# Geneva perspectives on developing an e-voting solution, in a federal state

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### Agenda

- Swiss Political System
- E-Voting in Switzerland
- The CHVote Project 2001 2019
- The future 2026

### Swiss Political System

- Population: 8.7 million
- Electorate: 5.5 million
- Federal system (3 levels) Federal, 26 Cantons/States, ~2200 Municipalities
  - Political rights: shared competence between the Federal State and the Cantons
  - Most of competences belong to the cantons
- Semi-direct democracy: initiative and referendum + parliamentary system
- Frequency of Ballots: 4 5 times per year
- Participation rate: 42.5%
  - Vote by mail: 95%
  - Vote at polling station : 5%
  - Vote online: 22% (in Geneva)

### E-Voting in Switzerland

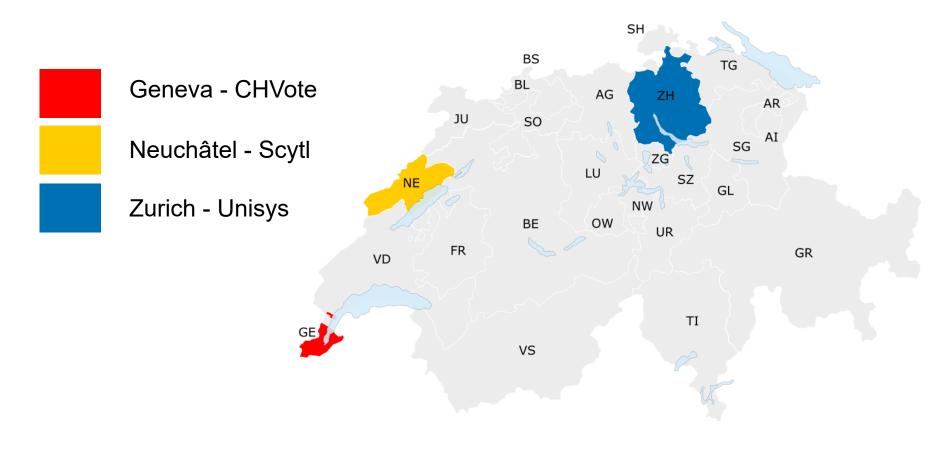
- Solution Type: Web-based
- End to end Verifiability
  - Individual verifiabilty: return codes
  - Control components: 4
- Usage limits :
  - Maximum 30% of the cantonal electorate
  - Maximum 10% of the entire Swiss electorate
  - Not included in the limits: Swiss citizens abroad, voters requiring assistance due to disabilities



