Country: Switzerland

Date of Election: October 21, 2007

NOTE TO COLLABORATORS: The information provided in this report contributes to an important part of the CCS project. 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 CCS website.

Part I: Data Pertinent to the Election at which the CCS was Administered
(taken from the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems, version: Module 2, August 23, 2004)

1. Report the number of portfolios (cabinet posts) held by each party in cabinet, prior to the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write “all”.)

Note: The Swiss government comprises the seven members of the Federal Council who are each elected by the United Federal Assembly (National Council and Council of States; but not directly by the people) for a four years term of office. Parliamentary elections therefore have no direct effect on the number of portfolios held by a party.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Political Party</th>
<th>Number of Portfolios</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SVP (Swiss People’s Party)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP (Swiss Social Democratic Party)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDP (Free Democratic Party of Switzerland)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVP (Christian Democrat People’s Party)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1a. What was the size of the cabinet before the election?

7 Federal Councillors
2. Report the number of portfolios (cabinet posts) held by each party in cabinet, after the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write "all").

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Political Party</th>
<th>Number of Portfolios</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SVP (Swiss People’s Party)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP (Swiss Social Democratic Party)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDP (Free Democratic Party of Switzerland)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVP (Christian Democrat People’s Party)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2a. What was the size of the cabinet after the election?

7 Federal Councillors

3. Political Parties (most active during the election in which the module was administered and receiving at least 3% of the vote):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party Name/Label</th>
<th>Year Party Founded</th>
<th>Ideological Family</th>
<th>European Parliament Political Group (where applicable)</th>
<th>International Party Organizational Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SVP (28.9%)</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP (19.5%)</td>
<td>1888</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDP (15.8%)</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVP (14.5%)</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>1, 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS (9.6%) (Swiss Green Party)</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>Global Greens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Question to be answered of up to six ‘relevant’ parties, i.e., with the higher vote percentages in the relevant election.

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           (G) Liberal Parties    (M) Agrarian Parties
(B) Communist Parties        (H) Right Liberal Parties (N) Ethnic Parties
(C) Socialist Parties         (I) Christian Democratic Parties (O) Regional Parties
(D) Social Democratic Parties (J) National Parties       (P) Other Parties
(E) Conservative Parties     (K) Independents        
(F) Left Liberal Parties      (L) Single Issue Parties

The following lists provide examples of political groups and organizations to which a particular party might belong. Please report any and all international affiliations for each party.

European Parliament Political Groups:
(1) European People’s Party
(2) European Democrats
(3) Party of European Socialists
(4) European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party
(5) Confederal Group of European United Left
(6) Nordic Green Left
(7) Greens
(8) European Free Alliance
(9) Europe for the Nations
(10) Europe of Democracies and Diversities
(00) Not Applicable
(98) Don't Know

International Party Organizations:
(11) Asia Pacific Socialist Organization
(12) Caribbean Democratic Union
(13) Christian Democratic International
(14) Christian Democratic Organization of America
(15) Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
(16) Democratic Union of Africa
(17) Eastern European Social Democratic Forum
(18) Green Movement
(19) Humanist Party
(20) International Communist Union
(21) International Democrat Union
(22) International League of Democratic Socialists
(23) Liberal International
(24) Natural Law Party
(25) Pacific Democratic Union
(26) Organization of African Liberal Parties
(27) Socialist International
(28) Socialist Inter-Africa
(00) Not Applicable
(98) Don't Know

3a. Were there any significant parties not represented in parliament before the election?

No

3b. Were there any significant parties not represented in parliament after the election?

No

3c. Were there any other non-represented parties or independent actors whom you believe to have had a significant effect on the election?

No

4a. Ideological Positions of Parties:

Please indicate Parties A-F's positions on a left-right dimension (in the expert judgment of the CSES Collaborator). If this dimension is not appropriate, please provide an explanation of the salient cleavages, and parties' relative positions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party Name</th>
<th>Left</th>
<th>Right</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SVP</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDP</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVP</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

1. Question to be answered of up to six 'relevant' parties, i.e., with the higher vote percentages in the relevant election. (the same as in question 3 above)

2. For each party position on the left-right scale, an average should be built. That average should be built upon the position attributed to each party by each member of the national CCS team. Please specify the number of persons upon which each average was constructed:
   - Party A: 2
   - Party B: 2
   - Party C: 2
   - Party D: 2
   - Party E: 2

4a. Do you believe there would be general consensus on these placements among informed observers in your country?

   Yes, with a deviation of 1 point

4b. 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.

