

## **Comparative Study of Electoral Systems**

### **Module 5: Macro Report**

Version: September 14, 2016

Country: Switzerland

Date of Election: 20 October 2019

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Date of Preparation: 16 July 2020

#### **NOTES TO COLLABORATORS**

- There are eight sections (numbered A-H inclusive) in this report. Please ensure that you complete all the sections.
- The information provided in this report contributes to the macro data portion of the CSES, an important component 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, district data) 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.

**A) DATA PERTINENT TO ELECTION AT WHICH 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".) Please also provide a website link to this data if possible.

*(Definition: Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have voting rights at Cabinet meetings. Please also list cabinet members that are 'independent'. If known, specify if the 'independents' are affiliated or close to certain parties).*

Party Name	Number of cabinet positions
SP/PS (Social Democratic Party)	2
FDP/PLR (FDP.The Liberals)	2
SVP/UDC (Swiss People's Party)	2
CVP/PDC (Christian Democratic People's Party)	1

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/politik/wahlen/frauen.assetdetail.6949666.html>  
1

2d. What was the size of the cabinet *prior* to the election (i.e.: total number of cabinet ministers detailed in 2c)? Please include only full ministers and the prime minister in the count.

*(Definition: Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have voting rights at Cabinet meetings).*

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"). Please provide a website link to this data if possible.

*(Definition: Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have voting rights at Cabinet meetings. Please also list cabinet members that are 'independent'. If known, specify if the 'independents' are affiliated or close to certain parties).*

Party Name	Number of cabinet positions
SP/PS (Social Democratic Party)	2
FDP/PLR (FDP.The Liberals)	2
SVP/UDC (Swiss People's Party)	2
CVP/PDC (Christian Democratic People's Party)	1

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/politik/wahlen/frauen.assetdetail.6949666.html>  
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.

*(Definition: Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have voting rights at Cabinet meetings).*

## 7 Ministers

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

*(Note: There is no requirement to detail the results here. Instead, an official source where this data can be accessed is sufficient).*

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/politik/wahlen/eidg-wahlen-2019.html>

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

*(Note: There is no requirement to detail the results here. Instead, an official source where this data can be accessed is sufficient).*

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/politik/wahlen/eidg-wahlen-2019.html>

4c. Can voters cast a ballot before Election Day(s)? (i.e.: Is early voting possible)?

☒ Yes, for the whole electorate

☐ Yes, but only for some of the electorate – please specify below:

☐ No

4d. Can voters cast a ballot by mail?

☒ Yes, for the whole electorate

☐ Yes, but only for some of the electorate – please specify below:

☐ No

4e. Can voters cast a ballot by the Internet?

☐ Yes, for the whole electorate

☐ Yes, but only for some of the electorate – please specify below:

☒ No

## **B) PARTY POSITIONS**

5a. Ideological family of political parties: Please indicate the ideological party family for each party by using the numbered categories below. For this question, please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 5 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I).

<b>Party Name</b>	<b>Ideological Family</b>
A. FDP/PLR – FDP.The Liberals	6
B. CVP/PDC - Christian Democratic People's Party	8
C. SP/PS - Social Democratic Party	4
D. SVP/UDC - Swiss People's Party	10
E. GPS/PES - Green Party	1
F. GLP/PVL - Green Liberal Party	1/6
G. BDP/PBD - Conservative Democratic Party	9
H. Lega - Ticino League	13
I. MCG - Geneva Citizens' Movement	13
J. CSP/PCS - Christian Social Party	8
K. EVP/PEV - Evangelical People's Party	8

L. EDU/UDF - Federal Democratic Union	15
M. PdA/PdT-Party of Labour / AL-Alternative List / Sol-Solidarity / EàG-Ensemble à Gauche / MPS-Movement for Socialism	2

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.)

- |                               |                                  |                       |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) Ecology Parties           | (6) Liberal Parties              | (11) Agrarian Parties |
| (2) Communist Parties         | (7) Right Liberal Parties        | (12) Ethnic Parties   |
| (3) Socialist Parties         | (8) Christian Democratic Parties | (13) Regional Parties |
| (4) Social Democratic Parties | (9) Conservative Parties         | (14) Independents     |
| (5) Left Liberal Parties      | (10) National Parties            | (15) Others           |

5b: How many country experts/national collaborators have assisted in the classification of parties on the above scale? 3

6a1. Ideological Positions of Parties: Please indicate party positions on a left-right dimension (in the expert judgment of the CSES Collaborator(s)). Please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 5 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I).

