

Luxembourg elects **its parliament**



Introduction

Who is this booklet for?

The booklet is for everyone who wants to know more about national elections.

It has been written to be easily understood.

Easy-to-read information reaches more people.

Everyone has the right to information.

This is also written in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Luxembourg has signed this convention.

These rights must also be respected in Luxembourg.

Easy-to-read information follows rules. The rules are on the website www.klaro.lu.

The words we use for voter, citizen, deputy, candidate, ... refer to women, men, all genders.

Difficult words are explained in the dictionary at the end of the book.

The dictionary is on pages 23 to 26.

The blue logo shows that the document has been proofread.

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1. Democracy

Democracy means: **the people decide.**

The people are the inhabitants, or citizens, of a country.

They vote for their representatives.

These are the politicians who take decisions for our country.

These representatives are called deputies or members of parliament.

People with disabilities also vote.

The right to vote is a very important right.

By voting, you can have a say in politics.

Elections in Luxembourg are **free.**

That means, you are free to decide which party and which candidates to vote for.

You can choose between several parties.

Elections in Luxembourg are **secret.**

You decide who you vote for.

You do not have to tell anyone who you vote for.

All **votes count equally.**

No matter how old you are, where you come from or how much money you have.

In Luxembourg there are various elections:

- Municipal elections
- National elections
- European elections
- Social elections (election of staff-representatives within a company)

This booklet is about national elections.

National elections are also called national elections or legislative elections.

In Luxembourg, we often say Chamber-Walen.

National elections are held every 5 years.

2. Electing the Chamber of Deputies

Who is elected?

In a national election you vote for the **members** of parliament.
In Luxembourg the parliament is called the Chamber of Deputies.
Parliament or Chamber is the name for the group of people who work in this building.
You can also say: **deputies** (delegates).
There are 60 deputies.
There are men and women.

In the Chamber there should be deputies from all parts of Luxembourg.
That is why there are voting districts.
Voting districts are parts or regions of Luxembourg.
Voters can only vote for candidates who live in their voting district.
Voters can only vote for candidates who live in their voting district.
The difficult word for voting district is constituency.

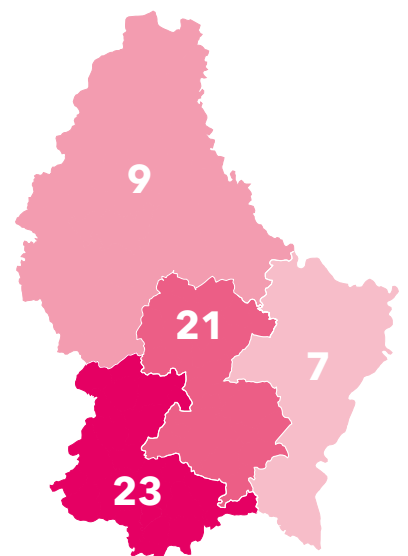
The voting districts in Luxembourg

There are 4 voting districts in Luxembourg:

- South: 23 deputies
- Centre: 21 deputies
- North: 9 deputies
- East: 7 deputies

In each constituency there are different candidates to choose from.

In total 60 deputies are voted for.



What the Chamber of Deputies does



The deputies are members of the Chamber of Deputies.

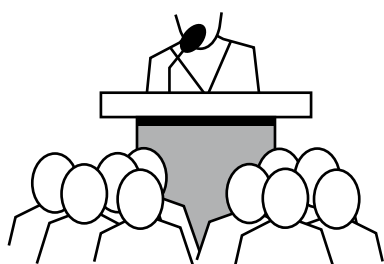
They vote on laws.

Laws are rules.

Laws apply to everyone in Luxembourg.

For example: The deputies vote on the laws on working conditions.

Deputies can propose new laws.



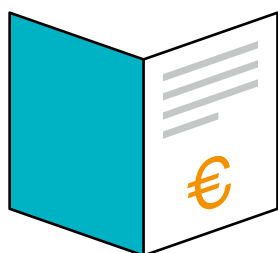
Deputies **control the government.**

The government must tell the deputies what it has done and what it would like to do.