   Not applicable

   Name of dimension:

   Label for left hand position:

   Label for right hand position:
4bb. Do you believe there would be general consensus about these placements among informed observers in your country?

Not applicable

5. 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)?

1. Issues concerning illegal and/or criminal immigrants and immigration and crime in general
2. Environmental concerns
3. The future role of the (informal) SVP leader and member of government, Christoph Blocher
4. The style of the SVP campaign
5. Social security

5a. Do you believe there would be general consensus about the importance of these factors among informed observers in your country?

Not sure

6. Electoral Alliances:

Sometimes, electoral alliances are made at the constituency level as, for example, in Finland. Documenting who is allied with whom, and how, in each constituency is a large task and we do not expect you to do more than make some general reference to the existence of constituency-level alliances. Sometimes, electoral alliances are made at the national level -- these are the alliances that we would like you to identify. Information is sought on who is allied with whom and on the nature of the electoral alliance.

a) Were electoral alliances permitted during the election campaign?

- Yes, in form of “apparentements”. But there were no alliances between major parties on the national level but at the district level, which are the cantons. On the constituency-level, alliances between a party’s main list and its “youth lists” or other sub lists were quite common. In several cantons there were also alliances between major parties within the same ideological bloc (e.g. between Social Democrats and Greens).
If yes, please complete the following:

Not applicable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alliance Name</th>
<th>Participant Parties (please indicate dominant members with an &quot;*&quot;)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alliance 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Party Leaders:

In legislative elections, please report the leader of each party.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party of Candidate</th>
<th>Name of Party Leader or Presidential Candidate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SVP</td>
<td>Party Leader: Ueli Maurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td>Party Leader: Hans-Jürg Fehr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDP</td>
<td>Party Leader: Fulvio Pelli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVP</td>
<td>Party Leader: Christophe Darbellay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>Party Leader: Ruth Genner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part II**

**Data on Electoral Institutions**

(taken from the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems, version: Module 2, August 23, 2004)

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

A. QUESTIONS ABOUT ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

**Definitions:** An electoral district is defined as a geographic area within which votes are counted and seats allocated. If a district cannot be partitioned into smaller districts within which votes are counted and seats allocated, it is called primary. If it can be partitioned into primary districts, and during the counting process there is some transfer of votes and/or seats from the primary districts to the larger district, then the larger district is called secondary. If a district can be partitioned into secondary districts (again with some
transfer of votes and/or seats), it is called tertiary.

In some electoral systems, there are electoral districts that are geographically nested but not otherwise related for purposes of seat allocation. In Lithuania, for example, there are 71 single-member districts that operate under a majority runoff system, and also a single nationwide district that operates under proportional representation (the largest remainders method with the Hare quota). Neither votes nor seats from the single-member districts transfer to the nationwide district, however. The two processes are entirely independent (with voters having one vote in each district). In this case, the nationwide district, although it contains the 71 single-member districts, is not considered to be secondary. It is primary. One might say that there are two segments to the electoral system in such cases.

1. How many segments (as just defined) are there in the electoral system?

   2 segments: National Council (lower house) and Council of States (upper house)

Please answer the following questions (questions 2 through 11) for each segment of each directly elected house of the legislature:

2. How many primary electoral districts are there?

   26 each (the cantons and half cantons)

3. For each primary electoral district, how many members are elected from each district? (If district variation exists, answer 3a)

   3a. If districts elect varying number of members, please list the districts, indicating the number of members elected from that district. (Attach separate sheets, as required).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>National Council</th>
<th>Council of States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canton Aargau</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Appenzell Innerhoden</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Appenzell Ausserrhoden</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Basel-Landschaft</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Basel-Stadt</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Bern</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Fribourg</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Geneva</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Glarus</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Graubünden</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Jura</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Lucerne</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Neuchâtel</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Nidwalden</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Obwalden</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton St. Gallen</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Schaffhausen</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Schwyz</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Solothurn</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Thurgau</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Ticino</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Uri</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Vaud</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Valais</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Zurich</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Zug</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
<td><strong>46</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. How many secondary electoral districts are there?

None

5. How many tertiary electoral districts are there?

None
If possible, please summarize the information above for questions 1-3 and 4-5 in the table here:

See above (3a)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chambers/Houses</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Upper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Segments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary districts</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of members*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary districts</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of members*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary districts</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of members*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please report the total number of members for all districts, per segment.

B. QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTING.

6. Exactly how are votes cast by voters?
Either at the ballot box or in advance through postal voting (which is very popular, up to 80 percent of the electorate vote per mail).

