Swiss Council of States elections – Candidate-level dataset, 1967–2003

Romain Lachat, University of Montreal, mail@romain-lachat.ch
Sarah Bütikofer, University of Zurich, sarah.butikofer@pwi.uzh.ch

Version 1, June 2007

Introduction
This data file includes all candidate-level results for the Swiss Council of States elections, from 1967 to 2003. Results from earlier elections are also available for some cantons. We relied on the results collected by the Parliament services, which are available online in pdf format (see link below). But the present data file contains a few additional or recoded variables. A variable and labels list can be found below.

Each observation corresponds to one candidate in a given round of a given election. This means that a candidate who was not elected in the first round and who competed in the second round will be included as two separate observations for the corresponding election.

Original data
The data collected by the Swiss Parliament Services are available at the following URLs:
- 38th legislative period (1967-1971): http://www.parlament.ch/wa-sr-38-legislatur.pdf
- 39th legislative period (1971-1975): http://www.parlament.ch/wa-sr-39-legislatur.pdf
- 40th legislative period (1975-1979): http://www.parlament.ch/wa-sr-40-legislatur.pdf
- 41st legislative period (1979-1983): http://www.parlament.ch/wa-sr-41-legislatur.pdf
- 42nd legislative period (1983-1987): http://www.parlament.ch/wa-sr-42-legislatur.pdf
- 43rd legislative period (1987-1991): http://www.parlament.ch/wa-sr-43-legislatur.pdf
- 44th legislative period (1991-1995): http://www.parlament.ch/wa-sr-44-legislatur.pdf
- 45th legislative period (1995-1999): http://www.parlament.ch/wa-sr-45-legislatur.pdf
- 46th legislative period (1999-2003): http://www.parlament.ch/wa-sr-46-legislatur.pdf
- 47th legislative period (2003-2007): http://www.parlament.ch/wa-sr-47-legislatur.pdf

List of variables

v1 Canton

Description: Canton
Values and labels:

1	zh	(Zürich)
2	be	(Bern)
3	lu	(Luzern)
4	ur	(Uri)
5	sz	(Schwyz)
6	ow	(Obwalden)
7	nw	(Nidwalden)
8	gl	(Glarus)
9	zg	(Zug)
10	fr	(Fribourg)
11	so	(Solothurn)
12	bs	(Basel-Stadt)
13	bl	(Basel-Landschaft)
14	sh	(Schaffhausen)
15	ar	(Appenzell Ausserrhoden)
16	ai	(Appenzell Innerrhoden)
17	sg	(St. Gallen)
18	gr	(Graubünden)
19	ag	(Aargau)
20	tg	(Thurgau)
21	ti	(Ticino)
22	vd	(Vaud)
23	vs	(Valais)
24	ne	(Neuchâtel)
25	ge	(Genève)
26	ju	(Jura)

v2 Day of election
v3 Month of election
v4 Year of election

Description: Date of election, coded as three separate variables. The variables v2 and v3 have the code -1 (not available) when only the year of the election is available. This is only the case for elections at a popular assembly or by the cantonal Parliament. This information will be included in later versions of the data file.

v5   Election at a popular assembly (Landsgemeinde)?

Description: Dummy variable identifying elections by a Landsgemeinde.
Values and labels:

>   0   No
>   1   Yes

v6   Election by the cantonal Parliament?

Description: Dummy variable identifying elections by the cantonal Parliament.
Values and labels:

>   0   No
>   1   Yes

v7   Elected in a tacit election?

Description: Dummy variable identifying candidates elected in a tacit election.
Values and labels:

>   0   No
>   1   Yes

v8   Election round

Description: Round of the election.
Values and labels:

>   1 1st round
>   2 2nd round

v9   Number of seats to be attributed in this election

Description: Number of seats distributed in this election. The number of seats is always the same for both rounds of the election, even if one of the two seats has already been allocated during the first round of the election. Except for supplementary elections, the number of seats is equal to the number of seats of the canton in the Council of States.

v10   Main election or supplementary election?

Description: The separation between main elections and supplementary elections was not (yet) done for elections at a Landsgemeinde.
Values and labels:

      -1   Landsgemeinde
       0   Supplementary election
       1   Main election

v11   Number of voters
v12   Number of ballots
v13   Number of blank or non valid ballots
v14   Number of valid ballots
v15   Required majority

Description: Some of this information is missing for the elections by the cantonal Parliament or by a Landsgemeinde, as well as for some other elections. Furthermore, in a few cases, the values reported by the Parliament services were apparently wrong and the variables were given the code -2 ('wild code').
Values and labels:

      -2   Wild code
      -1   Not available

v16   Name of candidate

v17   Sex of candidate

Values and labels:
       0   Male
       1   Female

v18   Party affiliation of candidate - recoded

Description: The parties were recoded using the coding scheme (and the corresponding numerical values) of the Federal Statistical Office.
Values and labels:

1	FDP/PRD	(Freisinnig-Demokratische Partei/ Parti radical-démocratique)
2	CVP/PDC	(Christlischdemokratische Volkspartei/Parti Démocrate-Chrétien)
3	SPS/PSS	(Sozialdemokratische Partei/Parti Socialiste)
4	SVP/UDC	(Schweizerische Volkspartei/Union démocratique du centre)
5	LPS/PLS	(Liberale Partei/Parti libéral)
6	LdU/AdI	(Landesring der Unabhängigen/Alliance des Indépendants)
7	EVP/PEP	(Evangelische Volkspartei/Parti Evangélique Populaire)
8	CSP/PCS	(Christlichsoziale Partei/Parti Chrétien-Social)

9	PdA/PdT	(Partei der Arbeit/Parti du Travail)
10	PSA PSU	(Parti Socialiste Autonome, Partito socialista unitario)
11	POCH	(Progressive Organisationen der Schweiz)
12	FGA/AVF	(Feministische und grün-alternative Gruppierungen/Alternative socialiste verte et groupements féministes)
13	GPS/PES	(Grüne Partei/Parti Ecologiste)
14	Rep	(Republikanische Bewegung/Mouvement républicain)
15	SD/DS	(Schweizer Demokraten/Démocrates Suisses, former Nationale Aktion/Action nationale)
16	EDU/UDF	(Eidgenössisch-Demokratische Union/Union Démocratique Fédérale)
17	FPS/PSL	(Freiheitspartei/Parti de la Liberté, former Autopartei/Parti des Automobilistes)
18	Lega	(Lega dei Ticinesi)
27	Sol	(SolidaritéS)
35	Others	

v19   Party affiliation of candidate - original coding, string variable

Description: Party affiliation as coded in the results collected by the Parliament services.

v20   Incumbent status

Values and labels:
    0   Not incumbent
    1   Incumbent

v21   Number of votes received

Description: Number of votes received by the candidate.

v22   Was candidate elected?

Values and labels:

    0   Not elected
    1   Elected in this round
    2   Elected in the next round