The deputies vote

on new **agreements with other countries.**



The deputies vote on the **budget.**

The budget is a plan or document.

It says how much money the government can spend, and where the money will come from.

For example: How much money

the government spends on a new hospital.

You can also see where the money will come from for this project.

When all deputies meet together, this is called a plenary session or **plenum.**

Plenary sessions are public.

This means, anyone can go to a plenary session in the Chamber of Deputies.

You can also watch the sessions on Chamber TV on television or on the Internet page of the Chamber of Deputies **www.chd.lu**.

3. Before the election

The election programs of the political parties

A **party** is a group of people who have similar political ideas and goals. They put themselves on a joint list for the election.

Each party writes an **election program**.

The election program says:

- what the party wants to do differently if it is elected into government.
- how the party wants to achieve these goals.

For example, one party says:

‘There are too many traffic jams in Luxembourg.’

In the election program the party explains what it plans to do to solve this problem.

Perhaps they want the trains to drive more often.

In this way, the party hopes that more people will take the train.

And there will be less traffic jams.

The election campaign

Before the election, the parties advertise the ideas of their party.

The parties also present their **candidates**.

This is the election campaign.

The **election campaign** must respect the **rules**.

‘Election campaign’ means discussions and publicity to tell people about the election program.

Each candidate can give their opinion.

Each candidate respects the opinion of the other candidates of the other parties.

Information can also spread quickly on the Internet, but sometimes it is wrong.

This is known as 'fake news'.

It is always good to ask yourself:

'Is what I read true or false?'

Election promises

During the election campaign the parties **explain their goals**.

For example, they say:

When we are in government,

- we will do more to protect animals.
- we will help young people to find work.

These are called election promises.

Sometimes the parties cannot keep their promises.

For example:

- when other parties form part of the government.
- when the parties in the government have different goals.
- when there is less money than was expected.
- when something unexpected happens.
- when the election promises are not realistic.

Sometimes the promises are difficult to fulfil.

That is why you should ask **how** each party plans on fulfilling their promises.

4. Who can be a candidate?

To be a candidate means to stand for election.

This is called **passive electoral right**. You **can be elected**.

To be a candidate, you have to:

- be of **legal age**: you are of legal age or an adult from the age of 18.
- have Luxembourgish nationality.

In other words: have a **Luxembourgish identity (ID) card**.

- possess your **civil rights**.

In other words: the judge did **not** limit your civil rights.

The judge has **not** forbidden you to vote.

- have **permanent residency** in Luxembourg.

In other words: you must be registered in Luxembourg.

Being elected means that the candidate can be a deputy.

Elected candidates can be deputies

and continue to work at their job.

There are exceptions, though.

You **cannot** be a deputy and at the same time have a paid job with the state or a municipality.

If the candidate becomes a deputy,

then they must give up their job with the state or municipality.

The deputy receives his salary directly from the Chamber of Deputies.

5. Who can vote?

To vote is called **active electoral right**.

To vote, you must:

- be of **legal age**: you are of legal age or an adult from the age of 18.
- possess your **civil rights**.

In other words: the judge did **not** limit your civil rights.

The judge has **not** forbidden you to vote.

Luxembourg nationals must vote.

It is obligatory and the law says so.

From the age of 75 you **can** still vote.

But you are **no longer** obligated to.

What does 'must' vote mean?

You have 2 possibilities:

You go to the election office.

You ask for the ballot paper.

You enter the voting booth.

You decide to vote or not to vote for candidates.

Voting means: making a cross for a candidate or a political party.

Even if you do not make a cross,
you still have to hand in the ballot paper.

But it is important to make crosses.

This way you participate in the vote for the Chamber of Deputies.

You make crosses next to the candidates you prefer.

In other words: the candidates who best represent
what you think is important.

If you are ill on election day, you must excuse your absence in writing.

You must send your excuse in writing to the municipality.

You must give a reason.

If you want to have a say on who is elected into the Chamber of Deputies, then it is important to put a cross or crosses.

6. How to vote

The letter of invitation

Before the election you receive an envelope by post.