6a. How many votes do they or can they cast?

In the Swiss open ballot system, the number of candidate votes a citizen can cast in the National Elections depends on district magnitude (between 1 and 34 seats, depending on population size) and on the number of members to be elected in a canton for the Council of States (1 or 2).

6b. Do they vote for candidates, for lists, or for both? (please explain)

For the National Council: Both. Voters receive as many pre-printed ballot papers as there are party lists running, one for each party plus an empty ballot. The pre-printed ballots contain the names of all candidates –ballot papers do not need to be full and can contain empty lines. Voters have the possibility to

a) cast a pre-printed list of candidates without any changes.
b) to use a pre-printed ballot and change it through striking out names, adding candidate
names from other parties (panachage) or duplicate the names of one or more candidates (cumulation)
c) use the empty ballot and add names from one or several parties – at least one name. It is also possible to duplicate candidate names.
In no case, the number of candidate names can exceed the number of seats in an electoral district.
For the Council of States: Candidates.

7. Are the votes transferable?

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.

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

Yes, voters are allowed to distribute maximal two votes to the same individual candidate. As a consequence, they can also struck names off a pre-printed list.

9. Are there any other features of voting that should be noted?

No

C. QUESTIONS ABOUT CONVERTING VOTES INTO SEATS.

10. Exactly how are votes converted into seats?

For the National Council: according to the system of proportional representation. The votes for each party are counted first, as they determine the number of seats that a party is allocated. The party votes are the sum of all the votes for candidates of this party plus empty lines on party ballots (ballots do not need to be full). Then the candidates with the most votes within the parties are elected. In cantons with only one seat in the National Council (see 3a) there is a majoritarian vote system (first past the post).

For the Council of States: elections in all cantons except Jura (where a PR system is used for the two seats) are held according to the first-past-the-post system. There is a requirement for an absolute majority in the first round in most cantons.

10a. Are there legally mandated thresholds that a party must exceed before it is eligible to receive seats?

No

If so, what is the threshold?

Not applicable

10b. What electoral formula or formulas are used?
National Council: Hagenbach-Bischoff which is equivalent to the d’Hondt, however another way of calculating the distribution of seats.

11. If there are lists, are they closed, open, or flexible?
   closed
   flexible, but in practice virtually closed
   flexible
   flexible, but in practice virtually open
   open

Definitions: A list is closed if the seats that are awarded to that list are always occupied by the candidates in order of their appearance on the list (i.e., if the list gets x seats then necessarily the top x names on the list get the seats). A list is open if the question of which candidates on the list get the seats that are awarded to the list is determined solely by the votes that each candidate receives. A list is flexible if parties place their candidates in the order they would like to see them elected, but voters can, with varying degrees of ease, change this order through votes they cast for individual candidates.

Please repeat questions 2 through 11 of this section for each segment of each directly elected house of the legislature.

D. 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.

12. What are the possibilities of forming alliances in the system?

In every canton, lists can be linked through apparentements.

12a. Can parties run joint lists?
   From a legal perspective there are no objections against joint lists. But in practice they are not significant because of apparentement and the parties tend to run their own lists. Therefore joint lists of different parties exist only in very isolated cases.

12b. Is there apparentement or linking of lists
   Yes
   No

12c. Can candidates run with the endorsement of more than one party?
   Yes, in small cantons with only a few seats the parties sometimes agree on candidates for the two houses (“tacit election”).
   No

12d. Do parties withdraw their lists or candidates in some constituencies, urging their supporters
there to vote for an ally's list or candidate?

   Yes, but only in elections to the Council of States and only if there is a second round.
   No

12e. Other?
No

13. Are joint lists possible?

   see 12a

13a. 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.

   No

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

   lists of the same party in the same constituency Yes
   lists of the same party from different constituencies No
   lists of different parties in the same constituency Yes

15. 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):

**Part III**

**Data on Regime Type**
*(taken from the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems, version: Module 2, August 23, 2004)*

Below are various questions about the type of regime--presidential, parliamentary, semi-presidential--in your country. There are two potential problems with these questions that should be noted at the outset. First, in some countries there may be a discrepancy between the *de jure* (or legal) situation and the *de facto* (or practical) situation. For example, in Great Britain the Queen still possesses a legal right to veto legislation, but this right has not been exercised since 1707. In the case of such obviously obsolete powers, please answer according to the de facto situation. Otherwise, describe the *de jure* situation. A second potential problem is that the questions may not be phrased optimally for the situation in your
particular country. In such cases, please answer as best you can, providing some indication of the
difficulties as you see them.

