

# Federal

## GOVERNMENT AND ELECTION

Yingyue Huang

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# CONTENTS

01

## Federal Government

- Overview of the Government system
- Functions and roles of President
- Functions and roles of Chancellor
- Bundestag
- Bundesrat

02

## Federal Election

- Mixed member proportional representation system —  
Election of the Bundestag
- Election of the President
- Election of the Chancellor

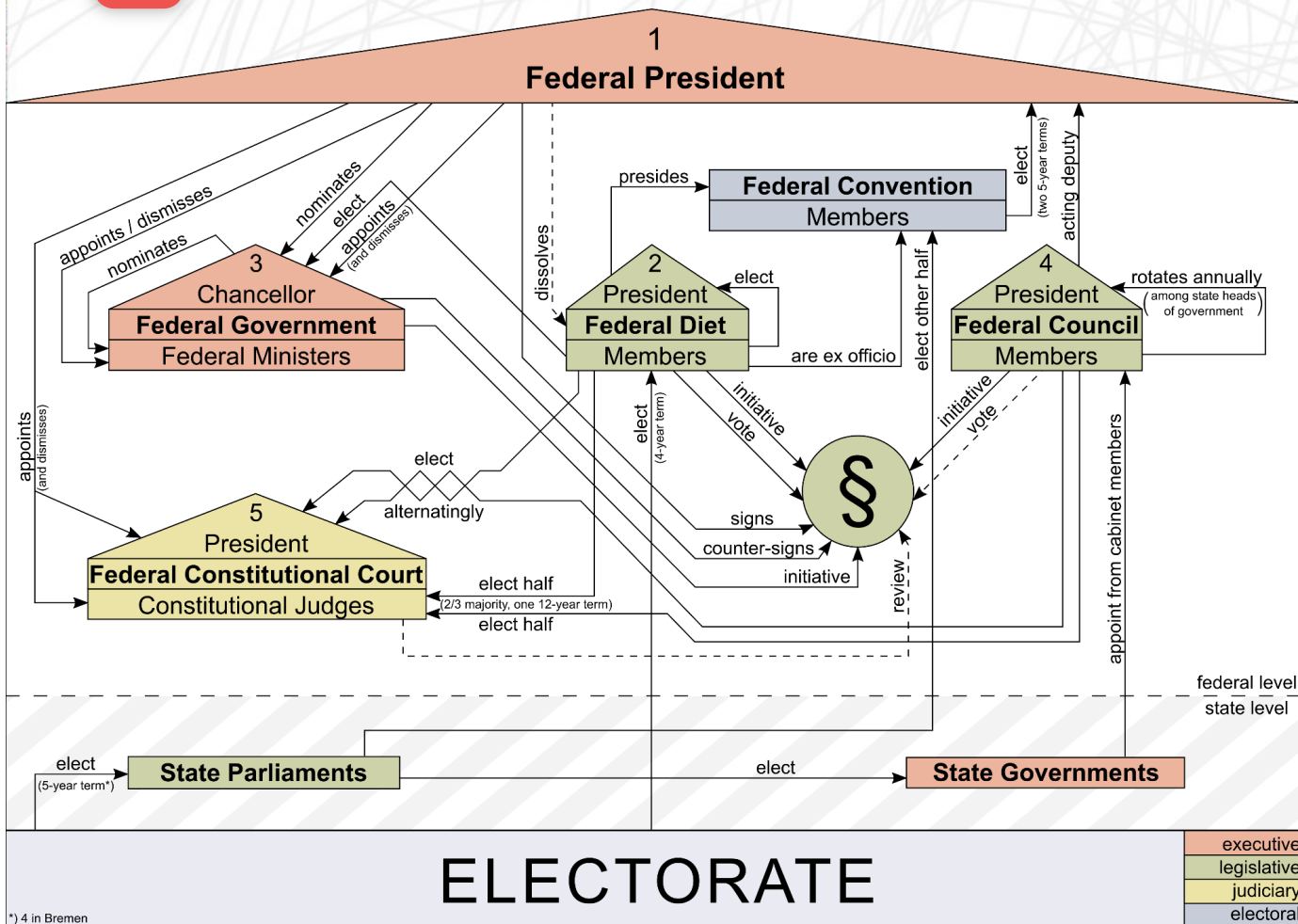
PART

01

# FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

# 01

## Overview of the Government system



German order of precedence:

1. The president of Germany
2. The president of the Bundestag
3. The chancellor of Germany
4. The president of the Bundesrat
5. The president of the Federal Constitutional Court



02

## President

- The head of state of Germany
- Elected every five years
- Sign and issue decrees that are approved by the Bundestag and Bundesrat and signed by the federal cabinet.
- Represent Germany at home and abroad
  - Award honors
  - Pardon individual offenders
  - Undertakes foreign visits and receives foreign dignitaries
- Appoint and dismiss the Chancellor and their cabinet ministers
- Declare the legislative state of emergency
- Dissolve the Bundestag



Frank-Walter Steinmeier

03

## Chancellor

- The head of Government and the chief executive
- Elected every four years
- Usually the leader of party who holds a majority of seats in the Bundestag
- Determine members of the Cabinet
  - Number of Cabinet
  - Duty of each member
- Lay down and responsible for general policy guidelines



Angela Dorothea Merkel

## Article 65

### **[Power to determine policy guidelines – Department and collegiate responsibility]**

The Federal Chancellor shall determine and be responsible for the general guidelines of policy. Within these limits each Federal Minister shall conduct the affairs of his department independently and on his own responsibility. The Federal Government shall resolve differences of opinion between Federal Ministers. The Federal Chancellor shall conduct the proceedings of the Federal Government in accordance with rules of procedure adopted by the Government and approved by the Federal President.



### 03

## Bundestag

- Established in 7 September 1949 as one of the legislative body
- Preceded by the earlier Reichstag
- Elected every four years (The Federal Election)
- Directly elected by German citizens over 18
- Represent the German people
- Minimum number of members of Bundestag is 598
- Propose and pass laws together with the Bundesrat
- Elect the German Federal Chancellor
- Oversee the government work
- Monitor the law enforcement



The Reichstag Building



## 04

### Bundesrat

- A legislative body that represents the 16 Länder (states) of the Germany at the federal level.
- The Länder shall participate through the Bundesrat in the legislation and administration of the Federation an in matters concerning the European Union. (Article 50)
- Participate in legislation with the Bundestag. Legislative initiatives must first present to the Bundesrat before passed to the Bundestag.
- Members of the Bundesrat are decided by respective state government but not by election.
- Members can have unlimited access to sessions of the Bundestag.



The background consists of a central horizontal black band. Above and below this band are white areas filled with a dense, chaotic pattern of thin, light gray lines. A red square with rounded corners is positioned in the upper center, overlapping the black band and the white areas.

PART

02

# FEDERAL ELECTION

### **Who can vote?**

People who are over 18 and have German citizenship can vote.

### **What is the federal election for?**

Let German citizens determine the members in the Bundestag.

### **Who can be elected?**

Anyone who is over 18 years old can be a candidate (excepted in Hesse)

### **When do the elections take place?**

Every four years and the elections are always on Sunday.





01

## Mixed member proportional representation system

**Mixed-member proportional representation** is a mixed electoral system in which voters get two votes: one to decide the representatives for their single-seat constituency, and one for a political party.

### **Erststimme**

Electors vote for a direct candidate for their constituency. Candidate who receives the most votes can get the direct mandate. Currently, there are 299 constituencies (electoral districts), so 299 seats in Bundestag are determined in the first vote.

### **Zweitstimme**

Electors vote for a party in the second vote. Based on the proportion of second votes, the 598 mandates are distributed to the parties who have received at least 5% in second votes or three seats in the first vote. The number of seats in the Bundestag of a certain party is approximately the proportion of second votes times the total seats.

