

▪ Total Number of Voting Age Citizens:

*5'124'034*

Definition: This number is meant to approximate the eligible voting population.

▪ Total Vote:

*2'485'403*

Definition: The total number of votes cast in the relevant election. Total vote includes valid and invalid votes, as well as blank votes in cases where these are separated from invalid votes.

▪ Total Number of Invalid and Blank Votes:

*42'755 in total (9'116 blank, 33'639 invalid). These figures include blank and invalid ballot papers, in the Swiss preferential voting system candidate votes can be invalid too.*

▪ Voting Age Population:

*6'497'511*

Definition: Includes all persons above the legal voting age.

▪ Number of Registered Voters:

*5'124'034 (Registration into the voting registers takes place automatically. Hence it is the same figure as above)*

Definition: The figure represents the number of names on the voters' register at the time that the registration process closes, as reported by the electoral management body.

5. Ideological family of political parties. For this question, please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 4 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I).

<b>Party Name</b>	<b>Ideological Family</b>
A. <i>FDP/PRD</i>	<i>G</i>
B. <i>CVP/PDC</i>	<i>I</i>
C. <i>SP/PS</i>	<i>D</i>
D. <i>SVP/UDC</i>	<i>J</i>
E. <i>EVP/PEP</i>	<i>O</i>
F. <i>CSP/PCS</i>	<i>I</i>
G. <i>PdA/PdT</i>	<i>B</i>
H. <i>BDP/PBD</i>	<i>E</i>
I. <i>GPS/PES</i>	<i>A</i>
J. <i>GLP</i>	<i>A/G</i>
K. <i>EDU/UDF</i>	<i>O</i>
L. <i>Lega</i>	<i>N</i>
M. <i>MCR</i>	<i>N</i>

Ideological Party Families: (These are suggestions only. If a party does not fit well into this classification scheme, please provide an alternative and some explanation.)

(A) Ecology Parties

(B) Communist Parties

(C) Socialist Parties

(D) Social Democratic Parties

(E) Conservative Parties

(F) Left Liberal Parties

(G) Liberal Parties

(H) Right Liberal Parties

(I) Christian Democratic Parties

(J) National Parties

(K) Independents

(L) Agrarian Parties

(M) Ethnic Parties

(N) Regional Parties

(O) Other Parties







7. In your view, what are the five most salient factors that affected the outcome of the election (e.g. major scandals; economic events; the presence of an independent actor; specific issues)? Rank them according to their salience (1 = most salient).

*1. Establishment of two new parties (BDP, GLP) at the national level (which was, among other things, a consequence of factor 2)*

*2. Switzerland's largest party, the national-conservative SVP, became a victim of the increased polarization of the Swiss political system during the last 20 years, which was to a large extent caused by the party itself*

*3. Economic events related to the financial crisis (most importantly the overvaluation of the Swiss franc)*

*4. Comparatively low salience of polarizing issues such as immigration during the campaign (which is, among other things, a consequence of the outshining nature of the media coverage on factor 3)*

*5. The recent popular support for Switzerland's planned nuclear phase-out (after the incident in Fukushima Daiichi)*

8. Party Leaders and Presidential Candidates:

In the table below, report the leader(s) of each party. Please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 4 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I). If candidates were endorsed by more than one party, please indicate this.

<b>Party Name</b>	<b>Name of Party Leader</b>	<b>Name of Presidential Candidate, if appropriate</b>
A. <i>FDP/PRD</i>	<i>Fulvio Pelli</i>	
B. <i>CVP/PDC</i>	<i>Christophe Darbellay</i>	
C. <i>SP/PS</i>	<i>Christian Levrat</i>	
D. <i>SVP/UDC</i>	<i>Toni Brunner</i>	
E. <i>EVP/PEP</i>	<i>Heiner Studer</i>	
H. <i>BDP/PBD</i>	<i>Hans Grunder</i>	
I. <i>GPS/PES</i>	<i>Ueli Leuenberger</i>	
J. <i>GLP</i>	<i>Martin Bäumle</i>	
K. <i>EDU/UDF</i>	<i>Hans Moser</i>	

9a. Fairness of the Election

How impartial was the body that administered the election law?

