



Universität
Basel

Research Project

The Effects of Voting Costs on the Democratic Process and Public Finances

Project funded by own resources

Project title The Effects of Voting Costs on the Democratic Process and Public Finances

Principal Investigator(s) [Stutzer, Alois](#) ;

Organisation / Research unit

Departement Wirtschaftswissenschaften / Politische Ökonomie (Stutzer)

Project start 01.01.2012

Probable end 31.12.2015

Status Completed

Increasing the attractiveness of voting is often seen as a remedy for unequal participation and the influence of special-interest groups on public policy. However, lower voting costs may also bring less informed citizens to the poll inviting efforts to sway these voters. We substantiate this argument in a probabilistic voting model with campaign contributions. In an empirical analysis for the 26 Swiss states, we find that lower voting costs due to postal voting are related to higher turnout, lower average education of participants, lower knowledge on the political issues they were deciding on as well as lower government welfare expenditures.

Keywords Fiscal policies, political knowledge, postal voting, special-interest politics, voter turnout, voting costs

Financed by

University funds

Add publication

Add documents

Specify cooperation partners

ID	Kreditinhaber	Kooperationspartner	Institution	Laufzeit - von	Laufzeit - bis
396415	Stutzer, Alois	Lüchinger, Simon, Professor	University of Lucerne	01.01.2003	01.01.2099