



Comparative Study of Electoral Systems Module 6: Macro Report Version: March 25, 2024

Country/Polity: Switzerland Date of Election: 22 October 2023 Prepared by: Anke Tresch Date of Preparation: 18 November 2024

NOTES TO COLLABORATORS IN COMPLETING CSES MACRO REPORT

- The information provided in this report contributes to the macro data portion of the CSES, an essential 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.
- Collaborators are advised that the CSES makes the macro reports public to the user community upon the release of the dataset.
- There are eight sections (sorted by alphabet section A-H inclusive) in this report. Please ensure that you complete **ALL** eight sections (A-H) before returning the completed report to the CSES Secretariat.
- 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.
- To help collaborators complete the macro report, instructions and definitions appear in the document where necessary. Specific instructions to collaborators are highlighted in **RED** and the definitions CSES adheres to are highlighted in **BLUE**.

NOTES TO CSES DATA USERS CONSULTING PUBLISHED CSES MACRO REPORTS

CSES Macro Reports are made publicly available in the interests of transparency. Users are advised there may be instances where the macro report indicators for a polity differ from the published macro CSES data. In these circumstances, we recommend users rely on the published CSES data, which takes precedence.

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 election
- Lower House election
- Both Upper and Lower House election
- Other; please specify: _____

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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, 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
<i>SVP (Swiss People's Party)</i>	2
<i>FDP (FDP. The Liberals)</i>	2
<i>SPS (Swiss Social Democratic Party)</i>	2
<i>CVP (Christian Democratic People's Party)</i>	1

Federal Statistics Office, no. je-d-17.02.04.03, <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/politik/wahlen/frauen.assetdetail.30146528.html>

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 have voting rights at Cabinet meetings.

7 Ministers (the size is invariable)

2e. Was the President *prior* to the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was presidential, male or female?

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): Collaborators are requested to specify their best estimate of how the politician self-identifies.

Not applicable

Male Female Other Unsure

2f. Was the Prime Minister *prior* to the most recent election male or female?

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): Collaborators are requested to specify their best estimate of how the politician self-identifies.

Not applicable

Male Female Other Unsure

2g. How many female members were in the cabinet *prior* to the election?

DEFINITION: Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and have voting rights at Cabinet meetings.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): Collaborators are requested to specify their best estimate of how many cabinet members identify as female.

3 female ministers (42.9%)

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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, 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 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
<i>SVP (Swiss People's Party)</i>	2
<i>FDP (FDP. The Liberals)</i>	2
<i>SPS (Swiss Social Democratic Party)</i>	2
<i>CVP (Christian Democratic People's Party)*</i>	1

**Starting from 1 January 2021, The Center (Die Mitte), following the merger of CVP and BDP (Conservative Democratic Party / Bürgerlich-Demokratische Partei)*

Federal Statistics Office, no. je-d-17.02.04.03,
<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/politik/wahlen/frauen.assetdetail.30146528.html>

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 have voting rights at Cabinet meetings.

7 Ministers

3e. Was the President *after* the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was presidential, male or female?

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): Collaborators are requested to specify their best estimate of how the politician self-identifies.

Not applicable

Male

Female

Other

Unsure

3f. Was the Prime Minister *after* the most recent election male or female?

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): Collaborators are requested to specify their best estimate of how the politician self-identifies.

Not applicable

Male

Female

Other

Unsure

3g. How many female members were in the cabinet *after* the election?

DEFINITION: Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and have voting rights at Cabinet meetings.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): Collaborators are requested to specify their best estimate of how many cabinet members identify as female.

3 female ministers (42.9%)

3h. Were the Finance Minister, Foreign Affairs (External Affairs) Minister, and Health Minister *prior* to **(Column A)** and *after* **(Column B)** the election male or female?

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): Collaborators are requested to specify their best estimate of how many cabinet members identify as female. Mark the box below in column A and column B respectively.

Minister	(A)		(B)	
	Officeholder <i>prior to the election</i>		Officeholder <i>after the election</i>	
Finance Minister	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>
Foreign Affairs Minister	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>
Health Minister	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>

3i. What was the party of the Finance Minister, Foreign Affairs (External Affairs) Minister, and Health Minister both *prior* to and *after* the election?

