

GERMANY (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF)

Date of Elections: 25 January 1987

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of the *Bundestag* on the normal expiry of their term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany consists of the *Bundestag* (Federal Assembly) and the *Bundesrat* (Federal Council).

Generally, the *Bundestag* is composed of 518 Deputies, of whom 496 are elected by universal suffrage and 22 by the House of Representatives of West Berlin. In the 1987 elections, 519 Deputies were elected (see below). The term of the *Bundestag* is 4 years.

The *Bundesrat* consists of delegates from each of the 11 *Länder* (States) constituting the Federation. At the present time, the total number of delegates is 45, including 4 delegates from West Berlin. The delegates must be members of the Government of the *Land* (State) that delegates them; it is the Government of the *Land* that appoints and recalls its delegates. The number of delegates from each *Land* depends on the size of its population: each *Land* having more than 6 million inhabitants may appoint 5 delegates, each *Land* having between 2 and 6 million inhabitants may appoint 4 delegates; each other *Land* may appoint 3 delegates. The votes of each *Land* may be cast only as a block vote.

Electoral System

The legal basis for the national elections is provided by the Federal Election Regulations as revised by law on 8 March 1985. In conformity with these regulations, any citizen is entitled to vote provided he has attained the age of 18 years and has resided for at least three months in the country. Special regulations exist for Germans living abroad. Persons under guardianship and the insane may not vote.

Electoral registers are continually kept up to date and open for public inspection between the 20th and the 15th day preceding the elections. Voting is not compulsory. Any person entitled to vote but unable to do so at his place of residence may obtain a voter's certificate and vote elsewhere or by correspondence.

Any qualified elector who has attained 18 years of age and been a citizen for at least one year is eligible to become a Deputy.

Mutually incompatible are ministerial posts in a Federal State and membership of the *Bundestag*. A seat in Parliament, however, is not incompatible with membership of the Federal Government.

Candidatures to the *Bundestag* may be for constituencies or for *Land* party lists.

Candidatures for constituencies may be presented by a political party or by individuals. In the latter case, or where the political party does not have at least five seats in the *Bundestag* or in the legislature of a given *Land*, the candidature must be supported by at least 200 persons having the right to vote in the constituency concerned. For each constituency, each party may present only one candidate. Such candidate must have been chosen in a secret ballot in which members of the party who have the right to vote in the constituency, or their elected representatives, may participate.

A party which has not been continuously represented in the *Bundestag* or in the legislature of a given *Land* by at least five members nominated by the party itself may only submit a nomination as a party if it has announced its intended participation in the election to the Federal Returning Officer not later than the 75th day before the election, and has been recognized as a party by the Federal Electoral Committee.

Candidatures for *Land* party lists may be presented by any political party, recognized as above. Where the party does not have at least five seats in the *Bundestag* or in the legislature of a given *Land*, the list must be supported by the signature of one per thousand (but not more than 2,000) eligible voters in the *Land* concerned. The list must indicate the names of the candidates in order of preference. In each *Land*, each party may present only one list.

Each voter has two votes: one (the "first vote") for an individual candidate in one of the 248 constituencies, and one (the "second vote") for a party list established, for each of the 10 *Länder*, by each political party. Half of the 496 Deputies are elected from among the individual candidates (one in each of the 248 constituencies), and half of them on the basis of the party lists.

Among candidates from a given constituency, the candidate having received the highest number among the "first" votes becomes Deputy.

In each *Land*, every party is entitled to the number of seats that corresponds to its share in the "second" votes. The computation is made according to the Hare/Niemeyer system. The number of Deputies belonging to the party who were elected in the vote in the individual constituencies is subtracted from the total of the seats available to the party. The remaining number of seats go to the candidates indicated on the party list, in the order in which they were indicated. It is possible for a party, as happened in the 1983 elections in two cases, to have what are known as "surplus" seats when it wins more seats in the constituencies on the "first" vote than it is entitled to according to the result of the "second" vote calculation.

The party list of any party that has obtained less than 5% of all the "second" votes in the country is disregarded unless at least three candidates of that party have been elected in constituencies.

When the seat of a Deputy who was a member of a party which presented a party list becomes vacant, it is filled by the next candidate on that list, even when the Deputy had been elected in an individual constituency. If the seat of a Deputy who was not the member of a political party which presented a party list and who had been elected in an individual constituency becomes vacant, it is filled through a special election in that constituency. Such election must take place within 60 days from the date the seat becomes vacant.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The polling date had been set on 18 June 1986. The election was held on the normal expiry of the 10th legislative term. Within the framework of the provisions of the Constitution, the date of the election had, however, been moved up a little in order to hold future elections again in autumn and not in winter, provided legislative terms will be completed.

A total of 20 parties participated in the election. Altogether 1,635 candidates were nominated for the 248 constituency seats, while 2,035 candidates were placed in the *Land* party lists.

It was the proclaimed goal of the three-party governing coalition (Christian Democrats (CDU), Christian Social Union (CSU) and Free Democrats (FDP)), headed by Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, to continue this centre-right coalition, whereas the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), led by Mr. Johannes Rau as candidate for Chancellor, refused any coalition commitment with the Greens and thus would have had to win an absolute majority in order to topple the Government.

The main topics of the election campaign were domestic economic and social issues as well as environmental matters and questions relating to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Polling day was marked by a relatively low turnout. Results confirmed the coalition's absolute majority. There was, however, a shift of seats; the CDU and CSU together lost 21 seats but the FDP gained 13. The SPD for its part dropped nine seats whereas the Greens recorded the largest gains of all parties, with 16 additional Deputies.

In the new CDU-CSU-FDP Government coalition, 14 Ministries were assigned to the CDU/CSU and four Ministries to the FDP. The *Bundestag* re-elected Mr. Kohl Chancellor on 11 March 1987.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats
in the Bundestag

Number of registered electors.	45,327,982			
Voters.	38,225,294			(84.3%)
Blank or void "first votes".	482,481			
Valid "first votes".	37,742,813			
Blank or void "second votes".	357,975			
Valid "second votes".	37,867,319			
			Total Number of Seats (including Berlin)	Total Number of Seats won at Previous Elections (including Berlin)
Political Group	"Second votes" obtained			
Social Democratic Party (SPD)	14,025,763	37.0	193	202
Christian Democratic Union (CDU)	13,045,745	34.5	185	202
Christian Social Union of Bavaria (CSU)	3,715,827	9.8	49	53
Free Democratic Party (FDP).	3,440,911	9.1	48	35
Green Party (<i>Grüne</i>).	3,126,256	8.3	44	28
National Democratic Party (NPD)	227,054	0.6		
Ecological Democratic Party (ODP)	109,152	0.3		
Women's Party.	62,904	0.2		
Others.	113,707	0.2		
			519*	520

* One "surplus" seat was allotted in the 1987 elections.

Germany (Federal Republic of)

2. *Distribution of Members of the Bundestag according to Professional Category*

Civil servants, judges, professional soldiers, elected civil servants of the communities . . .	100
Teachers, college/university lecturers.	72
Employees in industry.	63
Members of independent professions.	60
Members of political and social organisations	59
Self-employed.	54
Holders of government posts.	46
Public service employees.	26
Workers.	11
Housewives.	10
Others.	18
	519

3. *Distribution of Members of the Bundestag according to Sex*

Men	439
Women	80
	519