

## LIECHTENSTEIN

Date of Elections: February 3, 1978

### Purpose of Elections

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

### Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament 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 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 Sw. Pr. 10 if they do not have a valid excuse (travel abroad, sickness, etc.).

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

Liechtenstein is divided into the two electoral constituencies of *Oberland* (Upper Country) and *Unterland* (Lower Country), which elect nine and six deputies, respectively.

Parliamentary elections are conducted according to a system of proportional representation. 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 dividend is deemed the electoral quotient. Any party receives as many seats as this quotient is contained in the total of the votes it has 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 " among 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 parliamentary seat become vacant between general elections, it is filled by the " next-in-line " candidate of the party list concerned. A by-election is held in the event that this rule cannot be applied.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Results of the voting in the 1978 elections brought about an exact reversal of the situation which followed the previous (1974) elections, when the Progressive Citizens' Party (FBP) won eight and the Fatherland, or Patriotic, Union (VU) seven of the *Landtag's* 15 seats. The smaller Christian Social Party did not present any candidates this time.

Owing to the division of the country into two electoral districts, as mentioned above, the VU — in power from 1970 to 1974 after 42 years of FBP rule — obtained the most seats even though the FBP recorded a greater number of votes.

At its first session on April 26, 1978, the *Landtag* elected Mr. Hans Brunhart, 32, of the VU as Head of the coalition Government.

Statistics

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

Number of registered electors	4,879
Voters . . . . .	4,670 (95.7 %)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	45
Valid votes . . . . .	4,625

Political Group		Votes obtained		Number of Seats
Progressive Citizens' Party . . . . .		18,872	50.85	7 (-1)
— in Oberland . . . . .	14,040		49.97	<b>4</b>
_____ . . . . .	4,832		53.58	<b>3</b>
Fatherland Union _____ . . . . .		18,244	49.15	8 (+1)
— in Oberland _____ . . . . .	14,058		50.03	5
_____ . . . . .	4,186		46.42	3
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Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category

Lawyers . . . . .	(5
Teachers . . . . .	4
Public officials . . . . .	2
Carpenter . . . . .	
Bank employee . . . . .	
Draftsman . . . . .	
Construction foreman	
Other . . . . .	
	15

3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men . . . . .	15
Women	
	15

4. Average age of Deputies: 43 years (approx.)