**Switzerland – the Council of States**

1. Website:

In German: <https://www.parlament.ch/de/organe/staenderat>

In French: <https://www.parlament.ch/fr/organe/conseil-des-etats>

In Italian: <https://www.parlament.ch/it/organe/consiglio-degli-stati>

In Romansh: <https://www.parlament.ch/rm/organe/cussegl-dals-chantuns>

In English: <https://www.parlament.ch/en/organe/council-of-states>

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

**1. Name:**

German: Geschäftsreglement des Ständerates

French: Règlement du Conseil des Etats

Italian: Regolamento del Consiglio degli Stati

Romansh: N.A.

English: Standing Orders of the Council of States

**2. URL**:

German: <https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20030743/index.html>

French: <https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20030743/index.html>

Italian: <https://www.admin.ch/opc/it/classified-compilation/20030743/index.html>

Romansh: N.A.

English: <https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20030743/index.html>

**3. What is the date for the most recent revision on the rules of procedure?**

01.06.2015

**4. Is there a section of the rules of procedure that covers voting rules? If so, indicate the section.**

Chapter 3, Section 5

**5. If available, please list the rules governing the use of roll call votes.**

Art. 46 Vote par appel nominal

1. Le vote a lieu par appel nominal selon l'art. 44, al. 2, si la demande en est faite au moyen d'une motion d'ordre approuvée par dix députés au moins.
2. Lorsqu'un vote a lieu par appel nominal, le secrétaire du conseil procède à l'appel des députés par ordre alphabétique. Ces derniers répondent de leur place par «oui», «non» ou «abstention» à la question posée par le président.
3. Seules comptent les voix des députés qui ont répondu immédiatement à l'appel.
4. Après chaque réponse, le secrétaire du conseil indique le total des voix que réunit la dernière opinion exprimée.
5. Le résultat du vote est publié sous la forme d'une liste nominative, sauf en cas de délibération à huis clos.

(Art. 46 Roll call voting

1. Voting takes place in the cases under Article 44 paragraph 2 by calling the roll if this is requested by at least 10 members of the Council.
2. In a vote by calling the roll, the members of the Council respond from their seats in alphabetical order of their names to question put to the vote by the President with a "Yes", "No" or "Abstain".
3. The only vote that counts is that cast immediately after the member's name is read out.
4. After each response, the Council Secretary announces the interim result.
5. The result is published in the form of a list of names, other than in the case of sittings held in camera.)

**6. If the documents are available in multiple languages, does it seem like the same number of documents/files are available in the different languages?**

Yes.

Equal amount in German, French, and Italian. All three languages have more documents than English. None for Romansh.

**7. How exactly did you locate these files? (i.e. if you were going to write instructions for someone else to find them, what would that look like?)**

Main Website – About Parliament – How does the Swiss Government Work? – [Rules governing parliament procedure](https://www.parlament.ch/en/%c3%bcber-das-parlament/how-does-the-swiss-parliament-work/Rules-governing-parliamentary-procedures) – Standing Orders of the Council of States

**8. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

German, and/or French, and/or Italian, and/or Romansh

**9. Is there anything else you think we should know?**

* Although Romansh is an official language for Switzerland, it is not as commonly used as the other three languages. Very few files in this language.
* There is no Google translate for Romansh. I am not able to read it.
* Since there are too many official languages, I only listed the French version here. But all the same section and address can be applied to other languages.
* People can always click on the bottom on the upper right corner to switch between different languages.

**10. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file for previous versions of the rules of procedure? If so, repeat questions 2-8.**

Yes, but only in German, French, and Italian.

URLs the same as the ones for rules of procedure (see A.2). We can find the links of pdfs on the right-hand side, under the “All versions of this law.”

*B.RECORD OF LEGISLATIVE VOTING*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of votes as reported in the working language of the legislature (e.g., scrutin public ordinaire).**

Vote: Italian: Votazioni

French: vote

German: Abstimmungen

Roll-call vote: Italian: Votazione per appello nominale

French: Vote par appel nominal.

German: Namensaufruf

**2. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required? If so what are these?**

French, and/or Italian, and/or German.

**3. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the voting record online (separate from the plenary minute)?**

No.

**If so:**

**-Where can one find these documents? Please provide instructions for how someone would find them.**

**-What types of votes are reported (e.g., the roll call vote record for individual legislators)?**

**4. If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

**5. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section? If not, please indicate which source and years we are missing.**

*C.MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

Les suffrages des députés et le résultat du vote sont affichés sur des panneaux électroniques.

Le résultat du vote est publié sous la forme d'une liste nominative:

a.

lorsqu'il s'agit d'un vote sur l'ensemble;

b.

lorsqu'il s'agit d'un vote final;

c.

lorsqu'il s'agit d'un vote sur une disposition dont l'adoption requiert l'approbation de la majorité des députés, conformément à l'art. 159, al. 3, de la Constitution[2](https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20030743/index.html#fn-#a44a-2);

d.

lorsque dix députés au moins en font la demande.

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide instructions for how one would find them)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

Yes.