A. QUESTIONS REGARDING THE HEAD OF STATE.

Definitions: The Head of State is typically the highest ranking official in the executive branch of
government. Often, this position is held by a president or a monarch, and may be more ceremonial than
effective. The Head of Government is usually the highest ranking official in the legislative branch of
government. In some systems, this may be someone other than the Head of State (i.e. the prime minister
in the Westminster systems), while in other cases, the roles of the Head of State and Head of Government
are combined (i.e. in the United States, the president serves as both the Head of State and the Head of
Government).

1. Who is the Head of State?
   President
   Monarch
   Prime Minister serves as ceremonial head of state
   Other (please specify)

   The President of the Swiss Confederation. The Swiss Government (Executive) consists of the
seven members of the Federal Council. The President of the Swiss Confederation is elected for a
one-year term, during which she or he is considered as being «primus inter pares», i.e., the first
among equals.

2. How is the head of state selected?
   Direct election
   Indirect election
   Birth right
   Divine right
   Other (Explain)

2a. If by direct election, by what process?
   Plurality election
   Run-off or two-ballot system
   Other (Explain)

   Not applicable

2a1. If by run-off system, how are the candidates selected for the final round?
   The _____(#) candidates with the highest vote totals advance to the second round

   Not applicable

   Any candidate with at least _____% of the popular vote advances to the second round

2b. If by indirect election, by what process?
   Electoral college
   Selection by the MP’s of both chambers (National Council and Council of States)
2b1. If by electoral college, how are electors chosen?

Not applicable

2b2. Does the electoral college deliberate?
   Yes
   No

Not applicable

2b3. What is the voting procedure used by the electoral college?

Not applicable

2b4. If by the legislature, by which chamber(s) of the legislature? What is the voting procedure used?

The incoming President of the Swiss Confederation is proposed according to her or his years in office for a one-year term and elected if she or he gains the absolute majority among the present members of the United Federal Assembly (both chambers).

3. Does the Head of State have the following powers? Please check all that apply:

3a. Introduce legislation?
   Yes
   No

3b. Require expedited action on specific legislation? (i.e., set a deadline by which the legislature is required to act on the bill)?
   Yes
   No

**Definitions:** A Head of State possesses a partial veto when he or she can target specific clauses of a piece of legislation for veto, while promulgating the rest. In the U.S., such vetoes are sometimes called line item vetoes. A Head of State possesses a package veto when he or she can veto the entire piece of legislation submitted by the legislature, but cannot veto some parts and accept others.

3c. Package veto?
   No
   Yes, and the requirement to override the veto is:

3d. Partial veto?
   No
   Yes, and the requirement to override the veto is:
3e. Issue decrees with the power of law?
   Yes
   No

3f. Emergency powers?
   Yes
   No

3g. Negotiate treaties and international agreements?
   No
   Yes, provided the following additional requirements are met:
   Under the condition, that the Federal Council as a whole instructs him or her to do so.

3h. Commander of the armed forces?
   Yes
   No

3i. Initiate referenda or plebiscites?
   Yes
   No

3j. Refer legislation to the judicial branch for review of constitutionality?
   Yes
   No

3k. Convene special legislative sessions?
   Yes
   No

B. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT.

Definitions: In some countries, the Head of Government is directly elected, in elections that may or may not occur concurrently with legislative elections. In these cases, the Head of Government is said to be elected independently of the legislature. In others, the Head of Government is the leader of the governing party or governing coalition in the legislature, and so, the selection of the Head of Government depends upon the distribution of seats in the legislature. In these cases, the Head of Government is not elected independently of the legislature.

4. Is the Head of Government elected independently of the legislature?
   Yes
   No

4a. Is the Head of Government also the Head of State?
   Yes
   No

4b. If the Head of Government is not elected independently of the legislature, how is the Head of
Government selected?
- Appointed by the head of state alone
- Appointed by the legislature alone
- Nominated by the head of state, and approved by the legislature
- Nominated by the legislature, and approved by the head of state
- Other (Please explain):

The Swiss Government (Executive) consists of the seven members of the Federal Council. The President of the Swiss Confederation is elected for a one-year term, during which she or he is considered as being «primus inter pares», i.e., the first among equals.

5. What authorities does the Head of Government have over the composition of the cabinet? Please check all that apply.
- Names ministers and assigns portfolios alone
- Nominates ministers for approval by the president
- Reviews and approves ministerial nominations made by the president
- Dismisses ministers and reassigns portfolios at own discretion
- Other (Please explain):

None, the members of the Federal Council settle the distribution of the portfolios among themselves.