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): Please specify the party holding the portfolio in the below columns. Only polities classified as parliamentary systems or semi-presidential systems where party affiliations are apparent are required to answer this question. Polities that are Full Presidential systems or where cabinet affiliation is unclear can omit and move to question 4.

Minister	(A) Party holding the office <i>prior</i> to the election	(B) Party holding the office <i>after</i> the election
Finance Minister	FDP	FDP
Foreign Affairs Minister	FDP	FDP
Health Minister	SP	SP

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.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): There is no requirement to detail the results here. Instead, providing an official source, preferably using the Roman/Latin script¹, where the results can be obtained is sufficient. Should the source be unavailable in the Roman/Latin alphabet (e.g., the source data is only available in scripts such as Cyrillic, Chinese, Arabic, or Japanese etc. ...), the CSES Secretariat may require your assistance in collecting the official election results and the district data.

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/politik/wahlen/eidgenoessische-wahlen/2023.html>

4b. Please provide **a source** of data detailing the official election results at the **electoral 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.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): There is no requirement to detail the results here. Instead, providing an official source, preferably using the Roman/Latin script¹, where the results can be obtained is sufficient. Should the source be unavailable in the Roman/Latin alphabet (e.g., the source data is only available in scripts such as Cyrillic, Chinese, Arabic, or Japanese etc. ...), the CSES Secretariat may require your assistance in collecting the official election results and the district data.

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/politik/wahlen/eidgenoessische-wahlen/2023.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

¹ By this we mean scripts that use the letters A, B, C etc...

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:

Parts of the electorate in the cantons of Basel-City, St. Gallen and Thurgau. In all three cantons, e-voting was possible for Swiss citizens from abroad. Additionally, in Basel-City, disabled Swiss citizens were allowed to cast a ballot by the Internet. In St. Gallen, selected communes were allowed to offer e-voting for residents.

Source: <https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/start/dokumentation/medienmitteilungen.msg-id-97361.html> or <https://www.evoting-info.ch/gut-zu-wissen/e-voting-in-der-schweiz>

 No

B) COLLABORATOR EXPERT CLASSIFICATIONS: 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 used in the CSES Module 6 respondent questionnaire.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): Up to 9 parties can be classified for each polity. Please provide scores for all parties achieving 1% of the national popular vote. Regarding labelling the parties alphabetically, Parties A-F re the six most popular parties/coalitions, ordered in descending order of their share of the popular vote in the parliamentary election. Thus, Party A is the party/coalition that received the most votes in the election, party B the second most votes, etc... Parties G, H, and I are supplemental parties. They may, but do not have to, accord with how parties A-F are ordered, that is ordered on the popular share of the vote in a polity.

Note: parties A-H are ordered in descending order of their share of the popular vote on the national level. Parties I and J are regionalist parties that run in only one canton. They received less than 1% of the national popular vote, but they are listed because they received large shares in their respective cantons (13,5% for Lega in Ticino; 12,3% for MCG in Geneva).

Party Name	Ideological Family
A. SVP/UDC – Swiss People’s Party	9/10 (usually described as national-conservative or national-populist party)
B. SP/PS – Social Democratic Party	4
C. FDP/PLR – FDP.The Liberals	6
D. The Center	8/9 (merger from Christian Democratic Party – 8 and Conservative Democratic Party – 9)
E. GPS/PES – Green Party	1
F. GLP/PVL – Green Liberal Party	1/6
G. EVP/PEV – Evangelical People’s Party	8 (protestant Christian party)
H. EDU/UDF – Federal Democratic Union	8 (religious conservative party, Evangelical interpretation of Christian values)
I. Lega – Ticino League	13 (with a populist discourse, similar to the SVP)
J. MCG – Geneva Citizens’ Movement	13 (with a populist discourse, similar to the SVP)

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? 4

6a. 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 6 respondent questionnaire.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): Up to 9 parties can be classified for each polity. Please provide scores for all parties achieving 1% of the national popular vote. Regarding labeling the parties alphabetically, Parties A-F are the six most popular parties/coalitions, ordered in descending order of their share of the popular vote in the parliamentary election. Thus, Party A is the party/coalition that received the most votes in the election, party B the second most votes, etc... Parties G, H, and I are supplemental parties. They may, but do not have to, accord with how parties A-F are ordered, that is ordered on the popular share of the vote in a polity.