[illegible]

Ensemble à Gauche / MPS-Movement for Socialism											
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6a2: How many country experts/national collaborators have assisted in the classification of parties on the above scale?   3  

6a3: We encourage collaborators to provide any further specific or relevant information (if applicable) regarding the above classifications which might help users of the data understand them to a greater extent. This information will be included in the CSES codebook. Please fill in below.

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6b1. If you have asked respondents to rank political parties on an alternative dimension, other than the left-right dimension, please also provide your own rankings of the parties on this dimension. Please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 5 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I).

Name of dimension: *Not applicable*

Label for 0 position: \_\_\_\_\_

Label for 10 position: \_\_\_\_\_

Party Name												
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A.												
B.												
C.												
D.												
E.												
F.												
G.												
H.												
I.												

6b2: How many country experts/national collaborators have assisted in the classification of parties on the above scale? \_\_\_\_\_

6b3: We encourage collaborators to provide any further specific or relevant information (if applicable) regarding the above classifications which might help users of the data understand them to a greater extent. This information will be included in the CSES codebook. Please fill in below.

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6c. Populist classification of parties: As Module 5 focuses in part on populism, please indicate the degree to which each of the parties (in the expert judgment of the CSES Collaborator) can be characterized as a populist party? Please use the same parties used in the CSES Module 5 respondent questionnaire and label them the same way (A-I). The definition of populism advanced by the Module 5 theme committee is below:

*DEFINITION: Populism can be defined as a thin-centred ideology that pits a virtuous and homogeneous people against a set of elites and dangerous 'others' who are depicted as depriving "the people" of their rights, values, prosperity, identity, and voice. The emphasis on anti-elite/anti-establishment rhetoric and the contrast between the "pure people" and the "corrupt elite" are thus indications of the degree to which a party is populist. Populist parties can be found across the left-right ideological spectrum. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is "not at all populist" and 10 is "very populist", where would you place each of the parties in your country?*

Party Name	Not at all populist					Very populist					
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A. FDP/PLR - FDP.The Liberals		X									
B. CVP/PDC - Christian Democratic People's Party		X									
C. SP/PS - Social Democratic Party			X								
D. SVP/UDC - Swiss People's Party									X		
E. GPS/PES - Green Party		X									
F. GLP/PVL - Green Liberal Party		X									
G. BDP/PBD - Conservative Democratic Party		X									
H. Lega - Ticino League										X	
I. MCG - Geneva Citizens' Movement										X	
K. EVP/PEV - Evangelical People's Party		X									
L. EDU/UDF - Federal Democratic Union				X							
M. PdA/PdT-Party of Labour / AL-Alternative List / Sol-Solidarity / EàG-Ensemble à Gauche / MPS-Movement for Socialism						X					

6c2: How many country experts/national collaborators have assisted in the classification of parties on the above scale?   3



- 6c3: We encourage collaborators to provide any further specific or relevant information (if applicable) regarding the above classifications which might help users of the data understand them to a greater extent. This information will be included in the CSES codebook. Please fill in below.
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### **C) SALIENT ISSUES IN THE ELECTION**

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)? Note: Please rank the issues according to their salience (1 = most salient).

**1. Climate change:** *Public debate on global climate change and large mobilizations for numerous events (such as school strikes and demonstrations for stricter climate protection measures) across the country during the election year*

**2. Women's strike:** *National women's strike on 14 June 2019, which mobilized hundreds of thousands of women to demonstrate against their persisting unequal treatment in the Swiss society. During the election campaign, several trade unions and women's associations called upon parties to put more women on their lists and upon citizens to deliberately vote for women in the federal elections.*

**3. Old-age pensions:** *Voters mentioned problems regarding the welfare state and social insurances as second most important political problem (after climate change). Due to the aging of the population health costs are increasing and a reform of the old-age pension system becomes more and more urgent in order to secure pensions in the future.*

**4. Relations with EU:** *Even though the bilateral relationship between Switzerland and the EU was not the most salient topic during the election campaign, it still made it into the top 3 of the most important political problems according to voters. Especially the debate on the institutional framework agreement played an important role in the election year.*

**5. Negative campaigning:** *There was some media attention when the SVP unveiled a poster that showed a red apple with a Swiss flag being eaten by worms wearing the colors of the four other main political parties as well as the EU. Another event of negative campaigning was the CVP's internet campaign, which criticized the positions of candidates from other parties and promoted its own candidates.*

**D) FAIRNESS OF THE ELECTION & ELECTION SCHEDULING**

8a. How impartial was the body that administered the election law?

