

Switzerland

	PO	FL	FR	EU	Best %	Last %	Government
EDU			X	X	1.3 (2011)	1.0 (2019)	
LdT	X		X	X	1.0 (2015)	0.8 (2019)	
PdA		X		X	5.0 (1947)	1.0 (2019)	
SOL		X		X	1.0 (2019)		
SVP	X		X	X	29.4 (2015)	25.6 (2019)	1971-2008 2008-
MCG	X		X	X	0.4 (2011)	0.2 (2019)	
SD	X		X	X	3.4 (1991)	0.1 (2019)	

Parties represented in parliament:

The ***Eidgenössisch-Demokratische Union (Federal Democratic Union, EDU)***, founded in 1975, is a fundamentalist protestant far-right party. EDU has strong culturally-conservative as well as nativist positions. As the Christian Bible is its main ideological reference ('the will of God' instead of the 'will of the people'), it cannot genuinely be considered populist. The party also lacks a clear anti-elitist discourse. Typically polling around 1% of the vote, it has gained representation in federal parliament for most of the years since 1991.

The regionalist populist ***Lega dei Ticinesi (Ticino League, LdT)***, which was founded in 1991, has been represented in the federal parliament (National Council) with one or two seats throughout its existence. This is a far-right party marked by its anti-immigration and Eurosceptic stance. Its populist anti-establishment discourse is marked by calls to defend the interest of residents in the Ticino canton, while LdT also seeks to defend Swiss sovereignty against EU influence.

The communist ***Partei der Arbeit der Schweiz (Swiss Party of Labour, PdA)*** has been represented with seats in the National Council for most of the years since 1947, although its support has dwindled since the 1970s. Holding on to traditional socialist and Marxist principles, it is not a clear exponent of populism. In the 2019 federal election, the **PdA** competed in cantonal alliances with the ideologically close ***solidaritéS (SOL, Solidarity)***, which itself held one seat previously between 1999 and 2007. While both parties have affiliations with like-minded organisations in other European countries, they are marked by typical left-wing critiques of the EU. Both parties have been classified as far left.

The ***Schweizerische Volkspartei (Swiss People's Party, SVP)*** has been part of the consociationalist federal government since its foundation in 1971 (with only a short interruption in 2008). The party has received consistent support since the late 1990s and has been the largest party in Switzerland since 2003. Since 1999, the SVP has received between 22.5% and 29.4% of the Swiss-wide vote, and it has been the largest party in Switzerland since 2003. Its electoral growth in the 1990s was accompanied by an ideological radicalisation of the formerly agrarian-conservative party. The Zurich branch, led by Christoph Blocher, became dominant at the federal level, and steered the party in a more populist, xenophobic and Eurosceptic direction. Under Blocher, the party began to criticise the

'political class', and called for anti-immigration measures and the preservation of Swiss sovereignty. It is therefore classified as populist and far right.

Parties not/no longer represented in parliament:

Two parties that did combine a far-right ideology with populism have by now disappeared from the National Council. In the election of 2011, the ***Mouvement citoyens genevois (Geneva Citizens' Movement, MCG)*** managed to win one seat in the National Council, opposing the political establishment, promoting a leaner state and supporting small and medium enterprise. The MCG has consistently opposed cross-border labour migration from France, illustrating its nativist character. Still represented at the cantonal level, it lost representation on the National Council in 2019.

Since its foundation in the 1960s, the ***Schweizer Demokraten (Swiss Democrats, SD)*** has presented itself as a political outsider, defending the Swiss people against immigration. SD long occupied a handful of seats prior to their gradual decline and disappearance from parliament in 2007.