Party Name	Left										Right	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A. SVP/UDC – Swiss People’s Party									x			
B. SP/PS – Social Democratic Party			x									
C. FDP/PLR – FDP.The Liberals								x				
D. The Center							x					
E. GPS/PES – Green Party			x									
F. GLP/PVL – Green Liberal Party						x						
G. EVP/PEV – Evangelical People’s Party					x							
H. EDU/UDF – Federal Democratic Union										x		
I. Lega – Ticino League									x			
J. MCG – Geneva Citizens’ Movement								x				

6a2: How many country experts/national collaborators have assisted in the classification of parties on the above scale? 4

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.

6b. 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 6 respondent questionnaire.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): Up to 9 parties can be classified for each polity. Please provide scores for all parties achieving 1% of the national popular vote. Regarding labeling the parties alphabetically, Parties A-F are the six most popular parties/coalitions, ordered in descending order of their share of the popular vote in the parliamentary election. Thus Party A is the party/coalition that received the most votes in the election, party B the second most votes, etc... Parties G, H, I are supplemental parties. They may, but do not have to, accord with how parties A-F are ordered, that is ordered on the popular share of the vote in a polity.

Name of dimension: _____

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.

6c. Populist classification of parties: 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 6 respondent questionnaire and label them the same way (A-I).

DEFINITION: Populism can be defined as a thin-centered ideology that pits a virtuous and homogeneous people against a set of elites and dangerous ‘others’ which 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?.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): up to 9 parties can be classified for each polity. Please provide scores for the first nine parties achieving 1% of the national popular vote. Regarding labeling the parties alphabetically, Parties A-F are the six most popular parties/coalitions, ordered in descending order of their share of the popular vote in the parliamentary (or Presidential) election. Thus, Party A is the party/coalition that received the most votes in the election; Party B is the second most votes, and so on. Parties G, H, and I are supplemental parties. They may, but do not have to, according to how parties A are ordered, that is, ordered on the popular share of the vote in a polity.

Party Name	Not at all populist						Very Populist				
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Swiss People's Party (SVP/ UDC)									x		
Social Democratic Party (SP/ PS)					x						
The Liberals (FDP/PLR)			x								
The Centre (DM/LC)			x								
GPS/PES – Green Party				x							
GLP/PVL – Green Liberal Party			x								
EVP/PEV – Evangelical People’s Party			x								
Lega – Ticino League (LdT)										x	
MCG – Geneva Citizens’ Movement										x	

6c2: How many country experts/national collaborators have assisted in the classification of parties on the above scale? 5

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.

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. **Migration/Asylum:** several surveys showed that migration and asylum issues were considered as most important issues during the campaign. The SVP heavily centered its campaign around these topics. About four months before the federal elections, the SVP started collecting signatures for a popular initiative to limit the permanent resident population to 10 million people by 2050 (“sustainability initiative”), arguing that rising immigration was straining Swiss infrastructure and resources. During the election campaign, the SVP also denounced the rising number of asylum applications as “asylum chaos” and launched a series of campaign ads against criminal immigrants.
2. **Climate change/environmental protection/energy policy:** The dominant issue of the last national elections in 2019 lost some momentum in 2023. It remained among the top 3 political concerns for voters, but the national climate demonstration in late September 2023 attracted significantly fewer participants than four years earlier. Additionally, various road blockades by climate activists were portrayed rather negatively in the media and sparked resentment among the public.
3. **Health care:** In late September 2023, just a few weeks before the federal elections, the Minister of the Interior announced a sharp increase in basic health insurance premiums for 2024. Since the introduction of compulsory health insurance in 1996, average premiums have increased by 146%. In the context of rising costs of living, this led to heated discussions and the issue of health insurance premiums has become increasingly important for voters in the final phase of the election campaign.
4. **Cost-of-living issues:** The elections took place in a context of inflation, rising prices and a continuing loss of purchasing power. Voters mainly complained about rising health care premiums, higher rents, and increasing energy costs, with wages often stagnating. The issue of shrinking purchasing power was strongly emphasized by the SP during the campaign.
5. **Social security (especially old-age pensions):** Voters have long been concerned about the financing of the old age system and the retirement age. This issue ranked among the top 3 concerns before the start of the campaign, but then gradually lost some ground. It was also much less important than in the previous federal elections in 2019.

