

Online Appendix - Are opinion leaders better represented? - Anouk Lloren & Reto Wuest

Table 6: Policy Proposals and Issue Domains

Proposal	Parliament	Popular Vote
(i) Economic issue		
Federal act on the financing of the unemployment insurance	12/13/1996	09/28/1997
Federal act on measures to balance the budget	12/19/1997	06/07/1998
Popular initiative “for the 10th revision of the old age and survivors insurance without raising the retirement age”	12/19/1997	09/27/1998
Federal law on employment in industry, craft and commerce	03/20/1998	11/29/1998
Popular initiative “housing property for all”	10/09/1998	02/07/1999
Federal law on the insurance for motherhood	12/18/1998	06/13/1999
Popular initiative “for a flexible retirement age for woman and man from 62 upwards”	12/18/1998	11/26/2000
Popular initiative “for a more flexible old age and survivors insurance – against raising the retirement age for women”	12/18/1998	11/26/2000
Popular initiative “for lower hospital expenses”	03/24/2000	11/26/2000
Law on federal employees	03/24/2000	11/26/2000
Popular initiative “for lower-priced medicines”	06/08/2000	03/04/2001
Popular initiative “for a tax on capital gains”	06/22/2001	12/02/2001
Federal act on reducing debts	06/22/2001	12/02/2001
Popular initiative “for a reduced duration of work time”	06/22/2001	03/03/2002
Federal law on the electricity market	12/15/2000	09/22/2002
Popular initiative “Surplus gold reserves for the federal old age and survivors insurance funds (gold initiative)”	03/22/2002	09/22/2002
Counterproposal to the gold initiative “gold for the federal old age and survivors insurance fund, the cantons and the foundation”	03/22/2002	09/22/2002
Federal law on the compulsory unemployment insurance and the compensation in case of insolvency	03/22/2002	11/24/2002
Popular initiative “for fair rents”	03/12/2002	05/18/2003
Popular initiative “for an adequate vocational training (apprenticeship initiative)”	03/22/2002	05/18/2003
Popular initiative “health must remain affordable (health initiative)”	12/05/2002	05/18/2003
Revision of the obligations law (rents)	12/13/2002	02/08/2004
Federal act on the financing of the old age and survivors insurance/disability insurance by means of an increase of the value-added tax rate	10/03/2003	05/16/2004
Federal law on the old age and survivors insurance (11th revision)	10/03/2003	05/16/2004
Popular initiative “postal services for all”	03/19/2004	09/26/2004
Federal act on the new organization of federal finances	03/19/2004	11/28/2004

Table 6 - Continued

Proposal	Parliament	Popular Vote
Popular initiative “profits from the National Bank for the old age and survivors insurance”	12/16/2005	09/24/2006
Federal law on family allowances	03/24/2006	11/26/2006
Popular initiative “for a social united health insurance”	10/07/2006	03/11/2007
Federal law on the invalidity insurance	10/06/2006	06/17/2007
Federal law on the improvement of the fiscal conditions of business activities and investments	03/22/2007	02/24/2008
Counterproposal to the popular initiative “for lower health insurance premiums in the basic insurance system”	12/21/2007	06/01/2008
Popular initiative “for a flexible retirement age”	06/13/2008	11/30/2008
(ii) EU issues		
Federal act on the approval of the sectoral agreements between Switzerland on the one hand and the European Community and its members states or Euratom on the other hand	10/08/1999	05/21/2000
Popular initiative “for the regulation of immigration”	03/19/1999	09/24/2000
Popular initiative “yes to Europe”	06/23/2000	03/04/2001
Federal act on the approval and implementation of the bilateral agreements between Switzerland and the EU on the Schengen and Dublin accords	12/17/2004	06/05/2005
Federal act on the approval and implementation of the protocol on the extension of the agreement on the free movement of people to the new EU members states between Switzerland on the one hand and the EU and its member states on the other hand, as well as on the approval of the revision of the accompanying measures to the free movement of people	12/17/2004	09/25/2005
Federal law on the cooperation with the countries of Eastern Europe	03/24/2006	11/26/2006
(iii) Social issues		
Popular initiative “for a ban on exporting materials of war”	10/04/1996	06/08/1997
Popular initiative “youth without drugs”	03/21/1997	09/28/1997
Popular initiative “for Switzerland without police snooping”	06/21/1996	06/07/1998
Popular initiative “for the protection of life and the environment against genetic manipulations”	03/21/1997	06/07/1998
Popular initiative “for inexpensive foodstuffs and ecological farming”	03/21/1997	09/27/1998
Federal law concerning an engine size-related duty on heavy goods traffic	12/19/1997	09/27/1998