The envelope contains the following papers:

- **The invitation:**

With this letter you are asked to participate in the elections.

In the invitation you will also find:

- when and where to vote,
- the opening hours of the election office,
- how many deputies can be elected.

- **The instructions:** These are the **rules for the voter**.

- **An example of a ballot paper** with all the candidates.

You receive the real ballot paper at the election office.

The image shows a collage of election documents. The main document is a letter of invitation (Einberufungsschreiben / Lettre de convocation) for the Kammerwahlen (Legislative Elections) on Sunday, October 8, 2023. It includes the following information:

- N° bureau de vote : 01** and **N° électeur : 123** (indicated by callout boxes).
- Einberufungsschreiben / Lettre de convocation** (indicated by a callout box).
- Kammerwahlen vom Sonntag, den 8. Oktober 2023** (indicated by a callout box).
- Elections législatives du dimanche, 8 octobre 2023** (indicated by a callout box).
- 8.10.2023** (indicated by a callout box).
- 9 Membres de la Chambre des Députés** (indicated by a callout box).
- KAMMERWAHLEN** (indicated by a callout box).
- ELECTIONS LE** (indicated by a callout box).
- Nr/No 01** (indicated by a callout box).
- Votre bureau de vote** (indicated by a callout box).
- Ihr Wahlbüro** (indicated by a callout box).
- erabgeordnete** (indicated by a callout box).

Below the letter of invitation is a document titled **Anweisungen für den Wähler** (Instructions for the voter) for the Kammerwahlen. It contains a list of candidates (indicated by a callout box).

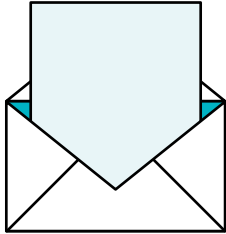
Callout boxes provide additional information:

- The date of the election is written here.** (points to 8.10.2023)
- The opening hours of the election office is written here.** (points to 8.10.2023)
- The address of the election office is written here.** (points to Ihr Wahlbüro)
- The number of candidates you can vote for is written here.** (points to 9 Membres de la Chambre des Députés)
- People who don't have to vote are written here.** (points to erabgeordnete)

The postal vote

You can vote at an election office.

You can also choose to vote by **post**.



The application is possible from 12 weeks before the elections and at the latest:

- 25 days before the elections if the ballot paper is sent to an address in Luxembourg or
- 40 days before the election if the ballot paper is sent to an address abroad.

You must apply to vote by post **at your municipality or on the web page: www.guichet.lu**.

This means, you must fill in a **form** either on paper or on the web page.

You must write an address on the form.

You can find the form at the municipal office and on the Internet.

Voters abroad must add to their application :
a **copy of their identity card or passport** to their application.

You must send the form to the municipal office or online to **www.guichet.lu**.

You then receive a ballot paper by post.

The letter will be sent to the address written on the request form.

In the letter you will find:

- the invitation
- voting instructions
- an example of the ballot paper
- the proper ballot paper which you send back
- 2 empty envelopes

You vote and send the valid ballot paper by post to the municipality.

How to make a decision

Voting means choosing and taking a decision.

You cannot vote for all the candidates.

You have to make a choice.

Find out:

Which **parties** are there?

What do the parties want to change?

What are the ideas of the different parties?

Who is a **candidate**?

This means: who can you vote for?

What plans do the candidates from your constituency have?

The parties give information about their election program:

- The parties put their **election program** in your letter box.
- The parties post information on **their websites** and on **social media** (Facebook, Instagram, ...).
- The parties have **information stands**.
You can ask the candidates questions.
- The parties hang up campaign **posters**.

On **television, radio** and the **Internet**

there are reports about the parties.

Television and radio organise **discussions** with the candidates.

A lot of parties organise **information meetings** or other activities for the inhabitants.

It is a good opportunity to get to know the candidates.

Everyone can participate in these meetings.

Everyone can ask questions and give their opinion.

Ask the candidates:

'What is important to you? What do you stand for?'

The ballot paper

On the ballot paper, or voting slip,
you vote for the candidates or a party.

Option 1:

You vote for one party.

