

Voting rights for all who live here!

Petition to the National Council (Nationalrat)



WHAT DO WE WANT?

We demand the right to vote for all people who live here, regardless of their citizenship!

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

More than 30% of the Viennese population of voting age is excluded from the upcoming municipal and provincial elections in Vienna in October. More than 30% - that is 482,000 non-voters in Vienna [1]. This is almost as much as the total population of Graz (291,000) and Linz (206,600) together (497,600) [2]. This gap between voters and non-voters in Austria's capital is growing. And it is growing rapidly!

FOREIGNERS?

At the same time, three quarters of the non-voters have been living in Vienna for more than 5 years. Many of these alleged "foreigners" are Viennese born here or have been living here for a long time, who are denied a political say and thus no longer belong to their city and country!

GROWING PROBLEM

Vienna is a growing city. From year to year there are more Viennese, but from election to election there are fewer voters. In recent years, the exclusion of voters has increased by one percent per year. The reason for this growing proportion of non-voters in Vienna is the rules governing Austrian citizenship. Austria has one of the most restrictive citizenship laws in Europe, with a whole catalogue of exclusionary naturalisation conditions. These are insurmountable hurdles for many people and children born in Austria also have to fulfil them. But unlike in many other cities in Europe, such as Amsterdam, Brussels, Dublin, Helsinki, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Bratislava, Ljubljana or Tallinn [3], in Vienna the right to vote is not only linked to the place of residence, but also to the passport. And that affects us all!

WORKING AND YOUNG

The right to vote and to be elected is not a privilege, but a minimum democratic standard. More than 30% non-voters represent a massive democratic political problem.

Exclusion from the right to vote runs right through the entire population. But it is not distributed evenly. Young people, low-income Viennese inhabitants and workers are particularly affected. They are all clearly underrepresented in the political arena, their concerns are less heard, they have fewer opportunities to become politically active themselves. Therefore it cannot be said that Austria has universal suffrage, when such a considerable part of the urban population cannot vote.

WE DEMAND

We demand a solution to this ever-growing democratic deficit! Be it through:

- A reform of the Citizenship Act or
- through the introduction of voting rights for non-citizens.

We want all people who live in Vienna to have a say in this matter!



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VIENNA ELECTIONS
IN OCTOBER
2020

WAHLWEXEL
Wahlrecht für Alle

Sources:

[1] Statistics Austria, population at the beginning of the year, (<http://statcube.at/statistik.at/ext/superweb>); MA 62, provisional number of eligible voters (<https://www.wien.gv.at/presse/2020/07/24/wien-wahl-2020-vorlaeufige-anzahl-der-wahlberechtigten>).

[2] Statistics Austria, population at the beginning of 2020, by municipalities.

[3] ARRIGHI, Jean-Thomas/BAUBÖCK, Rainer/COLLYER, Michael/HUTCHESON, Derek/MORARU, Madalina/KHADAR, Lamin/SHAW, Jo (2013): Franchise and electoral participation of third country citizens residing in the European Union and of EU citizens residing in third countries. Report commissioned by the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the European Parliament. PE 474.441.