Table 6 - Continued

Proposal	Parliament	Popular Vote
Popular initiative “for a reasonable drug policy”	03/21/1997	11/29/1998
Federal act on the construction and financing of public transportation infrastructure projects	03/20/1998	11/29/1998
Change of the federal law on spatial planning	03/20/1998	02/07/1999
Federal act concerning a constitutional article on transplant medicine	06/26/1998	02/07/1999
Law on asylum	06/26/1998	06/13/1999
Federal act on urgent measures in relation to asylum seekers and foreigners	06/26/1998	06/13/1999
Federal act on the medical prescription of heroin	10/09/1998	06/13/1999
Popular initiative “for the protection of people against techniques of artificial reproduction (initiative for a reproduction respecting human dignity)”	12/18/1998	03/12/2000
Popular initiative “for a fair representation of women in the federal authorities (initiative of March 3rd)”	06/18/1999	03/12/2000
Popular initiative “to reduce by half the motorized road traffic in order to maintain and improve the living environment (initiative for the reduction of traffic)”	06/18/1999	03/12/2000
Constitutional article on a tax to promote renewable energy	10/08/1999	09/24/2000
Popular initiative “for the introduction of a solar centime (solar initiative)”	10/08/1999	09/24/2000
Popular initiative “saving on spending for the army and defense – for more peace and forward-looking jobs (redistribution initiative)”	03/24/2000	11/26/2000
Popular initiative “for more traffic safety based on a speed limit of 30km/h in towns, with exceptions (roads for everyone)”	10/06/2000	03/04/2001
Federal law on the army and the military administration (armament)	10/06/2000	06/10/2001
Federal law on the army and the military administration (training cooperation)	10/06/2000	06/10/2001
Federal act on the abrogation of the constitutional measure subjecting the establishment of dioceses to the approval of the Confederacy	12/15/2000	06/10/2001
Popular initiative “for a guaranteed old age and survivors insurance – taxing energy instead of work”	06/22/2001	12/02/2001
Popular initiative “for a credible security policy and Switzerland without an army”	06/22/2001	12/02/2001
Popular initiative “solidarity creates security: for a voluntary civilian peace service (CPS)”	06/22/2001	12/02/2001

Table 6 - Continued

Proposal	Parliament	Popular Vote
Popular initiative “for the membership of Switzerland to the organization of the United Nations (UN)”	10/05/2001	03/03/2002
Change of the Swiss criminal code (abortion)	03/23/2001	06/02/2002
Popular initiative “for mother and child – for the protection of the unborn child and the help to the mother in need”	12/14/2001	06/02/2002
Popular initiative “against the abuse of the asylum law”	03/22/2002	11/24/2002
Federal law on the army and the military administration (Army XXI)	10/04/2002	05/18/2003
Federal law on the protection of the population and civil defense	10/04/2002	05/18/2003
Popular initiative “for equal rights for disabled people”	12/13/2002	05/18/2003
Popular initiative “for one car-free Sunday per season – an attempt limited to four years (Sunday initiative)”	12/13/2002	05/18/2003
Popular initiative “for non-nuclear energy – for a change in energy policy and the gradual decommissioning of nuclear power plants”	12/13/2002	05/18/2003
Popular initiative “for the continuation of the freeze on the building of nuclear power plants and the limitation of nuclear risk (Moratorium Plus)”	12/13/2002	05/18/2003
Counterproposal to the popular initiative “Avanti – for safe and efficient highways”	10/03/2003	02/08/2004
Federal act on the regular naturalization and the simplified naturalization of young, second-generation foreigners	10/03/2003	09/26/2004
Federal act on the acquisition of citizenship rights by third generation foreigners	10/03/2003	09/26/2004
Federal law on research on embryonic stem cells	12/19/2003	11/28/2004
Federal law on the registration of partnerships of same-sex couples (partnership law)	06/18/2004	06/05/2005
Popular initiative “for food from agriculture free of genetic engineering”	06/17/2005	11/27/2005
Change of the asylum law	12/16/2005	09/24/2006
Federal law on foreigners	12/16/2005	09/24/2006
Popular initiative “against the noise of fighter jets in tourist areas”	06/22/2007	02/24/2008
Popular initiative “for a reasonable Cannabis policy and an effective youth protection”	03/20/2008	11/30/2008
Change of the federal act on narcotics	03/20/2008	11/30/2008
Popular initiative “association’s right to appeal: enough obstructionism – more growth for Switzerland”	03/20/2008	11/30/2008
Popular initiative “for no statute of limitation on the prosecution or punishment of pornographic crimes involving children”	06/13/2008	11/30/2008

Table 6 - Continued

Proposal	Parliament	Popular Vote
(iv) Other issues		
Federal act on the abolition of the federal monopoly on the manufacture and sale of gunpowder	12/13/1996	06/08/1997
Federal act on a temporary new article on cereals	04/29/1998	11/29/1998
Federal act on the change of the conditions of eligibility for election to the Federal Council	10/09/1998	02/07/1999
Federal act on a new federal constitution	12/18/1998	04/18/1999
Federal act on the reform of the judiciary	10/08/1999	03/12/2000
Popular initiative “for a faster direct democracy (processing times for popular initiatives in the form of a fully formulated proposal)”	10/08/1999	03/12/2000
Popular initiative “more rights for the people through referendums with counterproposals (constructive referendum)”	03/24/2000	09/24/2000
Federal act on the revision of the people’s rights	10/04/2002	02/09/2003
Federal act on the revision of the constitutional articles on education	12/16/2005	05/21/2006
Popular initiative “popular sovereignty instead of government propaganda”	12/21/2007	06/01/2008