# System 2027 | Frequently asked questions and indicative timetable

*The final model explained for readers, journalists and voters*

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This document explains the final public proposal for System 2027 in plain language. It answers the questions most likely to arise and outlines a possible timetable for the next steps.

## How voting would work

| Vote | What you choose | What it does |
|---|---|---|
| First National Council vote | An individual candidate | Elects your local representative in a single-member constituency |
| Second National Council vote | A political party | Determines the overall balance between parties in the National Council |
| Senate vote | A candidate in a larger constituency | Senators are elected under a two-round system, with one third of seats up for election at a time |

## Frequently asked questions

### How many votes would I have in National Council elections?

Your envelope would always contain the lower-house ballot papers. With the first vote you choose a candidate in your local constituency. With the second you choose a political party. If your constituency also has a Senate election that year, your envelope would contain an additional Senate ballot paper. Senate seats are renewed in thirds, so 15 of the 45 constituencies elect a senator every two years.

### Why would I have two votes for the National Council?

Each vote serves a different purpose. The first chooses the person who will represent your constituency. The second determines the overall balance between parties in parliament. You have a representative you can get to know, and your party vote still counts towards the national result.

### Could I give each vote to a different party?

Yes. You could support a strong local candidate from one party and use your party vote for another whose programme you prefer.

### What if my local candidate loses?

Your second vote still counts. Even if your local candidate loses, your party vote counts towards the national allocation of compensatory seats.

### Why 45 constituencies?

The model uses a single map of 45 constituencies for local National Council seats and Senate elections. It is easier for voters to understand, easier to explain and simpler to administer. Each constituency elects one local member of the National Council and one senator, so voters know who represents them.

### What threshold would apply to parties and coalitions?

A party standing alone needs 4% of valid second votes. For coalitions, the threshold is capped at 7%, regardless of how many parties form the coalition.

### What is the geographical safeguard?

If a party falls short of 4% nationwide but wins at least one of the 45 local constituency seats, its second votes count towards the allocation of compensatory seats. This protects communities with strong regional or minority support.

### What if a party wins more constituencies than its share of the vote would give it?

The model starts with 111 seats and allows extra seats up to a ceiling of 125. Only when this reserve has been exhausted does the fallback rule apply. It enforces the constitutional ceiling and prevents parliament from expanding indefinitely.

### Could my constituency end up without a directly elected member of the National Council?

Under normal circumstances, local winners take their seats. The fallback rule comes into play only once the reserve up to 125 seats has been exhausted. Even then, you would still be represented by members elected through the compensatory element and by your directly elected senator.

### What exactly would the Senate do?

The Senate would give legislation a second look and ensure greater care in constitutional matters. It would have a suspensive veto on ordinary laws. Constitutional and electoral laws would require its agreement.

### Could the Senate block the budget or prevent a government from falling?

No. The final model expressly excludes the state budget, taxation and confidence in the government from the Senate's powers.

### How would constituencies be drawn?

An independent commission would draw the map according to equal voting power, territorial contiguity and communities of interest. All 45 constituencies on the proposed map are contiguous and are within the maximum population deviation of ±12%.

### How does the proposal relate to decentralisation?

System 2027 builds on FSF's longstanding aim of moving power closer to regions and citizens. It does so through 45 local constituencies, a Senate that acts as a constitutional check, and an independent commission to uphold the rules of electoral competition.

### Would this abolish self-governing regions or force municipalities to merge?

No. The public proposal at this stage concerns the electoral system and the Senate. Any subsequent modernisation of public administration should be pursued separately. It should be based on subsidiarity, shared services in place of compulsory mergers, respect for Article 64a and a modern equalisation mechanism.

### Why does FSF treat electoral and administrative reform separately?

They are distinct changes that face different kinds of political opposition. Combining them in one package could allow opposition to changes in territorial administration to derail electoral reform as well.

### When could the new system be introduced?

The timetable below is indicative. The dates will depend on political agreement, the constitutional process and the adoption of implementing legislation.

## Indicative timetable

| When | Step | What this means |
|---|---|---|
| Summer 2025 to spring 2026 | Publish the public version and hold expert discussions | FSF presents the final public proposal and collects feedback. |
| Autumn 2026 to spring 2027 | Prepare the constitutional and implementing legislation | Draft bills and define the rules for the commission and electoral procedures. |
| 2027 | Publish the final map and run a public information campaign | Explain the 'two votes, two purposes' model and prepare for the first electoral cycle. |
| First electoral cycle, 2031 | Hold the first elections under the new rules | First use of the 45 local constituencies, national compensatory seats and Senate. |
| 2026–2027 | Hold a separate discussion on modernising public administration | Consider shared services, subsidiarity and regional financing. |

*This timetable is indicative and assumes political agreement on both the constitutional and the implementing legislation.*