750-1000 words Add titles, ! close to the word limit

Publishing date: mid-February

**Title**

**Intro**

You may have missed it, but 2019 has been full of historic turns in the usually so quiet and peaceful Switzerland. The country is famously known for its chocolate and cheese – as well, on a completely different topic, infamous for the year all Swiss women obtained the right to vote. For those of you who might have skipped Swiss history class, it is only on the [28th of April 1991](https://www.ch.ch/fr/elections2019/elections-federales-suisses-un-peu-dhistoire/droit-de-vote-des-femmes-en-suisse/) all Swiss women finally could vote and run for office on the cantonal and federal level. Twenty-eight years later, on the 14th of June 2019, around half a million people marched in multiple cities to demand *actual* gender equality on the occasion of the second national women’s strike. This event has not gone unnoticed in the political world: as the time came to cast a vote on the federal election citizens have elected an unprecedented number of women in the lower chamber of parliament. Resulting in the highest number of female parliamentarians so far and bringing the country from the 38th place on the ranking of percentage of women in national parliaments to the Xth spot. On the occasion of the 100 first days of the newly chosen parliament, we return to the sadly recent history of women in the lower chamber of Swiss parliament.

To be precise, the right of eligibility of women was established in 1971 but given the peculiarities of Swiss federalism this was only the case on the federal level and in multiple cantons women had to wait up to twenty more year. In 1971 another peculiarity, concerning direct democracy this time, was unveiled. Contrary to other countries where parliament or the government decided to introduce the right to vote for women, in Switzerland it was the male citizens who accepted to extend voting and eligibility rights to their female counterparts on the occasion of a popular vote due to the fact that changes in the Constitution must be accepted by the (male) citizens.

Gabrielle Nanchen is one of the [eleven first women](https://www.parlament.ch/en/%C3%BCber-das-parlament/political-women/actions-at-parliament-building/tribute-to-pioneers-of-parliament) who made it into parlianment in 1971. At the time she was 28 years young proving that women of all ages were a force to be reckoned with. One of the [events that motivated her engagement at the federal level](https://www.parlament.ch/en/%C3%BCber-das-parlament/political-women/portraits/gabrielle-nanchen), was the fact that she had lost her right to vote at the cantonal level since she moved to a canton where the right to vote was not established for women and very concretely realised the injustice some women were subjected to. (add content of the interview)

When all Swiss women eventually had the same rights in 1991, no less than 834 women ran for office. Thirty-five of them were successful, resulting in a proportion of 17,5% of women in the lower chamber of parliament. Over the years, with the exception of the 2011 election the number of women has being continuously growing to reach 84 elected women in 2019. Compared to the previous election that is a historic surge of 10% more women and results in 42% female parliamentarian in the lower chamber. This success is partly due to the campaign “[Helvetia calls](https://www.helvetia-appelle.ch/a-propos-de-la-campagne)” named after the women symbolizing the Switzerland on various coins. Since multiple woment in parliament had announced that they would run for office in 2019, this organisation was created with the aim to support women who want to run for office trough mentoring programmes for example.

**Visualisation 1:** elected women vs. men (1991-2019)

[Samira Marti](https://www.parlament.ch/de/%C3%BCber-das-parlament/politfrauen/anteil-frauen-politischen-macht/neue-ratsmitglieder) is one of those women who got elected last October. She is also the youngest elected person in the parliament at the moment. Like Gabrielle Nanchen she is a member of the Socialist party. (add content of the interview)

The two women were elected under the banner of the Socialist party which has had 164 successful female candidates elected since 1991, which represents 20,5 women per election. Looking at the graph below it is clear that this is the party which consistently had the most favourable environment for female candidates. However, this year’s surge is strongly due to the success of the women in the Green party which won 12 seats compared to 2015. In 2019 those two party got more women elected than men. In the centre except the Green Liberals who got an equal number of female and male parliamentarians, the Liberals parties and the Christian Democratic People's Party have some room for improvement. Both parties are

The centre parties li

the Green Liberals, the Liberals and the Christian Democratic People's Party – have

and Green Liberal party. Combined, those parties won 17 seats compared to 2015.

On the right side of the political spectrum, the Swiss People’s Party

* Include the colour and the political orientation
* Im focussing on women vs men, but that’s not really what the fraph is telling

**Visualisation 2:** elected women per party

On a more optimistic note

**Visualisation 3:** number of candidates and elected people per gender

There are still significantly more men running for office, but when women join the race their chance of being elected is now even – slightly – higher than the one of a man. Looking looking at the numbers we can see that in 1991 only 4,2% of the females candidates were elected compared to 9,55% of male candidates. In 2019 for the first time the trend reversed: 4.48% of the women running for office were elected compared to 4.18 of men.

**Visualisation 3:** chance of being elected per gender

**Box at the end**

What does this article have in common with an app that indicates free parking spots live?

Both were created with a large amount of data accessible through [opendata.swiss](https://opendata.swiss/en/) – the open government data portal of Switzerland. All the datasets are freely accessible and cover multiple topics ranging from finances to geography. Trough programming languages, such as Python, these large amounts of data become more approachable.

Add sources

**Visualisation 1:** elected women vs. men (1991-2019)

It is on the left side of the political spectrum that most women made it into the lower chamber in Bern.

**Visualisation 3:** chance of being elected per gender

Il y a de l’espoir! /on a more optimistic note

zoom in on the left (show different parties) or proportion between nr of female candidates and elected females

**(Visualisation 4:)** brief selection of cantons who got the most/least women elected (per h

**Conclusion (130 words max):**

You may have missed it, but 2019 has been full of historic turns in the usually so quiet and peaceful Switzerland. The country is famously known for its chocolate and cheese – as well, on a completely different topic, infamous for the year all Swiss women obtained the right to vote. For those of you who might have skipped Swiss history class, it is only on the [28th of April 1991](https://www.ch.ch/fr/elections2019/elections-federales-suisses-un-peu-dhistoire/droit-de-vote-des-femmes-en-suisse/) all Swiss women finally could finally vote and run for office on the cantonal and federal level. Twenty-eight years later, on the 14th of June 2019, around half a million people marched in multiple cities to demand *actual* gender equality on the occasion of the second national women’s strike. Twenty-eight years later, on the 14th of June 2019, around half a million people marched in multiple cities

**Poubelle/draft**

**Vous l’avez peut être loupe mais dans la d’habitude si paisible Suisse 2019 a été pleine de retournements…**

**Qui se sont traduits dans urnes**

**Retour sur la representation des femmes sous la coupole fédérale**

With a historic participation of more than half a million people according to the [Swiss Federation of Trade Unions](https://www.rts.ch/info/suisse/10504384-des-centaines-de-milliers-de-femmes-ont-pris-part-a-la-greve-nationale.html)

These events have not gone unnoticed amongst voters: in octobre 2019 the Swiss elected the 15th parliament with most women in the world – therefore gaining no less than x%

particularité Suisse > démocratie directe c’est les hommes qui ont vote pour (ou contre) le droit de vote des femmes. Ce n’était pas une decision du gouvernement ou un vote du parlement !

et au conseil des Etats <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/fr/home/statistiques/politique/elections/femmes.assetdetail.11048409.html>

<https://www.swissinfo.ch/fre/commentaire_-les-femmes-doivent-cuisiner-%C3%A0-la-maison-au-lieu-de-voter/43011738>

https://www.letemps.ch/societe/greve-femmes-suisse-expliquee-reste-monde