6. What authorities does the Head of Government have over the policy making process? Please check all that apply:
- Chairs cabinet meetings
- Determines schedule of issues to be considered by the legislature
- Determines which alternatives will be voted on by the legislature, and in which order
- Refers legislative proposals to party or legislative committees
- Calls votes of confidence in government
- Other (Please explain):

C. QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CABINET

7. By what method(s) can the cabinet be dismissed? Please check all that apply:
- By the head of state acting alone
- By the prime minister acting alone
- By majority vote of the legislature where a majority of all legislators is required
- By majority vote of the legislature where a majority of those legislators voting is required
- By some combination of the above, acting in concert (Please explain):
- Other (Please explain):

The cabinet as a whole cannot be dismissed. It is possibly not to re-elect a member of the government when the entire government is re-elected after the parliamentary election every four years, however that only happened twice in the last 120 years (in 2003 and 2007).

D. QUESTIONS REGARDING THE LEGISLATURE
8. Can the legislature be dissolved prior to regularly scheduled elections? ______No______Yes:  
   By the head of state acting alone  
   By the prime minister acting alone  
   By majority vote of the legislature  
   By some combination of the above, acting in concert (Please explain):  
   Other (Please explain):  

9. If the legislature can be dissolved prior to regularly scheduled elections, are there restrictions on when and how the legislature can be dissolve? Please check all that apply:  
   Not applicable  
   On the timing of dissolution (e.g. not within one year after a legislative election)  
   (Please explain):  
   As a response to action/inaction by the legislature (e.g. only when the legislature has censured the cabinet; only if the legislature fails to pass the budget) (Please explain):  
   Other (Explain):  

10. Is there a second chamber of the legislature? No_____ Yes, the Council of States_____. it is:  
   directly elected  
   indirectly elected through the following process:  

10a. If there is a second chamber and it is indirectly elected, are those who choose its members:  
   wholly regional and/or local officials?  
   partly regional and/or local officials?  
   not necessarily regional and/or local officials?  

   Not applicable  

10b. If there is a second chamber, does it have specific and exclusive legislative powers (i.e. the power to reject the executive’s proposed budget)?  
   No, the two chambers enjoy equal rights  
   Yes (Please explain):  

10c. If there is a second chamber, does it have the power to remove the cabinet or censure its ministers?  
   Yes  
   No  

E. FEDERALISM  

11. Is there a constitutionally guaranteed division of power between the central government and regional and/or local governments?  
   Yes  
   No
12. Does the central government have the power to remove elected officials of regional and/or local governments?
   Yes
   No

F. REFERENCES

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 here.

Part IV
Data Pertinent to the Process of Intra-Party Candidate Selection

For all parties:

1. When applicable, translate (into English) the relevant legislation (constitutional articles and/or articles in ordinary laws) to understand the process of candidate selection

Not applicable, there is no legislation regulating candidate selection.

Party by Party (Party A to Party E):

Consider up to six major parties with parliamentary representation in the legislature under analysis (i.e., with the higher vote percentages in the relevant election: see Part I, questions 3 and 4 above) – lower house. Please answer the following questions for each one of these up to six parties.

Party A: Swiss Peoples party (SVP)

2.1 For List Systems/Proportional Representation Electoral Systems or Mixed Systems with a List Component:

2.1.1 Who is responsible for constructing the lists (multiple choice question):
   - national party leader ( )
   - national party organs ( )
   - regional party organs (x)
   - local party organs (x)

2.1.2 Which party organ is the most important in the process of list making (single choice question):
   - national party leader ( )
   - national party organs ( )
   - regional party organs (x)
   - local party organs ( )
2.1.3 Which party organ is second most important in the process of list making (single choice question):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
  - local party organs (x)

2.1.4 If closed lists are used, which party organ is most important in defining the relative position of candidates on the list? (single choice question)
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.5. Do the rank and file party members (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection?

  Yes (x) PASS TO 2.1.6
  No ( ) PASS TO 2.1.11

2.1.6 If the rank and file party members/militants (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection: is this process organized only by the party or does the electoral authority also participate in some way in the process?

  only by the party (x)
  by the party and the electoral authority ( )

2.1.7 Please describe how the electoral authority participates in the process referred to in 2.1.5?

Not applicable

2.1.8 Are the candidates in the process referred to in 2.1.5 allowed to do open campaign, for instance to buy media advertisement?

