**Switzerland – the National Council**

Note: the links in this bible entry are all acquired from the French website. If other languages are preferred, just click on the bottom on the upper right corner.

1. Website:

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

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

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

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

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

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

**1. Name:**

German: Geschäftsreglement des Nationalrates

French: Règlement du Conseil national

Italian: Regolamento del Consiglio nazionale

Romansh: N.A.

English: Standing Orders of the National Council

**2. URL**:

German: <https://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20030895/index.html>

French: <https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20030895/index.html>

Italian: <https://www.admin.ch/opc/it/classified-compilation/20030895/index.html>

Romansh: N.A.

English: <https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20030895/index.html>

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

02.12.2019

**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.**

Note: All the votes results for each individual are published, and should be done through the electronic voting system. If the electronic voting equipment is out of order, voting takes place by roll call.

So basically all the votes are roll-call votes.

The following section is for “appel nominal.” Although it is translated as roll-call, it does not necessarily mean a roll-call vote. More likely, it is vote by calling of names.

[**Art. 60** Vote par appel nominal](https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20030895/index.html#a60)

1. ...1
2. Lorsqu'un vote a lieu par appel nominal, les députés répondent dans l'ordre alphabétique et de leur place par «oui», «non» ou «abstention» à la question posée par le président.
3. Après chaque réponse, le secrétaire général de l'Assemblée fédérale indique le total des voix que réunit la dernière opinion exprimée.
4. Seules comptent les voix des députés qui ont répondu immédiatement à l'appel.

1. Abrogé par le ch. I de l'A du CN du 15 juin 2018 (Droit parlementaire. Mod. diverses), avec effet au 26 nov. 2018 ([RO **2018** 3473](http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/as/2018/3473.pdf); [FF **2017** 6425](http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/ff/2017/6425.pdf) 6493).

**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 National

**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).**

All the votes publish individual voting results, and should be done through the electronic voting system. If the electronic voting equipment is out of order, voting takes place by roll call.

So basically all the votes are roll-call votes.

Italian: Votazioni

French: vote

German: Abstimmungen

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

French would be the best, then German/Italian.

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

Yes.

**If so:**

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

[Main Website](https://www.parlament.ch/fr) – Travail Parlementaire (Parliamentary work) – [Votes](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/abstimmungen) – [XSL files per session](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/abstimmungen/abstimmung-nr-xls)

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

The electronic voting system counts and stores data on the votes cast at each vote. The votes cast by the members of the Council and the result are shown on the scoreboards.

**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?**

Beginning from 2011 winter session

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

Yes.

**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.**

No.

*C.MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION*

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

German: Amtliches Bulletin der Bundesversammlung

French: Bulletin officiel de l’Assemblée fédérale

Italian: Bollettino ufficiale dell’Assemblea federale

**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 National Council

**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/NR_5018_1906.pdf>

<https://www.parlament.ch/centers/documents/de/NR_5017_1905.pdf>

earlier files:

<https://www.parlament.ch/centers/documents/de/NR_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:**

Pour chacun des députés, une des mentions suivantes figure sur la liste nominative:

a. oui;

b. non;

c. abstention;

d. n'a pas participé au vote;

e. excusé; le député qui, avant le début de la séance, a annoncé son absence pour l'ensemble de la séance en raison d'un mandat qui lui a été confié par une délégation permanente au sens de l'art. 60 LParl ou pour cause de décès d'un parent proche, de maternité, d'accident ou de maladie est considéré comme excusé.

(On the list of names, an indication is given for each member of the Council as to whether he or she voted Yes or No, abstained or did not participate in the vote. If a member of the Council is excused by reason of being on business for the standing delegations in accordance with Article 60 ParlA, this reason must also be indicated.)

**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**.

Yes. The same as the XSL files indicated before in section (B.3).

[Main Website](https://www.parlament.ch/fr) – Travail Parlementaire (Parliamentary work) – [Votes](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/abstimmungen) – [XSL files per session](https://www.parlament.ch/fr/ratsbetrieb/abstimmungen/abstimmung-nr-xls)

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

Beginning from 2011 winter session.

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

Yes.

**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?**

French would be the best, then German/Italian.

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

No.

*E. ROLL CALL VOTE REQUEST*

All the votes are roll-call votes, so no requester.

**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?**

**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?**

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

**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?**

*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. In the official bulletin.

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.

Each affair/motion/vote has its own affair id that can be found in the XSL files. This number can help us locate to the corresponding place in the official bulletin. As for people who participate in the speech, there is a section called “Liste des orateurs.” By using the affair id as an index, people can easily find who participate in which 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. But if you go to the full version under the “Liste des orateurs,” we can get access to the whole speech. Can acquire word count.

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?**

**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?**

*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. In the official bulletin, under the section “Numéros d’objet.” This is the same as the corresponding “AffairTitle” in the XSL files.

**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?**

It’s in the subject of vote.

For instance:

Loi sur l’expropriation. **Modification**

**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?**

In the XSL files, under “decision” variable.

Or at the end of each vote in the official bulletin.

An example can be found [here](https://www.parlament.ch/centers/documents/de/NR_5018_1906.pdf), page 804. For instance:

Gesamtabstimmung – Vote sur l'ensemble (namentlich – nominatif; 18.087/18797) Für Annahme des Entwurfes ... 160 Stimmen Dagegen ... 21 Stimmen (0 Enthaltungen)

La presidente (Carobbio Guscetti Marina, presidente): Tutti e due gli oggetti sono pronti per la votazione finale

**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?**

The votes should all be in electronic form unless the electronic equipment is out of order. This would be indicated by “appel nominal” according to the French version of the rules of procedure.

**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 XSL files.

**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 don’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?**

**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?**

**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?**

**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?**

**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?**

**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?**

*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)>
* Therefore, I did not include the federal council in any of the bible entry, since it is assumed to be unrelated to any of the motion/amendments/agenda/etc…