

A voting week-end in Switzerland

Autor(en): [s.n.]

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - (1966)

Heft 1512

PDF erstellt am: **19.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696652>

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A VOTING WEEK-END IN SWITZERLAND

Apart from the two federal plebiscites on the new Constitutional Article for the Swiss Abroad (accepted) and the Alcohol Initiative (rejected) on 16th October, there were several cantonal and communal matters the electorate had to vote on.

Cantonal

In **Uri** the electorate accepted the revision of the law regarding the Canton's contribution to the salaries of the teaching staff.

Both proposals made to the **Schwyz** electorate were rejected, viz the changing of the law to allow an increase in the number of members on the Education Council and the regulations with regard to the federal law on housing construction.

In the Canton of **Zurich**, 6.7m. francs were granted for the construction of an additional institute for Zurich University (81,426 : 66,160).

The new member of the Cantonal Government in **Solothurn** is Dr. Alfred Wyser (Olten).

The electorate of **St. Gall** agreed to the new sickness insurance law and a State contribution of no more than Fr.866,000.— to the further extension of Rorschach Hospital, but it rejected the credit towards a melioration project of Berneck.

In the **Grisons**, the citizens voted in favour of the new law on *Fortbildungsschulen* and adult education, the law on *Wandergewerbe* and gaming and film police, as well as of a 6.4m.-franc project for an administration building. In all three issues, there was a very small majority.

The new tax laws were accepted by the **Aargau** electorate, and the law on additional old-age pensions was passed by an overwhelming majority.

The **Valais** citizens rejected the project for an electronic data computer.

In **Neuchâtel**, officials, civil servants and teachers are to get more pay according to 16,184 voters (compared with 10,209 against).

Communal

Every third Sunday in October, the Schwyz *Oberallgemeinde*, the largest corporation in Switzerland with 7,000 people, met in the ring at **Ibach**. The citizens accepted the annual account of 1965 and passed the budget for next year. **Lachen** elected Walter Hegner as its new Commune President. **Wangen's** electorate agreed to joining the March district waste water plant. The other local Schwyz Communes had already joined earlier.

Lucerne voters granted a credit of 1.85m. francs for the purchase of some property, and at **Emmen** a land purchase for social housing was approved, but the proposal to have a third full-time Commune Councillor was rejected.

Amongst the proposals put to the **Winterthur** citizens was a credit of 4.6m. francs for road and canal construction. It was accepted. The **Uster** electorate granted two credits, one for the extension of the Steigstrasse with a bridge over the Aabau, and one of 4.685m. francs for an *Oberstufen* school in the "Weidli"; a previous project at nearly two million francs more was rejected by the electorate in July 1965. Voting participation amounted to 61.2%. **Zollikon** citizens did not grant the desired credit towards a social centre with civil defence rooms.

As was reported in the last issue, the citizens of Berne elected their new Municipal President in the person of

National and Commune Councillor Dr. R. Tschäppät. At the same time, the electorate was asked to grant not more than 10 million francs for the purchase of property. In **Bienne**, the proposed site for the "Gymnasium" has been declared unsuitable by the voters. The project of the waste-water plant at Aeffligen was accepted by **Burgdorf** voters who also accepted the new *Kanalisationsreglement* which provides for practically doubling the present water rates. The Commune of **Koeniz** had to vote on no fewer than sixteen issues, amongst them nine building projects of local importance, four land purchases, contributions to hospitals and towards deficient accounts of the Municipal Transport Services. All of them were accepted; the only one rejected was the proposed plan of a Commune bus service between Koeniz and Wabern. The Ringstrasse plan at **Langenthal** was accepted with a very small majority. The proposal to separate the *Vormundschaftssekretariat* from the *Gemeindeschreiberei* was supported. The credit needed to buy the former Swiss People's Bank site at **Moutier** was denied, but the citizens granted the amount needed to construct a minor road. Six proposals were put to the electors at **Muri**, amongst them the improvement of the Melchenbuehl junction and the construction of a garbage utilisation plant. 78% of the electorate turned out at **Rohrbach** to appoint the new Commune President. The postmaster Erwin Greuter (no Party) was elected, inspite of opposition by the Commune Council who had put up their own candidate. 1.6m. francs were granted by the citizens of Uetendorf (Thun) for a double gymnasium.

The citizens of **Schaffhausen** decided overwhelmingly that passengers waiting for public transport near the station, should not get the proposed shelter. At **Neuhausen**, Erich Rick was elected as new Commune Councillor against strong opposition.

Uzwil granted the credit for the construction of a water purification plant. The rifle marksmen of **Wil** have to give up their range because of the new national road. They have now offered over half a million francs towards the new rifle range for which the electorate has granted the rest; total cost is 1.345m.

Chur citizens agreed to a second kindergarden building in the new residential district of "Boletta". They also accepted the proposed law on the promotion of tourism in the Grisons capital **Arosa** passed four proposals, three of them in connection with building schemes (improving school cloakrooms and gymnasium, renovating the station and moving the cable to the "Praetschli"), and the fourth concerning the partial revision of the **Kurtaxengesetz**.

Wettingen voters accepted a project (3.8m. francs) for a garbage incineration plant. For the second time, Wohlen citizens rejected the plans for the rebuilding and renovating the district school. They granted, however, the credit of 1.2m. francs for the second stage of the new children's home.

[A.T.S.]

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