  Yes (x)
  No ( )

2.1.9. Describe the rules about campaign finance of the process refereed to in 2.1.5?

There are no formal rules about campaign finances in Switzerland

2.1.10 How open is the selection process of Party A, i.e., who is more important in choosing candidates, the party leadership, militants or sympathizers or voters in open elections? (single choice question)

  - national party leader ( )
  - national party organs ( )
NOTE: while questions 2.1.1 to 2.1.10 should be answered by the experts in each national CCS team. THIS IS NOT SO WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS. For questions 2.1.11 and 2.1.12, national CCS collaborators should try to obtain this information directly from members of the leadership of each party that are responsible for the process of candidate selection.

2.1.11 “In the process of candidate selection, demands are often made concerning the group affiliation (e.g. local connection, gender, age, occupation etc.) of the candidates. In your view, which are the most important selection criteria in the process of nominations?”

Strength of ties within the party, support from local party branch

2.1.12 “In the screening process, demands are also made concerning the personal qualities of a candidate. In your view, which personal qualities are the most important ones?”

- Attracting personal votes in the open ballot system
- Contribution to personal and party campaign
- “Balanced list” (gender, region, age)

3. If the rank and file party members/militants (and / or sympathizers and / or voters) participate directly in the process of choosing the candidates in Party A, please specify whether this is required by the constitution, by ordinary law or only by party statues? (multiple choice question).

   a. required by the constitution ( )
   b. required by ordinary law ( )
   c. required by party A’s statues (x)

4. Describe the process of candidate selection in Party A by your own words:

In most cantons, local party branches nominate candidates, based on some key principles of the regional (cantonal party branch). The local party convent has the final word.

5. Translate (into English) the relevant parts of party statues to understand the process of candidate selection in Party A

Not applicable

**Party B: Social Democrats**

2.1 For List Systems/Proportional Representation Electoral Systems or Mixed
Systems with a List Component:

2.1.1 Who is responsible for constructing the lists *(multiple choice question)*:  
- national party leader (   )
- national party organs (   )
- regional party organs (x)
- local party organs (x)

2.1.2 Which party organ is the most important in the process of list making *(single choice question)*:  
- national party leader (   )
- national party organs (   )
- regional party organs (x)
- local party organs (   )

2.1.3 Which party organ is second most important in the process of list making *(single choice question)*:  
- national party leader (   )
- national party organs (   )
- regional party organs (   )
- local party organs (x)

2.1.4 If closed lists are used, which party organ is most important in defining the relative position of candidates on the list? *(single choice question)*  
- national party leader (   )
- national party organs (   )
- regional party organs (   )
- local party organs (   )

2.1.5. Do the rank and file party members (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection?  
Yes (x) PASS TO 2.1.6  
No (   ) PASS TO 2.1.11

2.1.6 If the rank and file party members/militants (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection: is this process organized only by the party or does the electoral authority also participate in some way in the process?  
only by the party (x)  
by the party and the electoral authority (   )

2.1.7 Please describe how the electoral authority participates in the process referred to in 2.1.5?  
Not applicable

2.1.8 Are the candidates in the process refereed to in 2.1.5 allowed to do open campaign,
for instance to buy media advertisement?
Yes (x)
No ( )

2.1.9. Describe the rules about campaign finance of the process refereed to in 2.1.5?

There are no formal rules about campaign finances in Switzerland.

2.1.10 How open is the selection process of Party B, i.e., who is more important in choosing candidates, the party leadership, militants or sympathizers or voters in open elections? (single choice question)

- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs (x)
- local party organs ( )
- militants or sympathizers or voters ( )

NOTE: while questions 2.1.1 to 2.1.10 should be answered by the experts in each national CCS team. THIS IS NOT SO WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS. For questions 2.1.11 and 2.1.12, national CCS collaborators should try to obtain this information directly from members of the leadership of each party that are responsible for the process of candidate selection.

2.1.11 “In the process of candidate selection, demands are often made concerning the group affiliation (e.g. local connection, gender, age, occupation etc.) of the candidates. In your view, which are the most important selection criteria in the process of nominations?”

Strength of ties within the party, support from local party branch.

2.1.12 “In the screening process, demands are also made concerning the personal qualities of a candidate. In your view, which personal qualities are the most important ones?”

- Attracting personal votes in the open ballot system
- Contribution to personal and party campaign
- “Balanced list” (gender, region, age)

3. If the rank and file party members/militants (and / or sympathizers and / or voters) participate directly in the process of choosing the candidates in Party B, please specify whether this is required by the constitution, by ordinary law or only by party statues? (multiple choice question). aaa

a. required by the constitution ( )
b. required by ordinary law ( )
c. required by party B’s statues (x)
4. Describe the process of candidate selection in Party B by your own words:

In most cantons, local party branches nominate candidates, based on some key principles of the regional (cantonal party branch). The local party convent has the final word.