Note also the (failed) attempt of the SVP to set (anti-)gender issues on the agenda. The SVP added a new chapter “gender terror and woke madness” to its party program for the years 2023-2027. The program was released in February 2023 and followed by some media buzz. However, the SVP later abandoned it as a central campaign topic.

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

Note that there was a formal complaint in the canton of Schaffhausen against the election of Simon Stocker (SP) into the Council of States. Elections to the Council of States are based on cantonal legislation. Two voters demanded that Stocker's election be declared invalid, because he lives in Zurich with his family during the week. The appeal was dismissed by the cantonal court.

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

- Yes
- No
- No international election observers

Link to the ODHIR Election Report: https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/9/9/569886_0.pdf

Note that the Federal Statistics Office discovered an error in the calculation of aggregated national party strengths the day after the elections. The errors occurred due to incorrect programming in the data import program for three small cantons (AI, AR, GL). The correction to the national party strengths had no impact on the cantonal election results or the distribution of seats. An administrative investigation was immediately initiated.

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

22 October 2023

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

22 October 2023

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 (*but verbal insults and aggressions against individual candidates, especially online/in the social media*)

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 & CANDIDATES

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

DEFINITION: A joint list refers to one on which candidates of different parties run together.

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. One of the more prominent examples was the list EAG-LUP in the canton of Geneva between the radical left parties Ensemble à Gauche and Union Populaire.

Alliance Name	Participating Parties (please indicate dominant members with an “*”)
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?

DEFINITION: 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.

- Yes
- No

12b. If apparentement is possible, what lists can participate in such agreements:

DEFINITION: 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.

- 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
- No apparentement

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

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): If possible, please supplement answers to questions 14-25 inclusive by submitting copies of the electoral law, voters' handbooks, electoral commission reports, and/or any other relevant materials in the deposit of your CSES data to the CSES Secretariat.

14a. Have there been any change to the electoral rules (e.g., changes to the electoral system; number of seats contested; number of districts; candidate nomination rules etc...) in the polity in the preceding 5-years?

Yes

No (but note that the seats in the National Council are redistributed among the cantons every four years based on their share of the permanent resident population. For the legislative term 2023-2027, the largest canton (Zurich) gained an additional seat (bringing its total to 36 seats), while Basel-City lost one seat (new: 4 seats instead of 5)

14b. If the answer to q14a was YES, please state below what changes occurred?

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): In providing an explanation, please attach any documents/sources which may help explain the change(s).

Electoral Tiers (Segments)

DEFINITION: CSES takes a generalized approach to classifying electoral tiers. Many electoral systems (both plurality and proportional operate a single-tier system where all elected representatives within the polity are elected in the same way (e.g., of systems that accord to this general principle are the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, or the Netherlands). There are conventionally two tiers of representatives in mixed systems (e.g., of systems like this include Germany and New Zealand, which elect representatives in two distinct ways – one set elected via constituency mandates and the other through list mandates). Even purely proportional systems can have multiple tiers. These can be delineated in various ways. For example, representatives elected through different list procedures, like in South Africa, where representatives can be elected via regional and national lists. Alternatively, the tiers may delineate compensatory seats, distributed to achieve a proportional outcome at the national level. For example, in polities like Norway and Sweden, the compensatory seat allocations are conventionally considered separate tiers even though electors don't cast separate ballots for these segments.

15a. For lower house elections, how many electoral tiers operate?

One tier

Two tiers

Three tiers

Other; please explain: _____

15b. For lower house elections, if more than one electoral tier operates in the polity (see answer to q15a above), please specify the different tiers, and the maximum number of seats awarded (if applicable) at each tier?

Tier name	Maximum number of seats awarded

15c. For upper house elections, how many electoral tiers operate?

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): Only required to answer this question if election under study is an upper house election is or has an upper house election taking place simultaneously with a lower house and/or presidential election.

- One tier
- Two tiers
- Three tiers
- Other; please explain: _____

15d. For upper house elections, if more than one electoral tier operates in the polity (see answer to q15c), please specify the different tiers, and the maximum number of seats awarded (if applicable) at each tier?

