

LIECHTENSTEIN

Dates of Elections: 31 January and 2 February 1986

Purpose of Elections

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

Characteristics of Parliament

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

Electoral System

All citizens of Liechtenstein 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 SFr. 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, there takes place a second-stage division of "supplementary votes" among those parties which have met 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

On polling day, the Fatherland Union (VU) won eight seats and the Progressive Citizens' Party (FBP) seven, as at the previous general elections of 1982 and 1978. However, both lost votes to a new party, the liberal Free Voters' List (FW), which narrowly failed to win the 8% of votes cast required for parliamentary representation.

For the first time, a woman was elected to the *Landtag* (it will be recalled that female suffrage was granted in July 1984); she belongs to the FBP. On 30 April, Mr. Hans Brunhart, head of the VU/FBP coalition Government since 1978, was reappointed to this office by the *Landtag*.

Statistics

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

Voters. 9,581

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
Fatherland Union (VU).	46,793	50.19	8 (=)
in <i>Oberland</i> .	36,248		5
in <i>Unterland</i> .	10,545		3
Progressive Citizens' Party (FBP)	39,853	42.75	7(=)
in <i>Oberland</i> .	29,038		4
in <i>Unterland</i> .	10,815		3
Free Voters' List (FW)».	6,582	7.06	
in <i>Oberland</i> .	5,382		
in <i>Unterland</i> .	1,200		
			15

* New party.

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men.	.14
Women.	.1
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3. Average age of Deputies: 46 years (approx.)