5. Translate (into English) the relevant parts of party statutes to understand the process of candidate selection in Party B

Not applicable.

Party C: Free Democratic Party (FDP)

2.1 For List Systems/Proportional Representation Electoral Systems or Mixed Systems with a List Component:

2.1.1 Who is responsible for constructing the lists (multiple choice question):
- national party leader (  )
- national party organs (  )
- regional party organs (x)
- local party organs (x)

2.1.2 Which party organ is the most important in the process of list making (single choice question):
- national party leader (  )
- national party organs (  )
- regional party organs (x)
- local party organs (  )

2.1.3 Which party organ is second most important in the process of list making (single choice question):
- national party leader (  )
- national party organs (  )
- regional party organs (  )
- local party organs (x)

2.1.4 If closed lists are used, which party organ is most important in defining the relative position of candidates on the list? (single choice question)
- national party leader (  )
- national party organs (  )
- regional party organs (  )
- local party organs (  )

2.1.5. Do the rank and file party members (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection?
2.1.6 If the rank and file party members/militants (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection: is this process organized only by the party or does the electoral authority also participate in some way in the process?

- only by the party (x)
- by the party and the electoral authority ( )

2.1.7 Please describe how the electoral authority participates in the process referred to in 2.1.5?

Not applicable

2.1.8 Are the candidates in the process referred to in 2.1.5 allowed to do open campaign, for instance to buy media advertisement?

- Yes (x)
- No ( )

2.1.9. Describe the rules about campaign finance of the process referred to in 2.1.5?

There are no formal rules about campaign finances in Switzerland.

2.1.10 How open is the selection process of Party C, i.e., who is more important in choosing candidates, the party leadership, militants or sympathizers or voters in open elections? (single choice question)

- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs (x)
- local party organs ( )
- militants or sympathizers or voters ( )

NOTE: while questions 2.1.1 to 2.1.10 should be answered by the experts in each national CCS team. THIS IS NOT SO WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS. For questions 2.1.11 and 2.1.12, national CCS collaborators should try to obtain this information directly from members of the leadership of each party that are responsible for the process of candidate selection.

2.1.11 “In the process of candidate selection, demands are often made concerning the group affiliation (e.g. local connection, gender, age, occupation etc.) of the candidates. In your view, which are the most important selection criteria in the process of nominations?”

Strength of ties within the party, support from local party branch.

2.1.12 “In the screening process, demands are also made concerning the personal qualities of a candidate. In your view, which personal qualities are the most important ones?”
- Attracting personal votes in the open ballot system
- Contribution to personal and party campaign
- “Balanced list” (gender, region, age)

3. If the rank and file party members/militants (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of choosing the candidates in Party C, please specify whether this is required by the constitution, by ordinary law or only by party statues? (multiple choice question).

   a. required by the constitution ( )
   b. required by ordinary law ( )
   c. required by party C’s statues (x)

4. Describe the process of candidate selection in Party C by your own words:

In most cantons, local party branches nominate candidates, based on some key principles of the regional (cantonal party branch). The local party convent has the final word.

5. Translate (into English) the relevant parts of party statues to understand the process of candidate selection in Party C

Not applicable

Party D: Christian Democrats (CVP)

2.1 For List Systems/Proportional Representation Electoral Systems or Mixed Systems with a List Component:

2.1.1 Who is responsible for constructing the lists (multiple choice question):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs (x)
- local party organs (x)

2.1.2 Which party organ is the most important in the process of list making (single choice question):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs (x)

2.1.3 Which party organ is second most important in the process of list making (single choice question):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
2.1.4 If closed lists are used, which party organ is most important in defining the relative position of candidates on the list? (single choice question)
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.5. Do the rank and file party members (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection?
Yes (x) PASS TO 2.1.6
No ( ) PASS TO 2.1.11

2.1.6 If the rank and file party members/militants (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection: is this process organized only by the party or does the electoral authority also participate in some way in the process?
only by the party (x)
by the party and the electoral authority ( )

2.1.7 Please describe how the electoral authority participates in the process referred to in 2.1.5?
Not applicable

2.1.8 Are the candidates in the process refereed to in 2.1.5 allowed to do open campaign, for instance to buy media advertisement?
Yes (x)
No ( )

2.1.9. Describe the rules about campaign finance of the process refereed to in 2.1.5?
There are no formal rules about campaign finances in Switzerland.