- Very impartial
- Mostly impartial
- Not very impartial
- Not impartial at all

9b. Was there a formal complaint against the national level results?

- Yes
- No

9c. Were there irregularities reported by international election observers?

- Yes
- No
- No international election observers

9d. On what date was the election originally scheduled to be held?

*23 October 2011*

9e. On what date was the election actually held? If different from 9d, please explain why.

*23 October 2011*

10a. Election Violence

To what extent was there violence and voter or candidate intimidation during the election campaign and the election day?

- No violence at all
- Sporadic violence on the part of the government
- Sporadic violence on the part of opposition groups
- Sporadic violence on all sides
- Significant violence on the part of the government
- Significant violence on the part of opposition groups
- Significant violence of all sides

10b. If there was violence, was it geographically concentrated or national?

- Geographically concentrated
- National

10c. Post-Election (and election-related) Violence

To what extent was there violence following the election?

- No violence at all
- Sporadic violence on the part of the government
- Sporadic violence on the part of opposition groups
- Sporadic violence on all sides
- Significant violence on the part of the government
- Significant violence on the part of opposition groups
- Significant violence of all sides

10d. Post-Election (and election-related) Protest

To what extent was there protest following the election?

- No protest at all
- Sporadic protest
- Significant protest

### Questions about the Possibilities of Electoral Alliance

**Definitions:** A joint list refers to one on which candidates of different parties run together. Apparentement refers to a legal agreement between two or more lists to pool their votes for the purposes of an initial seat allocation, with seats initially allocated to the alliance then reallocated to the lists in the alliance.

#### 11. Joint Lists/Candidates

There are multiple types of electoral alliances/coalitions, but we are explicitly interested in those involving joint lists or candidates - i.e. those where parties compete as a unit during the election.

Is this type of electoral coalition legally allowable?

Yes

No

Is this type of electoral coalition used in practice, even if not legally allowable?

Yes

No

If “Yes” was answered to either of the above questions, then please complete the following table for the election at which the Module was administered. Please mention only alliances that received at least 1% of the vote nationally. Add additional lines to the table as necessary.

*Formally, in Switzerland one does not vote for parties but for lists. As such, it happens sometimes, mainly in smaller cantons, that a list has candidates from different parties or includes independent candidates.*

**Alliance Name**

**Participating Parties**

**(please indicate dominant members with an “\*”)**

Alliance 1:	
Alliance 2:	
Alliance 3:	
Alliance 4:	
Alliance 5:	

12. If joint lists are possible, are they subject to different regulations than single-party lists? For example, higher thresholds, different numbers of candidates that may appear on the list, etc. (please mark all applicable responses)

- Yes, joint party lists must satisfy higher thresholds
- Yes, joint party lists may present different numbers of candidates
- Yes, joint party lists are subject to other regulations that are different from the regulations governing independent parties; please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- No, joint parties are governed by the same rules as the other parties
- Not applicable; no joint party lists are allowed

13a. Is there apparentement or linking of lists?

- Yes
- No

13b. If apparentement is possible, what lists can participate in such agreements:

- lists of the same party in the same constituency
- lists of the same party from different constituencies
- lists of different parties in the same constituency

14a. Can candidates run with the endorsement of more than one party?

- Yes
- No

14b. If candidates can run with the endorsement of more than one party, is this reflected on the ballot?

- No
- No party endorsements are indicated on the ballot paper
- Yes, candidate's name appears once, together with the names of all supporting parties
- Yes, candidate's name appears as many times as there are different parties endorsing him/her, each time with the name of the endorsing party
- Yes, other; please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Data on Electoral Institutions**

If possible, please supplement this section with copies of the electoral law, voters' handbooks, electoral commission reports, and/or any other relevant materials.