Main Website – [parliamentary work](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb-home) – under official bulletin – [the minutes](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/amtliches-bulletin) – click on the print version for the Council of States

**3. If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

Beginning from 1999 winter session.

The archived digitized version from 1891-1999 can be found [here](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/amtliches-bulletin). Note that this website cannot be open using chrome; need to use safari instead.

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

Probably yes. the URLs looks like this:

More recent pdfs:

<https://www.parlament.ch/centers/documents/de/SR_5018_1906.pdf>

<https://www.parlament.ch/centers/documents/de/SR_5017_1905.pdf>

earlier files:

<https://www.parlament.ch/centers/documents/de/SR_99_12.PDF>

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

German, and/or French, and/or Italian

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

No.

*D. ATTENDANCE*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

No specific rule for attendance, the following is for quorum:

**[Art. 31](https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20030743/index.html" \l "a31)**[Quorum](https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20030743/index.html" \l "a31)

Le président vérifie que le quorum est atteint:

a.

avant une élection, un vote sur l'ensemble, un vote final ou un vote sur une disposition dont l'adoption requiert l'approbation de la majorité des députés, conformément à l'art. 159, al. 3, de la Constitution;

b.

si un député le demande.

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide the URL)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

No separate files for attendance. But in the official bulletins, under the section “Liste des orateurs,” we can find who participates in this session.

**3. What years are available on this source?**

Same as the official bulletins; beginning from 1999 winter session.

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

Probably yes. the URLs looks like this:

More recent pdfs:

<https://www.parlament.ch/centers/documents/de/SR_5018_1906.pdf>

<https://www.parlament.ch/centers/documents/de/SR_5017_1905.pdf>

earlier files:

<https://www.parlament.ch/centers/documents/de/SR_99_12.PDF>

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

German, and/or French, and/or Italian

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

No.

*E. ROLL CALL VOTE REQUEST*

**1. In the available on-line documents, can you identify a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the requester?**

[**OBJECTS ON WHICH THE COUNCIL OF STATES DECIDED BY ROLL-CALL**](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/abstimmungen#tab-panel-acc-1)

**For many years, the Council of States has voted by roll-call only sporadically. After a long pause, this type of voting was practiced for the following purposes:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DATE DU VOTE | OBJET |
| 11.06.2012 | [11.490](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20110490) Initiative parlementaire Jenny This. Transparence des votes |
| 15.12.2005 | [05.3698](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20053698) Motion Sommaruga Simonetta. Transparence au Conseil des Etats |
| 20.06.2003 | [01.021](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20010021) Train de mesures fiscales 2001 |
| 18.03.2003 | [02.027](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20020027) Circulation aérienne au-dessus d'une partie du territoire allemand. Accord avec la République fédérale d'Allemagne |
| 09.12.2002 | [01.401](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20010401) Initiative parlementaire CIP-CN. Loi sur le Parlement |
| 03.10.2002 | [01.401](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20010401) Initiative parlementaire CIP-CN. Loi sur le Parlement |

(All the affair id can be clicked on.)

I choose [05.3698](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20053698) as an example. Note that this official bulletin is mostly in German.

The requester (“Déposé par”) is indicated on the top with a photo besides it.

**2. Do the available on-line documents report a justification for a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the justification?**

I don’t see any justification for the request.

In each case, click on the “bulletin officiel” on the right-hand side, and then click on the motion again.

In the case of [05.3698](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20053698), there were some debates on whether or not they want to use a roll-call vote:

“Abstimmungsergebnisse aufzuzeichnen. Aufgezeichnet werden nur die Gesamtabstimmungen und die Schlussabstimmungen. Bei allen übrigen Abstimmungen müssten Sie weiterhin den namentlichen Aufruf verlangen. Es geht also nicht darum, dass wir alles aufzeichnen, sondern es geht in erster Linie um die Schlussabstimmungen.  
Ich muss nicht von den Medien an meine Stimmabgabe erinnert werden. Ich habe ein derart gutes Gedächtnis, Frau Kollegin Sommaruga, dass mich meine Wähler jederzeit fragen können: Wie hast du bei diesem Gesetz gestimmt? Das Gedächtnis hat mich vorderhand noch nicht im Stich gelassen. Ich glaube, wir sind alle noch dazu in der Lage.  
Es geht aber im dritten Punkt auch um etwas anderes. Ich glaube, es geht auch um die Atmosphäre und den Stil dieses Rates, und dazu stehe ich. Mit diesem Stil verträgt es sich besser, wenn wir die bisherige Praxis beibehalten: Jeder steht zu seiner Meinung, jeder gibt seine Stimme klar ab, und wer wissen will, was wir gestimmt haben, darf uns fragen; und wenn Sie mehr wissen wollen, können Sie jederzeit die namentliche Abstimmung verlangen.”

I just tried to find the word “roll-call” on the website. Note that it really depends on the language that they were using in the council.