01

## Mixed member proportional representation system

**Stimmzettel**  
für die Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag  
im Wahlkreis 5 Kiel  
am 18. September 2005

**Sie haben 2 Stimmen**

**hier 1 Stimme**  
für die Wahl  
eines  
Wahlkreisabgeordneten

**hier 1 Stimme**  
für die Wahl  
einer Landesliste (Partei)  
- maßgebende Stimme für die  
Verteilung der Sitze insgesamt  
auf die einzelnen Parteien -

**Erststimme** **Zweitstimme**

1	<b>Dr. Bartels, Hans Peter</b> Angestellter Kiel Esmarchstraße 16	SPD	Sozial- demokratische Partei Deutschlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>SPD</b>	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands Dr. Ecker (Bücher-Rosenberg), Bettina Hagelberg, Franz Thöniß, Gabriele Höller-Otto, Sandra Wix	1
2	<b>Dr. Murmann, Philipp</b> Geschäftsführer Hedendörfer Hardenbergblick 3	CDU	Christlich demokratische Union Deutschlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>CDU</b>	Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands Wolfgang Blümmen, Dr. Ole Schröder, Anke Lynar, Otto Bernhardt, Sören Storchmann	2
3	<b>Müller, Klaus</b> Diplom-Vollzeiger Kiel Wilhelmstrasse 29	GRÜNE	BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>GRÜNE</b>	BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN Gloria Böttig, Rainer Staudt, Monika Herold, Sebastian David Fricke, Erika von Kalben	3
4	<b>Blumenthal, Sebastian</b> Angestellter Kiel Hamburger Chaussee 48	FDP	Freie Demokratische Partei	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>FDP</b>	Freie Demokratische Partei Jürgen Kippel, Dr. Christel Kappach-Kassan, Sebastian Blumenthal, Wolfgang Schnabel, Dr. Michaela Klatte	4
5	<b>Thoroje, Björn</b> arbeitslos Kiel Feldstraße 97	DIE LINKE.	Die Linkspartei Schleswig- Holstein	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>DIE LINKE.</b>	Die Linkspartei, Schleswig-Holstein Lutz Hoffmann, Heidi Swobbe, Wielke Mahesh, Björn Thoroje, Birgitte Wundt	5
6	<b>Gutsche, Hermann</b> EDV-Berater Kiel Königsstraße 22	NPD	National- demokratische Partei Deutschlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>NPD</b>	Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands Olaf Schiller, Jens Lohse, Ingo Stauder, Wolfgang Schimmel, Alfred Hering	6
7	<b>Mrozewski, Oliver</b> Koch Altenholz Darunter Straße 5	FAMILIE DEUTSCHLANDS	FAMILIEN- PARTEI DEUTSCHLANDS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>FAMILIE</b>	FAMILIEN-PARTEI DEUTSCHLANDS Matthias Karsten, Werner Lehmann, Sabine Cenz, Inke Rühlhagen, Bettina Karsten	7
				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<b>MLPD</b>	Markschisch-Leninistische Partei Deutschlands Jakobus Fröhlich, Inga Martsch, Andrea Sibylle Häuser, Joachim Gieseler, Maria Meyer	8

01

## Mixed member proportional representation system

### **Überhangsmandat**

If in the first vote, a party has already got more seats than the seats it should own according to the second vote result, overhang seats arise.

### **Ausgleichsmandat**

If overhang seats arise in some parties, other parties will also get more seats in the Bundestag. These are offset by the allocation of additional seats to the extent that in the end the distribution of seats according to the ratio of the second votes is maintained.

In Germany, the minimum legal number of members of the Bundestag is 598. However, there are 709 and 736 members in the Bundestag in 2017 and 2021 respectively.



01

## Mixed member proportional representation system

### Coalition Government

The party who wins the most seats over all is still unlikely to have an absolute majority after the election. So two or more parties need to coalesce together in order to govern.