This means: You give **all your votes to one party**.

You blacken the circle above the list of your choice.

In other words, you colour the circle in black.

Or you draw a cross in the circle: **+** or **x**.

Each person on the list then receives **1 vote**.

Please note: You can **no longer make crosses** next to the candidates.

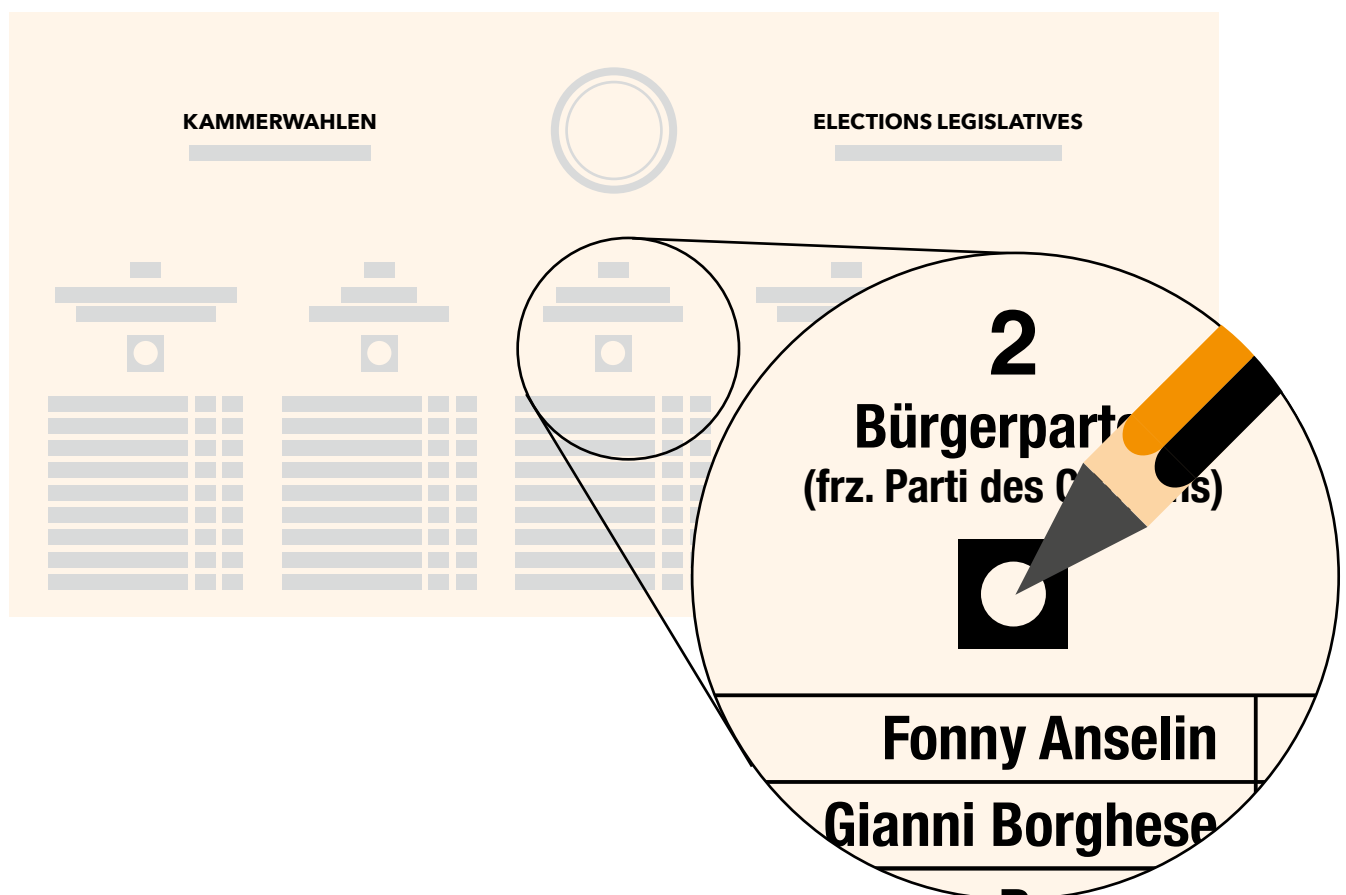
Example of a ballot paper:

In the North voting district, 9 deputies are elected for
the Chamber of Deputies.