2.1.10 How open is the selection process of Party D, i.e., who is more important in choosing candidates, the party leadership, militants or sympathizers or voters in open elections? (single choice question)
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs (x)
- militants or sympathizers or voters ( )

NOTE: while questions 2.1.1 to 2.1.10 should be answered by the experts in each national
CCS team. THIS IS NOT SO WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS. For questions 2.1.11 and 2.1.12, national CCS collaborators should try to obtain this information directly from members of the leadership of each party that are responsible for the process of candidate selection.

2.1.11 “In the process of candidate selection, demands are often made concerning the group affiliation (e.g. local connection, gender, age, occupation etc.) of the candidates. In your view, which are the most important selection criteria in the process of nominations?”

Strength of ties within the party, support from local party branch.

2.1.12 “In the screening process, demands are also made concerning the personal qualities of a candidate. In your view, which personal qualities are the most important ones?”

- Attracting personal votes in the open ballot system
- Contribution to personal and party campaign
- “Balanced list” (gender, region, age)

3. If the rank and file party members/militants (and / or sympathizers and / or voters) participate directly in the process of choosing the candidates in Party D, please specify whether this is required by the constitution, by ordinary law or only by party statues? (multiple choice question).

a. required by the constitution ( )
b. required by ordinary law ( )
c. required by party D’s statues (x)

4. Describe the process of candidate selection in Party D by your own words:

In most cantons, local party branches nominate candidates, based on some key principles of the regional (cantonal party branch). The local party convent has the final word.

5. Translate (into English) the relevant parts of party statues to understand the process of candidate selection in Party D

Not applicable

Party E: Green Party

2.1 For List Systems/Proportional Representation Electoral Systems or Mixed Systems with a List Component:

2.1.1 Who is responsible for constructing the lists (multiple choice question):
- national party leader ( )
2.1.2 Which party organ is the most important in the process of list making (single choice question):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs (x)
- local party organs (x)

2.1.3 Which party organ is second most important in the process of list making (single choice question):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs (x)
- local party organs ( )

2.1.4 If closed lists are used, which party organ is most important in defining the relative position of candidates on the list? (single choice question):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs (x)
- local party organs ( )

2.1.5. Do the rank and file party members (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection?

Yes (x) PASS TO 2.1.6
No ( ) PASS TO 2.1.11

2.1.6 If the rank and file party members/militants (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection: is this process organized only by the party or does the electoral authority also participate in some way in the process?

only by the party (x)
by the party and the electoral authority ( )

2.1.7 Please describe how the electoral authority participates in the process referred to in 2.1.5?

Not applicable

2.1.8 Are the candidates in the process refereed to in 2.1.5 allowed to do open campaign, for instance to buy media advertisement?

Yes (x)
No ( )
2.1.9. Describe the rules about campaign finance of the process refereed to in 2.1.5?

There are no formal rules about campaign finances in Switzerland.

2.1.10 How open is the selection process of Party E, i.e., who is more important in choosing candidates, the party leadership, militants or sympathizers or voters in open elections? *(single choice question)*

- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs (x)
- militants or sympathizers or voters ( )

**NOTE:** while questions 2.1.1 to 2.1.10 should be answered by the experts in each national CCS team. **THIS IS NOT SO WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS.** For questions 2.1.11 and 2.1.12, national CCS collaborators should try to obtain this information directly from members of the leadership of each party that are responsible for the process of candidate selection.

2.1.11 “In the process of candidate selection, demands are often made concerning the group affiliation (e.g. local connection, gender, age, occupation etc.) of the candidates. In your view, which are the most important selection criteria in the process of nominations?”

Strength of ties within the party, support from local party branch.

2.1.12 “In the screening process, demands are also made concerning the personal qualities of a candidate. In your view, which personal qualities are the most important ones?”

- Attracting personal votes in the open ballot system
- Contribution to personal and party campaign
- “Balanced list” (gender, region, age)

3. If the rank and file party members/militants (and / or sympathizers and / or voters) participate directly in the process of choosing the candidates in Party E, please specify whether this is required by the constitution, by ordinary law or only by party statues? *(multiple choice question)*

- a. required by the constitution ( )
- b. required by ordinary law ( )
- c. required by party E’s statues (x)

4. Describe the process of candidate selection in Party E by your own words:

In most cantons, local party branches nominate candidates, based on some key principles of the regional (cantonal party branch). The local party convent has the final word.
5. Translate (into English) the relevant parts of party statues to understand the process of candidate selection in Party E

Not applicable