#### Advantages:

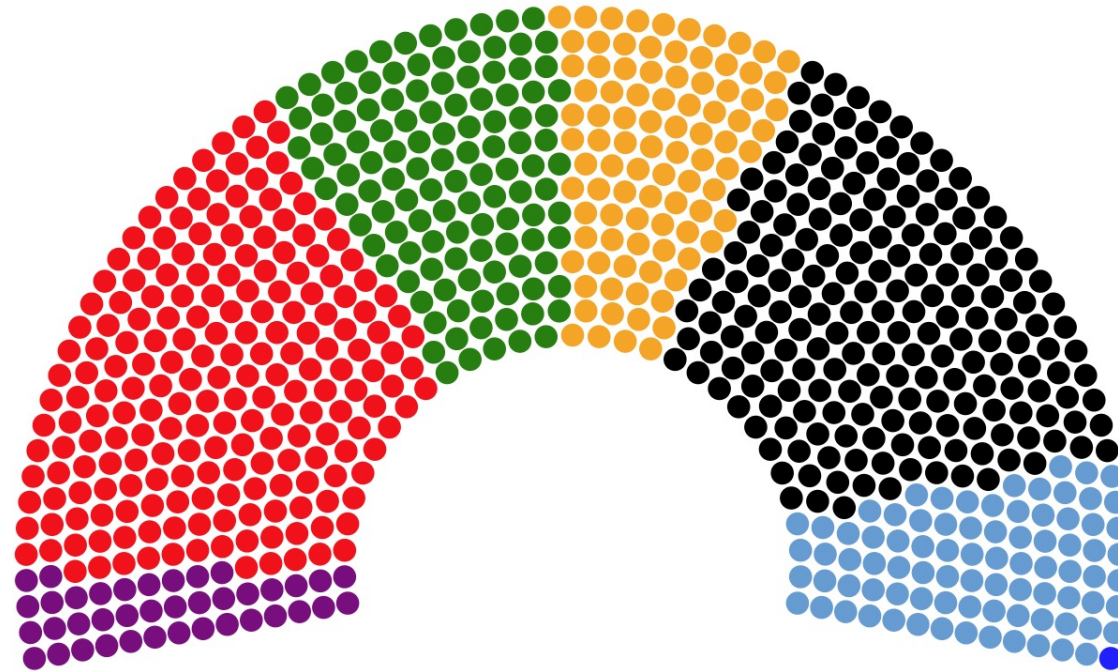
1. Decisions are more majority-based and more consensus can be reached.
2. Lowers tyranny and more responsibility of government.

#### Disadvantages:

1. Consume more time on decision making process.
2. Generally appeasement policies are considered rather developmental policy.

01

## Mixed member proportional representation system



Party	2017	2021	Seat change
● Social Democrats (SPD)	153	206	↑ 53
● Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU)	246	196	↓ 50
● Greens	67	118	↑ 51
● Free Democrats (FDP)	80	92	↑ 12
● Alternative for Germany (AfD)	94	83	↓ 11
● Die Linke	69	39	↓ 30
● Others	0	1	↑ 1

## 02

## Election of the President

The President of the Germany is elected for every five years. The result will be decided by secret ballot on a specially convened federal convention, which consists of all Bundestag members and equal number of electors elected by the state legislatures in proportion to their respective populations. The convention be convened no later than 30 days before the scheduled expiry of the sitting president's term.

Candidates who receives majority votes both in the first and second rounds will directly be elected as the President. If no candidates make it, the candidate who wins a plurality votes will be elected as the President.

A president can be reelected only once.



### 03

## Election of the Chancellor

The Chancellor of Germany is elected for every four years. First, a candidate for Chancellor will be proposed by the President. Usually, most parties have agreed with the nominee beforehand. The election of the Chancellor is in the form of secret ballot. In the first voting phase, the members of the Bundestag will decide whether the nominee can be the Chancellor. If majority votes are for the nominee, he/she will directly be the Chancellor. Otherwise, parliamentary groups in the Bundestag can nominate their candidates in 14 days. If still no Chancellor is elected in the second voting phase, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day after the ballot, parliamentary groups can nominate new candidates. If someone receives majority votes in the third voting phase, the President must him/her as the Chancellor. If not, the President can either appoint the candidate who received a plurality of votes as the Chancellor or call new elections within 60 days.

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Q&A





**Federal**

**Government and Election**

**MANY THANKS !**