= 9 votes.

On each list there are 9 candidates.

The voter can blacken or mark a circle with a cross above **1 list**.



Option 2:

You vote for candidates.

You put crosses for candidates in as many boxes as you have votes.

This means: you put a cross for those candidates, who best represent your ideas.

You can put a cross in 1 or 2 **boxes after a candidate's name**.

If you only vote for candidates from one list, this is called **cumulation**.

If you vote for candidates from several lists, this is called **mixed allocation**.

Important: In total, you cannot put more crosses than the number of votes you can give.

You can put fewer crosses, though.

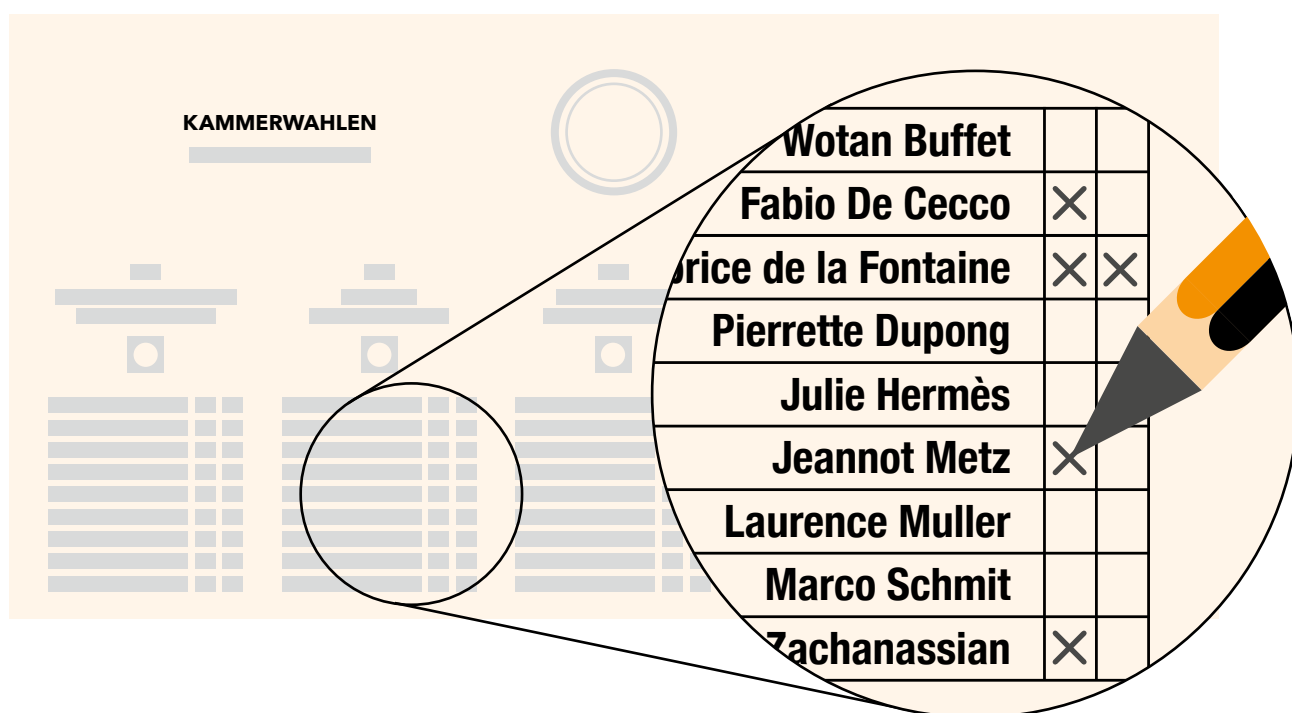
The number of boxes you can cross depends on your constituency.

If you live in the South, you have 23 votes.

If you live in the Centre, you have 21 votes.

If you live in the North, you have 9 votes.

If you live in the East, you have 7 votes.