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): Only required to answer this question if election under study is an upper house election is or has an upper house election taking place simultaneously with a lower house and/or presidential election.

Tier	Maximum number of seats awarded

Voting procedures

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATOR(S): The voting procedure questions are asked of each electoral tier in the system (see answer to Question 15 above). Hence questions Q16a-Q20d and Q21a-25d are identical but the answers should relate to the procedures operated at different tiers.

Questions Q16a-Q20d should be completed by polities with one electoral tier only or by polities who have multiple electoral tiers with the answers to questions Q16a-Q20d referring to tier 1 in that polities' multi-tier system.

Questions Q21a-Q25d need only be completed by polities who operate multiple election tiers with the answers to questions Q21a-Q25d referring to tier 2 in that polities' multi-tier system. For those few polities that have more than two tiers (e.g., Greece), we request that collaborators in answering Q21a-Q25d specify the answers for both tiers 2 and 3, making clear which answers refer to which tier.

For polities who have only one tier or tier 1 of multi-tier polities

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLABORATORS: Questions Q16a-Q20d should be completed by polities with one electoral tier only or by polities who have multiple electoral tiers with the answers to questions Q16a-Q20d referring to tier 1 in that polities' multi-tier system.

16a. How many votes do voters cast or can cast?

Between 1 and 36, depending on the magnitude of the electoral district (=canton). Voters have as many votes as there are seats in a certain canton.

16b. Do voters vote for candidates (not party lists) or party lists, or some other variant?

(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

Candidates and Party Lists

[x] Other; please explain: Swiss voters have several possibilities to personalize their vote choice in Switzerland. In addition to casting a pre-printed, unmodified party list, they can modify a pre-printed ballot list by striking out certain candidates, write down the name of candidates twice (cumulative voting) or add a name of candidates appearing on other party lists (split-ticket voting). Moreover, they can fill in a blank list themselves. The blank list has a header and as many lines as there are seats in the canton. Voters must write the name of at least one candidate. If they wish, they can write in the name of a party in the header. If they don't do so, any lines left blank will not be assigned and will be lost.

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

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
 N/A – only one vote cast
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 *(Note: compulsory voting with weak sanctions in only one canton – Schaffhausen)*
- 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 20a, what is the threshold? Please supply all potential thresholds. Also, in multi-tier systems, please specify at which tier the thresholds operate.
- 20c. If YES in Question 20a and the threshold relates to a percentage of the vote a party needs to obtain to win seats, what is the unit for this threshold?
 Percent of total votes
 Percent of valid votes
 Percent of the total electorate
 Other; please explain: _____

For polities with more than one tier only

For polities that operate only one tier, the Collaborator can skip questions Q21a-Q25d and go straight to Q26. Questions Q21a-Q25d (below) need only be completed by polities who operate MULTIPLE election tiers with the answers to questions Q21a-Q25d referring to tier 2 in that polities' multi-tier system. For those few polities with more than two tiers (e.g., Greece), we request that collaborators in answering Q21a-Q25d specify the answers for both tiers 2 and 3, making clear which answers refer to which tier.

- 21a. How many votes do voters cast or can cast?
- 21b. Do voters vote for candidates (not party lists) or party lists, or some other variant?
(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

- Candidates and Party Lists
 Other; please explain: _____

21c. How many rounds of voting are there?

21d. 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)

22. 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

23. 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
 N/A – only one vote cast

24. 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

25a. Are there legally mandated thresholds that a party must exceed before it is eligible to receive seats?

- Yes
 No

- 25b. If YES in Question 25a, what is the threshold? Please supply all potential thresholds. Also, in multi-tier systems, please specify at which tier the thresholds operate.
- 25c. If YES in Question 25a and the threshold relates to a percentage of the vote a party needs to obtain to win seats, what is the unit for this threshold?
- Percent of total votes
 - Percent of valid votes
 - Percent of the total electorate
 - Other; please explain: _____

H) References

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

Voters' handbook:

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

Official election website:

<https://www.ch.ch/en/elections2023/>

Election results and reports from the Federal Statistics Office:

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/politik/wahlen/eidgenoessische-wahlen/2023.html>

Composition and election of the Federal Council (Swiss government):

<https://www.admin.ch/gov/en/start/federal-council/members-of-the-federal-council.html>