**Questions 15a through 21d must be repeated for each electoral tier (segment) of each directly elected house of the legislature.**

*National Council ("Nationalrat", lower house)*

#### **Electoral Tier (Segment) and House**

15a. In your answers for questions 15a through 21d, which electoral tier (segment) is being referred to? (Note: Countries with only one tier may skip this question.)

*Canton*

15b. In your answers for questions 15a through 21d, which house is being referred to (lower or upper)? (Note: Countries with only one tier may skip this question.)

*Lower house (National Council)*

#### **Questions about Voting**

16a. How many votes do voters cast or can cast? In systems where voters rank order the candidates, if there are 10 candidates (for example), the response to this question should be 10.

*It depends on the magnitude of the electoral districts which are the cantons in Switzerland. Voters have as many votes as there are seats in a certain canton. The number of votes currently varies between 1 and 34.*

16b. Do they vote for candidates (not party lists) or party lists? (Note: Collaborators may select multiple answers, if appropriate.)

(Definition: Party bloc voting is used in multi-member districts where voters cast a single party-centered vote for their party of choice; the party with the most votes wins all of the district seats.)

Candidates

Party Lists

Party Bloc Voting

Other; please explain: *A ballot paper has a line for the party/list name on top and then as many lines as there are seats in a canton which can be filled with candidates names.*

16c. How many rounds of voting are there?

*One round*



16d. If there are lists, are they closed, open, flexible, or is there party bloc voting?

Closed (order of candidates elected is determined by the party and voters are unable to express preference for a particular candidate)

Open (voters can indicate their preferred party and their favored candidate within that party)

Flexible (voters can allocate votes to candidates either within a single party list or across different party lists as they see fit)

17. Are the votes transferable?

(Definition: In systems with preferential voting, a voter can express a list of preferences. E.g., votes can be cast by putting a '1' in the column next to the voter's preferred candidate, a '2' beside their second favorite candidate and so on. Votes are counted according to the first preferences and any candidates who have achieved the predetermined quota are elected. To decide which of the remaining candidates are elected the votes are *transferred* from candidates who have more than the necessary number to achieve the quota and from the candidate with the least number of votes. An example of this is the election in Ireland in 2002.)

Yes

No

*It's not a STV system, however, the candidate votes count as party votes, so if candidate votes go to candidates from different parties, the votes go to different parties as well.*

18. If more than one vote can be cast, can they be cumulated?

(Definition: Cumulative voting refers to systems in which voters are allowed to cast more than one vote for a single candidate.)

Yes

No

*Voters can cast up to two preference votes for the same candidate.*

19. Is voting compulsory?

(Definition: Voting is compulsory if the law states that all those who have the right to vote are obliged to exercise that right.)

Yes; Strictly Enforced Sanctions

Yes; Weakly Enforced Sanctions

Yes; Without Sanction for Violation

No

20. Please list and describe any other features of voting that should be noted.

*There are a number of additional features:*

- *Voting is compulsory in one constituency/canton only (Schaffhausen)*
- *The number of votes which forms the base on which the seats are distributed among the different lists includes the votes cast for the single candidates of a certain party as well as the empty lines on ballots that show a list name on the top of the ballot. This also means that voters do not have to use all lines on a ballot paper.*
- *Instead of an empty ballot paper, voters can also use pre-printed ballot papers which already contain the list name and all the candidates.*
- *Voters can write down the same candidate on their ballot twice. As a consequence, they can also strike names off a pre-printed list.*
- *The distribution of seats takes place in a first step all among the allied lists (or single lists for those that are not allied with any other lists) and then within list alliances using the*

*Hagenbach-Bischoff method (which is equivalent to the d'Hondt method, however another way of calculating the distribution of seats).*

### Questions about Converting Votes into Seats

21a. Are there legally mandated thresholds that a party must exceed before it is eligible to receive seats?