The rules for the ballot paper to be valid:

- The voter may only put as many crosses as there are deputies to be elected.
- He may only put a cross **in the boxes or in the circle**.
- He must **not** strike out anything, write anything, draw anything. He must **not** leave any trace that allows to identify the voter. For example: a signature.
- The ballot paper must **not** be accompanied by any other piece of paper or any other object.
- The voter may only hand in the real ballot paper and nothing else.

Other rules:

You can only vote once.

You **cannot** vote for another person.

If you break these rules, you may face a fine or a prison sentence.

You will receive a sample ballot paper at home.

You can practice on the sample ballot paper, to help you prepare for the election.

You can take the sample ballot paper into the voting booth as a memory aid.

However, you may not hand in the sample ballot paper.

You may only hand in the real ballot paper which you were given at the election office.

Important: If you make a mistake, you can ask the staff of the election office for a new ballot paper. The staff of the election office will destroy the old ballot paper.

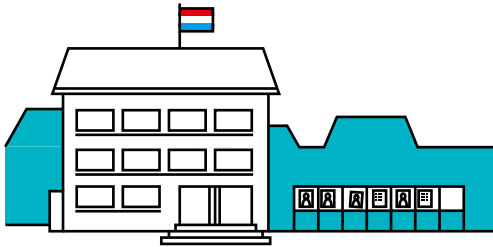
Accessibility

Anyone with a disability can take an assistant into the voting booth with them. This is the law.

The assistant must **not** influence the voter. This means, the voter alone decides who they want to vote for. The assistant must keep the vote secret.

A blind person or a person with a visual impairment can use a tactile ballot paper as a help to vote.

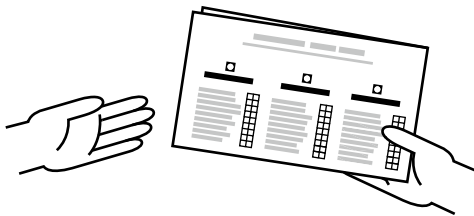
On election day



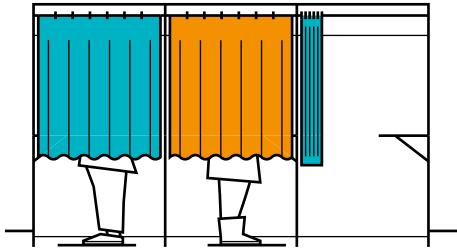
You can go to the election office between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.



You show your identity card or passport.



You receive the ballot paper with the names of the candidates. The vote is **secret**. That is why you go into the **voting booth**. You should not show anyone who you are voting for.



In the voting booth you will find a **pencil**.

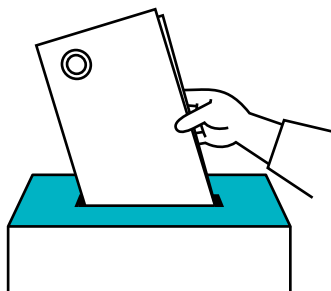
You can also use your own pencil.

You mark the candidates
or the list.

Do not draw anything else
on the ballot paper.

If you make a mistake, ask for another
ballot paper from the person in charge
of the election office.

Fold the ballot paper
as it was in the beginning.
The stamp should be on the outside.



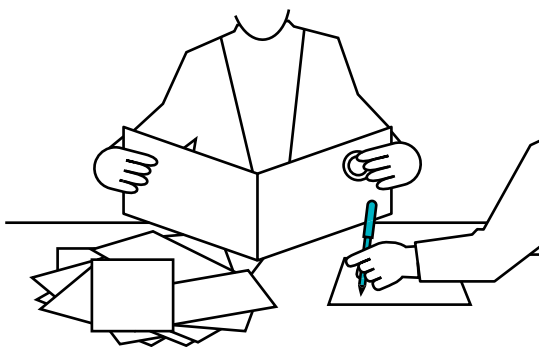
Go to the staff of the election office.

They will show you a **box**.

This is the **ballot box**.

Show the stamp on the ballot paper.

Put the ballot paper in the ballot box.



The election office closes at 2 p.m.