**3. How is the decision to accept or deny the roll-call vote request made (this may be found in the rules of procedure)?**

Le vote a lieu par appel nominal selon l'art. 44, al. 2, si la demande en est faite au moyen d'une motion d'ordre approuvée par dix députés au moins.

**4. In the available on-line documents, can you identify whether the request was accepted? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify this?**

I don’t see any rules of procedure that allow people reject the request.

*F. DISCUSSION BEFORE THE VOTE*

1. Roll-call votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes.

If you click into the detailed version of the official bulletin (an example can be found [here](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/amtliches-bulletin/amtliches-bulletin-die-verhandlungen?SubjectId=10195)), on the right-hand side, you can see the names of participants under “déroulement du débat (progress of the debate).”

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

No length explicitly, but the whole speech is available and therefore word counts can be acquired.

2. Indication Votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes.

In the official bulletins.

Main Website – [parliamentary work](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb-home) – under official bulletin – [the minutes](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/amtliches-bulletin) – click on the print version for the Council of States – Under the section “Liste des orateurs.”

An example can be found [here](https://www.parlament.ch/centers/documents/de/SR_5018_1906.pdf). In this case on page XV.

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

No length explicitly, but the whole speech is available and therefore word counts can be acquired.

*G. VOTING*

1. Roll-call votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes, see the table in (E.1).

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. Click on each motion. In the summarized page, under the “text dépose.”

An example can be found [here](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20053698):

“Le Bureau est prié de soumettre au Conseil des Etats une **modification** du règlement du conseil afin que, grâce à un système de vote électronique, les résultats nominatifs des votes sur l'ensemble, des votes finaux et des votes à la majorité qualifiée puissent être rendus publics.”

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. Click on each motion. In the summarized page, under the “CHRONOLOGIE.”

An example can be found [here](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20053698):

“[CONSEIL DES ETATS](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/amtliches-bulletin/amtliches-bulletin-die-verhandlungen?SubjectId=10195" \t "_self)

Rejet”

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, calling of names, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. In the more detailed version, at the very bottom before the roll-call vote, the president would announce the method.

An example can be found [here](file:///Users/luzhang/Downloads/Amtliches_Bulletin_Druckansicht.pdf):

“Präsident (Büttiker Rolf, Präsident): Gestützt auf Artikel 46 Absatz 1 unseres Ratsreglementes haben elf Ratsmitglieder eine Abstimmung unter **Namensaufruf verlangt**.”

In this case, it’s by calling of names.

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? At the level of individual legislator? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes.

At the level of individual legislator.

In the more detailed version, at the very bottom, the president would announce the method.

An example can be found [here](file:///Users/luzhang/Downloads/Amtliches_Bulletin_Druckansicht.pdf):

“Für Annahme der Motion stimmen – Acceptent la motion: Béguelin, Berset, Bonhôte, Brunner Christiane, Forster, Gentil, Jenny, Leuenberger-Solothurn, Ory, Reimann, Saudan, Sommaruga Simonetta, Stadler .... (13)

Dagegen stimmen – Rejettent la motion: Altherr, Amgwerd Madeleine, Bieri, Brändli, Briner, Bürgi, David, Epiney, Escher, Frick, Fünfschilling, Heberlein, Hess Hans, Hofmann Hans, Inderkum, Langenberger, Lauri, Leumann, Lombardi, Pfisterer Thomas, Schiesser, Schmid-Sutter Carlo, Schweiger, Slongo, Stähelin, Wicki .... (26)”

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

I didn’t see any.

2. Indication votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes.

In the official bulletin, under the section “Numéros d’objet.”

An example can be found [here](https://www.parlament.ch/centers/documents/de/SR_5018_1906.pdf). In this case on page XXXI.

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. The same as (G.2.a).

In the official bulletin, under the section “Numéros d’objet.”

For instance:

“Motion Candinas Martin. Mettre un terme aux abus des extraits du registre des poursuites: 548” or “Loi sur la chasse. **Modification**: 351”

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. At the end of each motion.

If it’s adopted, it’s “Angenommen – Adopté;”

If it’s rejected, it’s “Abgelehnt – Rejeté.”

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, raising of hands, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

I don’t find specific method in the official bulletin, but according to the rules of procedure: “The electronic voting system counts and records the votes cast at each ballot. (Art.44, 1)”

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes.

In the aggregate.

At the end of each motion.

An example can be found [here](https://www.parlament.ch/centers/documents/de/SR_5018_1906.pdf), on page 213.

“Abstimmung – Vote

Für Annahme der Motion ... 4 Stimmen

Dagegen ... 31 Stimmen

(0 Enthaltungen)”

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

I didn’t see any.

*NOTES ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD BE RELEVANT*

* Some background information from Wikipedia (just to give a general impression):
* The Federal Assembly possesses the federal government's legislative power, along with the separate constitutional right of citizen's initiative. For a law to pass, it must be passed by both houses. The two houses may come together as a United Federal Assembly in certain circumstances, such as to elect the Federal Council (the head of government and state), the Federal Chancellor, the federal judges or (only in times of great national danger) a general.
* URL: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Assembly_(Switzerland)>