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VOTING WHILE IN SWITZERLAND

(Article provided by Heinz Leuenberger - Delegate for Swiss Abroad)

Question; I'm registered to vote and I happen to be in Switzerland at the next voting date. Can I put my voting papers directly into the ballot box at the county where I'm registered?

Answer; Yes you can do so - conditional that you inform the county at least six weeks prior to the voting date - of your intentions. You can do this in person or in writing. In such a situation the voting papers will be sent to your temporary address in Switzerland rather than to your domicile abroad.

- Should you need further info, please contact: Alessia Radaelli, Leiterin Rechtsdienst, Secretariat Bern.

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF THE SWISS ABROAD

The legal service at the Swiss Abroad Secretariat receives numerous inquiries regarding the political rights of Swiss living abroad. Here is an overview of the more pertinent questions the service is asked to comment on:

INITIATIVES AND REFERENDA

Question: The Swiss Revue regularly publishes a list of the upcoming popular Initiatives including addresses of the respective organising committees. How do I have to go about it, if I want to support one or more of them?

Answer: First you have to be registered for the postal ballot with your county or canton of origin. Once registered, you can contact the representative Initiative committee and request a signature list. Fill it in, sign it, and send it back. Should you be on the Internet, you can visit www.revue.ch and download the required list and proceed as above. (registration form for postal voting is included in the latest Swiss Revue. All club presidents, Deputy Delegate Marie-Therese and myself have spare copies available)

Question: What do I do if I happen to be in Switzerland and would like to support an Initiative?

Cultural Exhibitions and Festivals from Switzerland

(As advised by the Swiss Embassy)

Why make Prints ? This Exhibition shows the development of printmaking in Switzerland, since 1960, in over 70 works by 51 artists. The works document developments from screenprinting, to the experimental woodcut, engraving, lithography and, finally, the involvement of the computer. (See also July / August *Helvetia*)

Dunedin 14 May - 24 June 2001
at Otago Museum, 419 Great King Street, Dunedin

An exhibition by the Swiss abstractionist painter Helmut Federle will be held in Auckland (details below) from April to June 2001. Mr. Federle, born in 1944 in Solothurn and now living in St. Margrethen, Vienna, and Düsseldorf, has exhibited widely throughout the world since 1976. In an essay describing his views on his art, and art in general, he has said that "*It is my relationship to tradition that shows me which way to go in the future. In this connection it is important for me to add that my reference to past quality was never formal but rather organic. Many of today's references are purely formal and thus static.*"

The exhibition is in New Zealand with assistance from PRO HELVETIA : Arts Council of Switzerland.

19 April - 2 June 2001

Jensen Gallery
61 Upper Queen Street
AUCKLAND
Tel; 09/336 1808

Answer: Provided you are registered for the postal ballot you proceed as above, taking care to give your correct domicile from abroad and not your temporary holiday address.

VOTING IN FEDERAL OR CANTONAL MATTERS

Question: I live abroad and am registered in the canton of "A". At the last Federal Elections (Oct.1999) I was only able to vote for the National Council, while a friend who is registered in Canton "B" was able to vote for the Senate (Ständerat) as well. Why?

Answer: All registered Swiss Abroad can (as voters or candidates) take part in the Elections of the National Council as this is a Federal Statute. The election of the Senate (Ständerat) is a cantonal matter and is therefore only possible in cantons that have the postal rights for Swiss Abroad included in their cantonal statute.

Question: In which cantons can Swiss Abroad vote for the Senate?

Answer: At this point in time, Swiss Abroad from the following cantons

have voting rights on cantonal matters; Bern, Baselland, Genf, Jura, Solothurn, Schwyz and Tessin.



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