The staff of the election office
count the votes.

7. After the election

The election offices close at 2 pm.

The staff of the election office, take the ballot papers out of the ballot box and **count the votes**.

Candidates may send someone to observe the count.

There are reports on the elections on television and the Internet.

The first results will be announced in the evening.

On the day after the elections, the full results are known.

The result is shown in the newspapers, on television and on the Internet.

For example, on the official website www.elections.public.lu.

Election outcome: who gets into the Chamber of Deputies?

In the Chamber of Deputies there are 60 deputies.

That means there are **60 seats**.

Each voting district has a certain number of seats:

North: 9 seats, East: 7 seats, South: 23 seats, Centre: 21 seats.

See page 5 for information on the voting districts and seats.

**The party with the most votes,
gets the most seats.**

The candidates with the most votes in the party get these seats.

An example:

A party gets 5 seats in the Centre voting district.

And 3 seats in the South voting district.

But **no** seats in the North and East voting districts.

This party can therefore send 8 candidates
to the Chamber of Deputies.

These are then the 8 candidates with the most votes in their party and in their voting district.
This is the same for every party.

The elected candidates now represent us in the Chamber of Deputies.
They are the deputies who represent the people of Luxembourg.
This is the case until the next national election in 5 years.

Until then, every citizen can watch what is happening:
Are the parties really doing what they promised to do before the election?
If you are not happy with what they are doing, at the next national election you can vote for another party or another politician.

The coalition

Each party wants to win votes in the Chamber of Deputies.
To win these votes, the party needs a **majority**.
This means more than half of the deputies.

Often, a single party does not have enough deputies, or seats, to have the majority.
This means the deputies from a single party **cannot** win a vote on their own.
That is why several parties come together.
This means 2 or more parties come together to form a **coalition**.

This coalition then forms the government.
The parties sign a **coalition contract**.
In this coalition contract, the parties state their objectives.

The opposition: the opposing party

The parties which have fewer votes form the opposition.
Together they have less than half the votes
in the Chamber of Deputies.

This opposition party is also important.

All deputies control the government.

They watch what the government is doing very closely.
They question whether that makes sense for the country.

After 5 years there is a new election.

Generally, the opposition wants to win the next election.

The government

After the election, the Grand Duke appoints the **Prime Minister**.
The Prime Minister is the head of government.

He is helped by several men and women.

These are the **ministers**.

The prime minister chooses the ministers.

He comes to an agreement with the other parties in the government.

However, the Grand Duke appoints the ministers.

Generally, the ministers are mostly people
who have been elected to the Chamber of Deputies.

They can also be experts who know something very well.

The ministers are men and women.
They almost always come from the coalition parties.
Each minister has their own task.
For example, there is a Minister of Health.
The Minister of Health is responsible for hospitals.

If you are a minister, you **cannot** be a deputy.

The government can **propose new laws**.
The deputies in the Chamber of deputies vote on the laws.
Only then can the government **implement the laws**.

Example:

The government proposes to build a new school.
The majority of deputies in the Chamber vote in favour.
Now the government has to do everything
so that the school can be built.
For example, they have to pay for the construction of the school.

8. Dictionary

The words voter, minister, deputy, etc. refer to men and women

Blue words:

Luxembourgish

Pink words:

French

ballot box

Wahl-Urn

Urne électorale

You put your ballot paper into the ballot box.

The ballot box is also called a **voting box**.

ballot paper

Stëmm-Ziedel

Bulletin de vote

The paper showing the names of the persons or parties who can be elected.

budget

Budget

Budget

Plan or document in which it is stated how much money the state spends and how much it receives.

candidates

Kandidaten

Candidats

People who wish to be elected.

Their names are on the ballot paper.

Chamber of Deputies

Chamber

Chambre

des Députés

The Chamber of Deputies is the parliament of Luxembourg.

citizen

Bierger

Citoyen

The inhabitants of a village, a municipality, a country.

If you are at least 18 years old, you may or must vote.

