

Publication

Power sharing at the local level: Evidence on opting-in for non-citizen voting rights

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 4611515

Author(s) Stutzer, Alois; Slotwinski, Michaela

Author(s) at UniBasel [Stutzer, Alois](#) ; [Slotwinski, Michaela](#) ;

Year 2021

Title Power sharing at the local level: Evidence on opting-in for non-citizen voting rights

Journal Constitutional Political Economy

Pages / Article-Number 1-30

The enfranchisement of foreigners is likely one of the most controversial frontiers of institutional change in developed democracies, which are experiencing an increasing number of non-citizen residents. We study the conditions under which citizens are willing to share power with non-citizens. To this end, we exploit the setting of the Swiss canton of Grisons, where municipalities are free to decide on the introduction of non-citizen voting rights at the local level (a so called opting-in regime). Consistent with the power dilution hypothesis, we find that enfranchisement is less likely when the share of resident foreigners is large. Moreover, municipalities with a large language/cultural minority are less likely to formally involve foreigners. In contrast, municipality mergers seem to act as an institutional catalyst, promoting democratic reforms. A supplementary panel analysis on electoral support for an opting-in regime in the canton of Zurich also backs the power dilution hypothesis, showing that a larger share of foreigners reduces support for an extension of voting rights.

Publisher Springer

ISSN/ISBN 1043-4062

edoc-URL <https://edoc.unibas.ch/80372/>

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1007/s10602-020-09322-6

Document type (ISI) ArticleEarly Access