

Selects 2027 **Call for questions and modules**

The Swiss Election Study ([Selects](#)) has been investigating the electoral behavior of Swiss citizens in national elections since 1995. For the study of the 2027 national elections, we invite researchers to propose questions and modules to be included in one or several of the following study components:

- A. A **post-election survey** with about 5,500 interviews with both voters and non-voters and an average interview length of approx. 30 minutes, based on a random national sample from the sampling frame of the Federal Statistical Office (FSO), with over-sampling of smaller cantons to guarantee at least 50 respondents per canton, and possibly including an over-sample for Geneva and Ticino. This study will incorporate the Module 7 questionnaire of the Comparative Study of Election Surveys (CSES, topic "Politics Under Threat").
- B. A **panel survey** of Swiss citizens to study opinion formation during the election campaign as well as between two federal elections, and to examine the relationship between direct democracy and electoral behavior. The initial, random national sample will be drawn from the FSO sampling frame. Each of the seven waves takes about 15-20 minutes:
- A pre-campaign panel wave starting on June 7th, 2027.
 - A campaign wave in September 2027.
 - A post-election panel wave starting on October 25th, 2027.
 - A yearly follow-up wave (2028-2031), carried out after the popular vote in September respectively after the federal elections of 2031.

The panel aims for about 5,000 respondents in the final wave in 2031. Funding for waves 5-7 (2029-2031) is not yet secured.

- C. A post-election **candidate survey** covering all candidates running for the National Council and the Council of States. This study will incorporate the [Module 4 questionnaire](#) of the Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS).
- D. A **media study**: a media study has traditionally been an integral part of Selects (see documentation of the [2023 edition](#)). For the 2027 edition, researchers are invited to submit proposals for a media study comprising both a substantive research concept and a clear data collection strategy (e.g., selection of media outlets, types of media, time period, methods of analysis). The proposed study should focus on the election campaign and its dynamics, such as the salience of political issues, changes in issue attention over time, the visibility of actors (especially parties and candidates), as well as issue framing and/or positions. The analysis may include different forms of political communication, such as news coverage or party/candidate campaign materials (e.g., ads, posters, press releases). Linking media content to individual voting behavior should be possible but is not a primary requirement. The selected proposal will be implemented by the proposing researcher(s) and funded by FORS.

The core questionnaires of the voter surveys, to which successful proposals will be added, can be found here: [Core Questionnaires Selects](#).

Proposal requirements

Proposals should be no longer than 5 pages in total and must contain:

- a short abstract of the proposal
- a thorough theoretical foundation of the proposal and a discussion of the relevance of the proposed questions and their relation to existing research in the field
- a proposal for question wording in English, German, French, or Italian (please cite the source if you propose validated questions from other projects)
- a realistic outline of planned publication and dissemination activities

Proposals may include single questions or short blocks of questions, which may be incorporated into one specific or several parts of the study (e.g. different surveys, or several panel waves). Proposals should focus on substantial rather than methodological research. Given limited questionnaire space, particularly in the post-election survey, proposals should indicate which items are of core interest, in case only part of the proposal can be accepted.

Open Science

Selects is an “open source” project. Having a (block of) question(s) included in the study does not give preferential access to the data. However, it is expected that authors of accepted proposals make use of these questions according to their dissemination plan. Data will be made available through SWISSUbase to all researchers simultaneously in early summer 2028.

Evaluation procedure

The Selects Commission decides on the acceptance or rejection of the proposals based on the results of an anonymous peer-review process with international experts. Acceptance of questions may be made conditional on a revision of the proposal. The final question wordings and translations will be developed in collaboration with the Selects team at FORS.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Scientific quality and contribution

- Scientific interest
- Theoretical foundation
- Originality and innovation
- Scope and contribution of the expected results

2. Conceptual and substantive fit

- Conceptual coherence
- Relevance for the study of political behavior internationally and in Switzerland

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- Added value of fielding the questions in Selects rather than in other data collections
- Societal relevance

3. Methodological quality and feasibility

- Appropriate use of methods
- Feasibility
- Questionnaire length and respondent burden
- Use of validated questions and comparability with existing data

In the panel survey, preference will be given to proposals addressing longitudinal research questions.

For media study proposals: clarity and feasibility of the proposed media selection and data collection strategy

Submission details and contact

This call is open to researchers worldwide. Multiple submissions are possible. Proposals must be written in English and submitted to ankedaniela.tresch@fors.unil.ch no later than **3 July 2026**.

For questions, please contact:

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