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

8b. Was there a formal complaint against the national level results?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

8c. Were there irregularities reported by international election observers?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ No international election observers

8d. On what date was the election originally legally scheduled to be held?

*20 October 2019*

8e. On what date was the election actually held? If different from 8d, please explain why.

*20 October 2019*

**E) ELECTION VIOLENCE**

9a. To what extent was there violence and voter or candidate intimidation **during** the election campaign and on 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

9b. If there was violence, was it geographically concentrated or national?

- ☐ Geographically concentrated
- ☐ National

9c. 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

9d. To what extent was there protest following the election?

- ☒ No protest at all
- ☐ Sporadic protest
- ☐ Significant protest

## **F) ELECTORAL ALLIANCES**

### 10. Joint Lists/Candidates

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

*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.*

10a. Is this type of electoral coalition legally allowable?

☒ Yes

☐ No

10b. Is this type of electoral coalition used in practice, even if not legally allowable?

☒ Yes

☐ No

10c. 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.*

<b>Alliance Name</b>	<b>Participating Parties (please indicate dominant members with an “*”)</b>
Alliance 1:	
Alliance 2:	
Alliance 3:	
Alliance 4:	
Alliance 5:	

11. 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
- 12a. Is there apparentement or linking of lists?
- ☒ Yes
  - ☐ No
- 12b. 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
- 13a. Can candidates run with the endorsement of more than one party?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☒ No
- 13b. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

### **G) 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.

**Please note: 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**

14a. 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*

14b. 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**

15a. 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 35.*

15b. 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: *An empty 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. Instead of an empty ballot paper voters can also use one of the pre-printed ballot papers that already contains the list name and all the candidates of this list/party. There are, however, differences across the cantons.*

15c. How many rounds of voting are there?

*One round*

15d. 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)

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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 a pre-printed ballot paper which already contains the list name and all the candidates of this list/party.*
- *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**

20a. Are there legally mandated thresholds that a party must exceed before it is eligible to receive seats?

☐ Yes

☒ No

20b. If YES in Question 21a, what is the threshold?

20c. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

20d. If YES in Question 21a, please specify to what House/ Electoral Tier (Segment) the threshold(s) apply.

**Please repeat questions 15a through 21d for each electoral tier (segment) of each directly elected house of the legislature. Countries with only one tier should proceed to Question 22.**

*Council of States (“Ständerat”, upper house)*

**Electoral Tier (Segment) and House**

14a. 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*

14b. 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**

15a. 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)*



15b. 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:

*(Depends on the canton because election to the Upper House (Council of States) are cantonal elections.)*

15c. How many rounds of voting are there?

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

15d. 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)

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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 electoral rules (except the number of seats to be filled) are subject to 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, two cantons use a PR system for its two seats (Jura and Neuchâtel).*

**Questions about Converting Votes into Seats**

- 20a. Are there legally mandated thresholds that a party must exceed before it is eligible to receive seats?  
☐ Yes  
☒ No
- 20b. If YES in Question 21a, what is the threshold?
- 20c. 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: \_\_\_\_\_
- 20d. If YES in Question 21a, please specify to what House/ Electoral Tier (Segment) the threshold(s) apply.

## **H) References**

21. 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.

Composition of Federal Council:

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/politik/wahlen/frauen.assetdetail.6949666.html>

Election results:

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/politik/wahlen/eidg-wahlen-2019.html>

Election results in context:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01402382.2019.1710687>

Voters' handbooks:

<https://www.bk.admin.ch/bk/de/home/politische-rechte/nationalratswahlen.html>

Political system:

<https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/9/1/425009.pdf>