

End-of-year review 2017: e-voting in use in Switzerland

30.01.2018

Statistics

In 2017, e-voting systems were used in 33 votes on different levels (federal, cantonal, municipal) in eight cantons. In the canton of Neuchâtel, e-voting was also used in the cantonal elections in April. Among the voters eligible for e-voting, between 31% and 64% used the online channel.



The digital voting channel was made available to different electoral groups, depending on the canton. A total of 490,241 ballot papers eligible for the online channel were submitted, of which 114,414 votes were actually cast via the Internet. Assuming a voting turnout of 50%, this would mean an average usage of the channel by 46% of eligible voters.

The canton of Neuchâtel used e-voting most frequently: on five Sundays, voters were able to cast their vote electronically in a total of eight ballots (cantonal elections, communal, cantonal and federal votes). The tables below provide an overview of the usage statistics per canton. The percentages relate to the share of all electronic votes received from voters who were eligible for e-voting.

Canton of Fribourg

Eligible for e-voting: Swiss citizens resident abroad only; from 24.9.2017, also residents of the municipality of Treyvaux.

Date	12.02.17	21.05.17	24.09.17
Type	Federal vote	Federal vote	Federal vote
Share of electronic votes*	46% **	46%	46%

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* Share of electronic votes among all votes cast by voters eligible to use the online channel.

** Example: On 12 February, 46% of voters in the canton of Fribourg who were eligible for e-voting and took part in the vote cast their vote electronically.

*** Example: On 12 February, 859 votes were submitted electronically in the canton of Fribourg.

Canton of Geneva

Eligible for e-voting: citizens registered for e-voting in their canton.

	Date	12.02.17	21.05.17	24.09.17
Type		Federal vote	Federal, cantonal and municipal vote	Federal, cantonal and municipal vote
Share of electronic votes		64%	61%	58%
Number of electronic votes		20,812	19,020	20,337

Canton of Neuchâtel

Eligible for e-voting: citizens registered on Guichet Unique, the public authorities portal.

	Date	12.02.17	02.04.17	21.05.17	24.09.17
Type		Federal and cantonal vote	Cantonal elections	Federal and municipal vote	Federal an
Share of electronic votes		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of electronic votes		7,272	4,956	5,003	6,488

Canton of Basel-Stadt

Eligible for e-voting: Swiss citizens resident abroad and people with disabilities (upon registration).

	Date	12.02.17	21.05.17	24.09.17
Type		Federal and cantonal vote	Federal and cantonal vote	Federal vote
Share of electronic votes		64%	65%	63%
Number of electronic votes		1,687	1,505	1,623

Canton of Berne

Eligible for e-voting: Swiss citizens resident abroad

	Date	12.02.17	21.05.17	24.09.17
Type		Federal vote	Federal and cantonal vote	Federal vote
Share of electronic votes		60%*	60%*	60%*
Number of electronic votes		3,388	1,760	3,398

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Eligible for e-voting: Swiss citizens resident abroad

Date	12.02.17	21.05.17	24.09.17
Type	Federal vote	Federal and cantonal vote	Federal and cantonal vote
Share of electronic votes	62%	61%	61%
Number of electronic votes	1,049	930	1,004

Canton of Aargau

Eligible for e-voting: Swiss citizen resident abroad only

Date	24.09.17
Type	Federal vote
Share of electronic votes	55%
Number of electronic votes	1,380

Canton of St. Gallen

Eligible for e-voting: Swiss citizens resident abroad as well as residents of four municipalities (Vilters-Wangs, Jona, Goldach, Kirchberg)

Date	24.09.17
Type	Federal vote
Share of electronic votes	31%
Number of electronic votes	5,615

Share



People are in favour of e-voting – despite the safety concerns

According to an e-voting study conducted



People must weigh up the risks of e-voting

01.12.17 | A parliamentary motion has the goal of submitting e-voting systems to



News from the cantons

08.01.18 | Basel-Stadt Court of Appeals rejects appeal made by the Canton

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risk assessment is more important, argues
Stefan Friedli, cyber-security specialist.

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