Yes

No

21b. If YES in Question 21a, what is the threshold?

21c. If YES in Question 21a, what is the unit for the threshold mentioned in Question 21b?

Percent of total votes

Percent of valid votes

Percent of the total electorate

Other; please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

21d. If YES in Question 21a, please specify to what House/ Electoral Tier (Segment) the threshold(s) apply.

### *Council of States ("Ständerat", upper house)*

#### Electoral Tier (Segment) and House

15a. In your answers for questions 15a through 21d, which electoral tier (segment) is being referred to? (Note: Countries with only one tier may skip this question.)

*Canton*

15b. In your answers for questions 15a through 21d, which house is being referred to (lower or upper)? (Note: Countries with only one tier may skip this question.)

*Upper house (Council of States)*

### Questions about Voting

16a. How many votes do voters cast or can cast? In systems where voters rank order the candidates, if there are 10 candidates (for example), the response to this question should be 10.

*One or two (two in 20 of the cantons, one each in the 6 so-called half-cantons)*

16b. Do they vote for candidates (not party lists) or party lists? (Note: Collaborators may select multiple answers, if appropriate.)

(Definition: Party bloc voting is used in multi-member districts where voters cast a single party-centered vote for their party of choice; the party with the most votes wins all of the district seats.)

Candidates

Party Lists

- Party Bloc Voting  
 Other; please explain:

16c. How many rounds of voting are there?

*Two rounds (if a second round is necessary)*

16d. If there are lists, are they closed, open, flexible, or is there party bloc voting?

- Closed (order of candidates elected is determined by the party and voters are unable to express preference for a particular candidate)  
 Open (voters can indicate their preferred party and their favored candidate within that party)  
 Flexible (voters can allocate votes to candidates either within a single party list or across different party lists as they see fit)

17. Are the votes transferable?

(Definition: In systems with preferential voting, a voter can express a list of preferences. E.g., votes can be cast by putting a '1' in the column next to the voter's preferred candidate, a '2' beside their second favorite candidate and so on. Votes are counted according to the first preferences and any candidates who have achieved the predetermined quota are elected. To decide which of the remaining candidates are elected the votes are *transferred* from candidates who have more than the necessary number to achieve the quota and from the candidate with the least number of votes. An example of this is the election in Ireland in 2002.)

- Yes  
 No

18. If more than one vote can be cast, can they be cumulated?

(Definition: Cumulative voting refers to systems in which voters are allowed to cast more than one vote for a single candidate.)

- Yes  
 No

19. Is voting compulsory?

(Definition: Voting is compulsory if the law states that all those who have the right to vote are obliged to exercise that right.)

- Yes; Strictly Enforced Sanctions  
 Yes; Weakly Enforced Sanctions  
 Yes; Without Sanction for Violation  
 No

20. Please list and describe any other features of voting that should be noted.

*There are a number of additional features:*

- The electoral rules (except the number of seats to be filled) are subject of cantonal regulations. Therefore the electoral system varies.*
- Most cantons have two-round majoritarian elections, where an absolute majority is required in the first round. However, one canton uses a PR system for its two seats (canton of Jura).*

### Questions about Converting Votes into Seats

21a. Are there legally mandated thresholds that a party must exceed before it is eligible to receive seats?

- Yes  
 No

21b. If YES in Question 21a, what is the threshold?

21c. If YES in Question 21a, what is the unit for the threshold mentioned in Question 21b?

- Percent of total votes  
 Percent of valid votes  
 Percent of the total electorate  
 Other; please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

21d. If YES in Question 21a, please specify to what House/ Electoral Tier (Segment) the threshold(s) apply.

### References

22. Please provide an official source for district-level election results. English language sources are especially helpful. Include website links or contact information if applicable.

*<http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/de/index/themen/17/02.html>*

23. Please list any resources that were consulted in the preparation of this report, or that the CSES community may find especially helpful in understanding the political system described. Include website links if applicable.

*<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/Switzerland/81974>*