

LIECHTENSTEIN

Dates of Elections: 5 and 7 February 1982

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the expiry of the prescribed term of office of the members.

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. Fr. 20 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 takes, 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 Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1982 elections confirmed the previous distribution of seats in the *Landtag*—eight seats for the Fatherland, or Patriotic, Union (VU) and seven for the Progressive Citizens' Party (FBP). At its first session on 31 March 1982, the *Landtag* re-elected Mr. Hans Brunhart, 37, 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				5,246
Voters				5,003 (95.4%)
Blank or void ballot papers				94
Valid votes				4,909
Political Group		Votes obtained		Number of Seats
Fatherland Union (VU)		20,997	53.47	8 (=)
<u>in Oberland.</u>	16,194	54.99		5
<u>in Unterland.</u>	4,803	48.90		3
Progressive Citizens' Party (FBP)		18,273	46.53	7 (=)
<u>in Oberland.</u>	13,254	45.01		4
<u>in Unterland.</u>	5,019	51.10		3
				15

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Teachers.	2
Businessmen.	2
Lawyer.	.1
Public official.	1
Master carpenter.	.1
Pediatrician.	.1
Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.	.1
Construction foreman.	.1
Municipal cashier.	1
Engineer.	.1
Others.	3
	17

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men.	.15
Women.	
	15

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