CYCLING IN THE SWISS CONSTITUTION

Who voted yes, who voted no, and why?

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bicycle Share of Daily Trips</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>'16</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>'15</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
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<td>Finland</td>
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<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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</table>

Source: Buehler Ralph (2018), Bicycling levels and trends in Western Europe and the USA in Rérat Patrick (ed.), La renaissance du vélo, GéoAgenda, 1.
WHAT IS A FEDERAL POPULAR INITIATIVE?

• A way for citizens to request an amendment to the Federal Constitution (usually a specific draft article).

• An initiative committee needs to collect 100,000 signatures from people entitled to vote within 18 months.

• Actually: used as a way to put an issue on the political agenda.

THE BIKE INITIATIVE

• 2015: launch of an initiative to add the promotion of cycle paths in the constitution (Art. 88 on Footpaths and hiking trails)

• 2016/17: debates at the Government & Parliament
  • Counter-proposal without constraints (*it supports and coordinates measures… => it *may* support and coordinate…*)
  • Withdrawal of the initiative
  • Vote in September 2018
THE CAMPAIGN

• Very broad coalition (parties, NGOs, including one of the car lobbies)

• All forms of cycling (utility, leisure, tourism, sport)

• Short campaign highlighting the large support and a consensual image of cycling

• No real in-depth debate

• Opponents not organized
RESULTS

• 73.6% said yes
• All 26 cantons said yes
Questions

• What characteristics explain the propensity to say yes/no?
• What where the main arguments?

Literature

• Image of cycling / cyclists
• Differences in terms of gender, age, socioeconomic status, residential context

Source

• VOTO phone survey (FORS) among 1,500 Swiss citizens
• Questions about the votes, the arguments, their characteristics
WHO VOTED YES (MORE THAN AVERAGE)?

- Cycling practice
- Age
- Gender
- Income
- Education
- Political leaning
- Residential context
- Linguistic region
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THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR…

Safety for cyclists (82%)

Congestion (74%)

Environment and health (86%)*
THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST...

No need (already excellent) (36%)

Federalism (46%)

Unfair for other modes (28%)
CONCLUSION

Further analysis

• Open questions about the arguments
• Model at the scale of municipalities

Messages

• A big yes for cycling but based on a consensual and broad image
• Differences within the population not related to gender, age, class, residential context
• Main explanatory factors: the practice of cycling (automobility vs post-car system?) and the political leaning (ideology and values)