



ONLINE FORUM
ON MODERN
DIRECT DEMOCRACY

Swiss Direct Democracy in Practice

Coronavirus and Votes

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www.democracy.community/global-forum/online

Outline

1. Effect of the pandemic on Swiss direct democracy
2. Votes on the 27th of September 2020
3. Latest polls
4. Votes' results



1. Effect of the pandemic on Swiss direct democracy

- At the federal level:
 - Three votes postponed (i.e. «Limitation initiative», Amendment of the Hunting Act, Amendment of the Federal Act on Direct Federal Taxation) due to the difficulty of forming a democratic opinion
 - Collection and processing deadlines for federal referendum suspended
- At the cantonal/communal level:
 - Historic cancellations of open-air voting (*Landsgemeinde*) in Glarus and Appenzell Innerrhoden
 - Communal and cantonal elections mostly postponed, but
 - Cantonal/Communal elections held e.g. in St.Gallen, Schwyz, Lucerne, Uri

2. Votes on the 27th of September 2020

- Five ballots («Super Sunday»):

Vote	Topic	Brief description
Popular initiative «For moderate immigration (Limitation Initiative)»	EU/Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiated by the SVP (Swiss People's Party). - The aim is to end the free movement of persons between Switzerland and the EU.
Federal Decree on the Procurement of New Fighter Aircraft	Security/Military	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed bill provides that Switzerland will purchase new fighter aircraft by 2030. It allocates a maximum of 6 billion francs to this project. - An optional referendum has been called.

2. Votes on the 27th of September 2020

Vote	Topic	Brief description
Amendment of the Federal Act on Direct Federal Taxation	Family/Child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The federal authorities want to increase the maximum allowance for childcare outside the family for direct federal taxation. - An optional referendum has been called.
Amendment of the Loss of Earning Compensation Act	Family/Child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The bill stipulates that two weeks paid paternity leave shall be introduced. - This bill is an indirect counterproposal put forward by the Parliament in response to a popular initiative.

2. Votes on the 27th of September 2020

Vote	Topic	Brief description
Amendment of the Hunting Act	Hunting/Wildlife protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Parliament amended the revised Hunting Act. The revised act aims at facilitating the cohabitation of wolfs and human beings.- Nature conservation associations launched an optional referendum.

3. Latest polls

- Predictions based on the third wave of the 20 Minuten and Tamedia survey (LeeWas):
 - Survey conducted on daily newspapers and news-platforms across Switzerland
 - 24'252 participants
- Predictions based on the first wave of the gfs.bern survey:
 - Phone and online survey of 29'540 Swiss citizens

3. Latest polls

Vote	Pro*		Against**	
	<i>LeeWas</i>	<i>gfs</i>	<i>LeeWas</i>	<i>gfs</i>
Limitation Initiative	33%	35%	65%	63%
Federal Decree on the Procurement of New Fighter Aircraft	65%	56%	34%	40%
Amendment of the Federal Act on Direct Federal Taxation	51%	43%	46%	52%
Amendment of the Loss of Earning Compensation Act	70%	61%	28%	35%
Amendment of the Hunting Act	49%	46%	48%	48%

Notes:

The percentages do not sum up to 100 as some respondents answered «don't know»

- *: strongly agree, agree
- **: disagree, strongly disagree

Source: Leemann et al. (2020: 3–4), gfs.bern (2020: 5)



4. Votes' results

- If you are interested in the post votes results (and in Swiss referendum in general), you can find all information on swissvotes: <https://swissvotes.ch/votes> (the most comprehensive database on Swiss referendum since 1848)

Literature

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