

LIECHTENSTEIN

Date of Elections: February 1 and 2, 1970

Characteristics of Parliament

The Parliament of Liechtenstein consists of one House, the Diet, composed of 15 members elected for a period of 4 years.

The elections of February 1970 were held to renew the entire House upon the normal expiry of the previous legislature.

Electoral System

Only male citizens are entitled to vote, provided they are at least 20 years old and have been resident in the country for a minimum of 1 month. Those citizens who are under guardianship, against whom bankruptcy proceedings have been filed or who are dependent upon welfare work, do not have the right to vote.

The electoral lists are revised before each election.

Voting is compulsory and abstentionists are liable to a fine of up to Fr. 10 if they do not present a valid excuse (sickness, travel, etc.).

Every member of the electorate is eligible for the Diet; the law does not establish any incompatibility with the mandate of Deputy. In order to stand for the Diet, a candidate must be proposed by 30 electors from the same constituency.

Liechtenstein is divided into the 2 constituencies of *Oberland* and *Unterland* which elect 9 and 6 deputies respectively, under party list system without vote-splitting but with preferential vote.

The elector marks a cross against the name of the candidate he favours on the list of his choice. The number of votes obtained by each list is determined by adding up the votes received by the candidates. A quota is then established, according to the "Hagenbach-Bischoff" method, by dividing the total number of valid votes by the number of seats to be filled in the constituency plus 1; the quota is deemed to be the smallest whole number that exceeds the figure thus obtained. This quota is then divided into the number of votes obtained by each list and the seats distributed accordingly. Any remaining seats are allocated to the list which received the most votes.

The seats won by each list are then distributed to those of its members who have received the greatest number of preferential votes.

Should a seat fall vacant during a legislature, it is filled by one of the 14 substitutes elected at the same time as the 15 Deputies.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Two political parties, the Progressive Citizens' Party (PCP) and the Patriotic Union (PU) form a governmental coalition in which the PCP has held the majority for 42 years. A third party exists, the Christian Social Party, but it has a very small following and has never been represented in the Diet.

The elections of February enabled the PU to supplant its rival and to reverse in its favour the ratio of power which had previously existed in the Parliament.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Diet*

Number of registered voters.	4,309
Voters	4,085(94.9%)
Void or blank ballot papers	34
Valid votes.	4,051

<i>T, ~,</i> Political Group	Votes obtained	%,	Number of Seats m the Diet
Progressive Citizens' Party.	1,978	48.82	7 (-1)
Patriotic Union.	2,008	49.56	8 (+1)
Christian Social Party.65	1.59	
			15

2. *Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Professional Category*

Lawyers.	3
Businessman.1
Workers.7
Artist.1
Doctor.1
Farmer.1
Fiduciary.1

15

3. *Average Age: 43*