



Who represents me?

Citizens elect representatives (deputies) who then pass the laws in parliament on their behalf. The right to vote and to stand as a candidate in parliamentary elections is linked to Luxembourg nationality and the age of majority for voters. According to the Constitution, the deputies represent the general public interest when voting.

Accordingly, they are expected to represent all people, not just those who elected them. At the same time, deputies are usually members of a political party and run for election in constituencies. So what does 'representation' mean in practice? Which characteristics are decisive in electing representatives?

M1

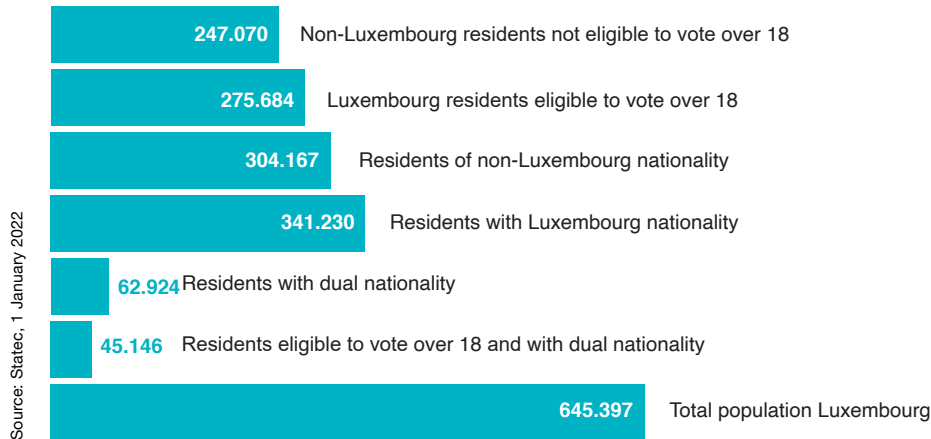
What is important to you in a deputy?	not at all important	very important
Gender	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Age	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Profession	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Education and training	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Family situation	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Sexual orientation	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Party affiliation	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Nationality	1 _____ 5 _____	10
High Profile	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Appearance	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Charisma	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Skills/education	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Knowledge of topics that are important to you	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Knowledge of all topics	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Eloquence	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Commitment	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Income	1 _____ 5 _____	10
Presence on social media	1 _____ 5 _____	10
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- Create an online vote on M1 (e.g. Forms).
- Which three characteristics get the most support amongst participants? Why?
- Research the gender, age, profession and career of deputies on the Chambre des Députés website (chd.lu). Do the elected representatives meet your expectations in these areas?
- Take a stand: Can only a person who is like me properly represent me? Explain.

The Luxembourg electorate in national elections is determined on the basis of nationality. Other criteria would be dividing the population up according to tax burden (all taxpayers, including cross-border commuters), place of residence (uniform electoral district), property (property tax), education (e.g. all residents with a degree, etc.) or interests. The distribution of seats in parliament could also be subject to quotas that would ensure that women and young or older citizens are represented fairly.

M2

The electorate in the national elections



M3

Debate on political representation

- Who are the deputies supposed to represent: everybody or those who elected them?
- What makes a deputy a good representative?
- Does party diversity in parliament ensure the representation of the diversity of interests in the population?
- Should some of the deputies be chosen by chance?
- As representatives of the people, do deputies represent their party or their opinion?
- To what extent should the Chambre des Députés reflect the composition of society?
- To what extent are quotas needed in elections (e.g. an age quota)?

- M2: What is the composition of the electorate in Luxembourg? Compare with the population structure. What influence does dual citizenship have on the number of eligible voters?
- M3: Form groups of four and discuss one of the issues for six minutes. The questions can also be divided into two rounds. Each small group then reports briefly on the results of their discussion. Write down a few notes to record the results of your discussion.