In national elections, only people with Luxembourgish nationality can vote or be a candidate.

coalition
Koalitioun
Coalition

In a coalition there are parties who work together.
Together they form the government.
Together they have more than half the seats.

deputies
Deputéiert
Députés

The people elected into parliament (Chamber of Deputies).
They represent the citizens of the country.
Another word: members of parliament.
They discuss suggestions for new laws by the government (ministers).
They can also make proposals for new laws.
They vote on whether or not a law will be made.

election office
Wahl-Büro
Bureau électoral

This is the place in the municipality where people go to vote.
It is often a school, a gym, etc.
Also called an **election office**.

election outcome
Wahl-Resultat
Résultat des élections

The result of the election.
It says which parties and which candidates got how many votes.

electoral duty
Wahl-Pflicht
Obligation de vote

Also called **compulsory voting**.
This means you have to hand in a ballot paper.

fake News

False information, false news.

government
Regierung
Gouvernement

The government runs the country.
The government consists of ministers.
The ministers have different areas of responsibility.

Grand Duke
Groussherzog
Grand-Duc

Head of State of Luxembourg.
The Grand Duke seeks advice to appoint the Prime Minister.
He represents Luxembourg abroad.

invitation
Convocatioun
Convocation

This letter asks you to go and vote.

Luxembourgish citizen
Lëtzebuergesch
Staats-Bierger
Citoyens
luxembourgeois

Citizens with a Luxembourgish identity card or passport.
They have the Luxembourgish nationality.

mandate
Mandat
Mandat

The elected candidates have the mission to represent the citizens of the country.

parliament
Parlament
Parlement

Parliament represents the interests of the citizens.
In Luxembourg parliament is called 'Chamber'.
In German parliament is called 'Abgeordneten-Kammer'.

party
Partei
Parti

People who have similar political ideas and objectives.
For the elections, they put themselves together on a common list.
Assembly of the deputies. Full assembly.

plenary session
Plénière
Séance plénière

It is public: anyone can go and listen.
The plenary sessions are shown on television and on the Chamber of Deputies' website.

Political group
Fraktioun
Groupe politique

The name given to a group of deputies.
Only deputies can be members of a political group (Fraktioun).

Prime Minister
Premier-Minister,
Premier
Premier ministre

The Prime Minister is the head of government.
He assembles the government.
He proposes the ministers.
However, the Grand Duke appoints the ministers.

right to vote

Wahl-Recht

Droit de vote

You can vote or elect candidates.

In principle, every Luxembourg citizen who is at least 18 years old has to vote. For municipal and European elections there are exceptions.

Non-Luxembourg nationals also have the right to vote.

But they must fulfil certain requirements.

tactile voting aid

Wahl-Schabloun

Modèle de vote tactile

A tactile aid for the blind and severely visuallyimpaired people.

These aids can be ordered from :
the Centre pour le développement des compétences relatives à la vue : www.idv.lu.

vote by post

Bréif-Wahl

**Vote par
correspondance**

You must apply to vote by post :
at the municipality
or on **www.guichet.lu**.

The voter receives the ballot paper by post.
He votes and returns the ballot paper by post.

voter

Wieler

Electeur

Inhabitant who is registered on the electoral roll.

In a national election, only people with Luxembourgish nationality can vote.

voting district

Wahl-Bezierk

**Circonscription
électorale**

Region in Luxembourg that jointly elects some of the deputies to the Chamber of Deputies.

There are 4 voting districts:
Centre, South, North, East.

9. Other information

Websites:

www.guichet.lu

www.chd.lu

www.klaro.lu

www.elections.lu

www.zpb.lu

10. Who made this booklet?

Authors:

Klaro, Dr. Jochen Zenthöfer and Zentrum fir politesch Bildung.

Publisher:

Klaro is the centre for easy-to-read information in Luxembourg.

We offer training and advice on Easy-to Read.

We check and write easy-to-read information.

Contact: info@klaro.lu – www.klaro.lu



The **Zentrum fir politesch Bildung** wants to inform everyone about politics and democracy.

The Centre wants to involve as many children and adults as possible in public life.

The Zentrum fir politesch Bildung helps them to participate.

Contact: info@zpb.lu – www.zpb.lu

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