

## LIECHTENSTEIN

**Dates of Elections:** February 1 and 3, 1974

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament upon the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Diet of Liechtenstein, the *Landtag*, consists of 15 members elected for 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

Only male citizens are entitled to vote, provided they are at least 20 years old, registered electors, and have been resident in the country for a minimum of one month prior to the elections. Persons excluded from this right are those deprived by virtue of law or pursuant to a final court decision, those under guardianship or trusteeship, those completing a prison sentence and those committed by a public authority to a closed institution.

Electoral registers are drawn up at the community level and revised before each election. Voting is compulsory and those failing to do so are liable to a fine of up to Fr. 10.— if they do not have a valid excuse (travel abroad, sickness, etc.).

Every member of the electorate is eligible for the Diet. In order to be a candidate, one must be nominated by 30 electors from the same constituency.

Liechtenstein is divided into the 2 electoral constituencies of *Oberland* and *Unterland*, which elect 9 and 6 Deputies, respectively.

According to a new law introduced in 1973 \*, the former system of proportional representation based on party lists has been amended. Henceforth, in order to qualify for representation in the *Landtag*, a party must obtain 8 % of the votes cast in the whole country. Votes for parties which have not obtained this percentage are deducted from the total votes cast in the constituency. The remainder is then divided by the number of candidates in the constituency, plus one; the dividend is then rounded to the nearest whole number. This

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 14.

dividend is deemed the electoral quotient. Any party receives as many seats as this quotient is contained in its total of votes polled.

When this basic division does not result in as many elected Deputies as there are seats to be filled, there takes place a second stage division of " supplementary votes " between those parties which have surpassed the 8 % requirement mentioned above.

Any list contains as many candidates as there are seats to be filled. A vote cast for a candidate is also counted as a vote cast for his party. The seats won by each list are allotted to those of its members who have received the most votes.

Should a seat become vacant between general elections, it is filled by the next-in-line of the list concerned. Should these be exhausted, a by-election is held.

### General Political Considerations and Conduct of Elections

The general elections were once again contested principally by the Progressive Citizens' Party (PCP), which had held the majority for 42 years prior to the previous elections of 1970, and the Patriotic Union, which held one more seat in the outgoing Diet. These two groups had formed a governmental coalition and, in their platform, had promised a stricter control over foreign influence in their small principality.

Election results were extremely close. The PCP gained less than 100 total votes more than the Union, but succeeded in regaining from the latter the odd seat it had lost 4 years earlier. The Christian Social Party, a third group which has traditionally put forth candidates, did not obtain the 8 % of the votes which would have enabled it to gain its first parliamentary seat ever.

At its first session on March 27, 1974, the *Landtag* elected Dr. Walter Kieber (PCP) as new Head of Government.

### Statistics

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

Number of registered voters. . . . .	4,572
Voters. . . . .	4,359 (95.3 %)
Void or blank ballot papers. . . . .	39
Valid votes. . . . .	4,320

Political Group	Votes obtained	n/ %	Number of seats
Progressive Citizens' Party (PCP)	12,819	48.78	8 (+1)
Patriotic Union	12,756	48.53	7 (-1)
Christian Social Party	705	2.69	
			15

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Clerks	7
Lawyers	4
Carpenter	1
Dentist	1
Mayor	1
Director of Conservatory	1
	15

3. *Average Age of Deputies: 45 years (approx.)*