

Publication**The effect of voting costs on the democratic process and public finances****JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)****ID** 3373485**Author(s)** Hodler, Roland; Luechinger, Simon; Stutzer, Alois**Author(s) at UniBasel** [Stutzer, Alois](#) ;**Year** 2015**Title** The effect of voting costs on the democratic process and public finances**Journal** American economic journal: economic policy**Volume** 7**Number** 1**Pages / Article-Number** 141-171

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, thereby 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 cantons, we find that lower voting costs due to postal voting are related to higher turnout, lower average education and political knowledge of participants as well as lower government welfare expenditures and lower business taxation.

Publisher AMER ECONOMIC ASSOC**ISSN/ISBN** 1945-774X**edoc-URL** <http://edoc.unibas.ch/40705/>**Full Text on edoc** Available;**Digital Object Identifier DOI** 10.1257/pol.20120383**ISI-Number** WOS:000348909500006**Document type (ISI)** Article