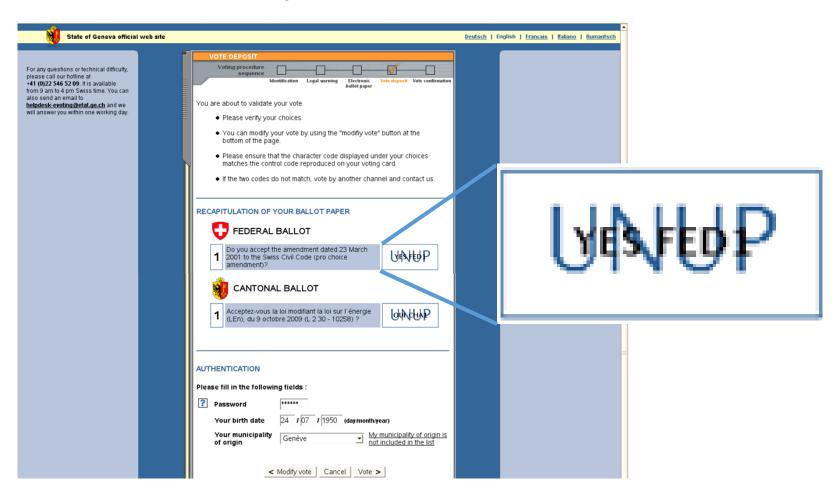
## The CHVote Project

A 18 years long journey

## 2001 – Start of the e-voting project in Switzerland



## 2003 – First online referendum in the Geneva municipality of Anières

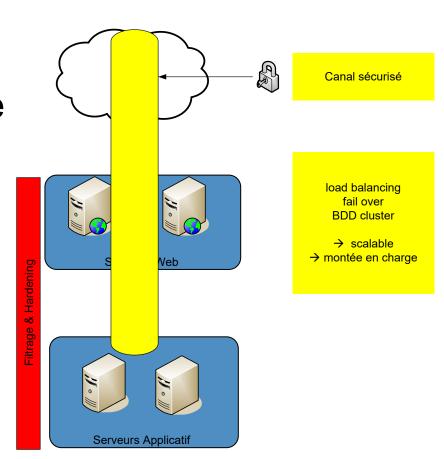


## 2009 – Geneva adds e-voting to its constitution

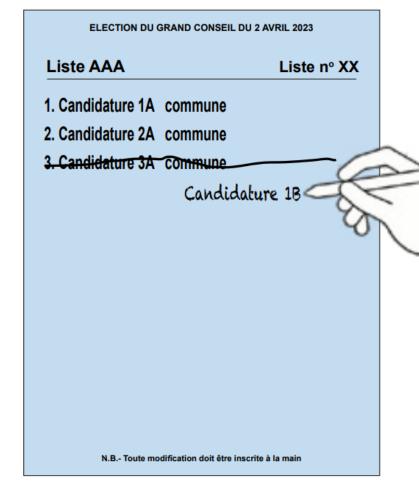
- February 8<sup>th</sup> 2009: Geneva adds e-voting to its constitution with over 70% approval
- 2007-2008: Project suspended during parliamentary debates

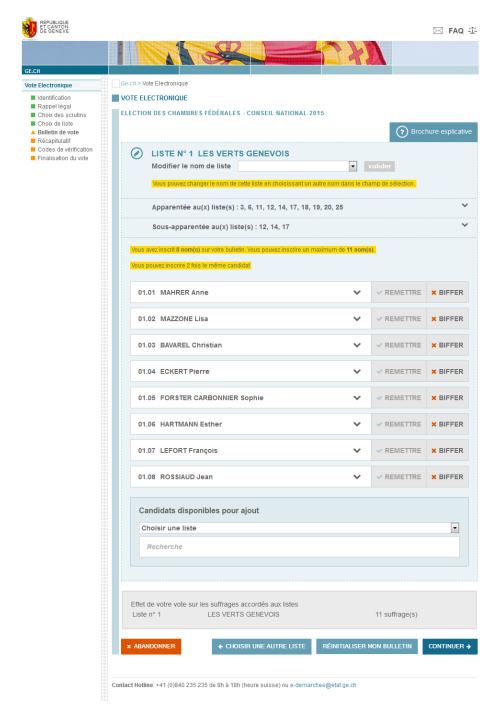
### 2009 – improved solution

- Crypto chanel via Java applet
- Swiss citizens abroad can vote online from 110 countries (Wassenaar Arrangement)
- Hosting for other cantons: BE, LU



## 2011 – first national elections with e-voting





## 2015 – introduction of individual verifiability



### VOTATION POPULAIRE 14 juin 2015

Liste des codes de vérification pour le vote électronique uniquement Liste de codes pour la carte n° 9559-6518-5896-3977

Votation fédérale				
Question n° 1	OUI Q7S7	NON P5K6	BLANC B2X3	
Question n° 2	OUI R8V6	NON M4M2	BLANC K8Q8	
Question n° 3	OUI R8Q6	NON V2W9	BLANC M7E5	
Question n° 4	OUI U3X3	NON M2T3	BLANC A7P6	

Votation cantonale					
Question n° 1	OUI T8G6	NON V3U6	BLANC Y4W5		





Il vous reste 29 minute(s) 55 seconde(s) pour confirmer votre vote

### **ETAPE 5: VÉRIFICATION**

Avant de déposer votre bulletin dans l'urne électronique, vérifiez que vos choix correspondent aux codes de vérification fournis dans votre matériel de vote. Ceci est la garantie que vos choix n'ont pas été modifiés lors de leur transmission au système.

### Codes de vérification

1) Consultez les codes de vérification fournis dans votre matériel de vote

 Vérifiez que les codes pour chaque question soient les mêmes entre cette page web et ceux de votre matériel de vote Où trouver les codes de vérification

comment être certain-e que mon vote a bien été enregistré?

+41 (0) 840 235 235

de 8h à 18h (heure suisse) Ou envoyez un message à:

e-demarches@etat.ge.ch

Il vous sera alors répondu

FAQ du vote électronique

dans le délai d'un jour

Après avoir voté, puis-je obtenir une quittance?



### Code de confirmation

 Si les codes de vérification correspondent, vous pouvez confirmer en saisissant ci-dessous le code de confirmation qui figure également sur votre matériel de vote. Où trouver le code de confirmation? Q

✓ Les codes ne correspondent pas ?

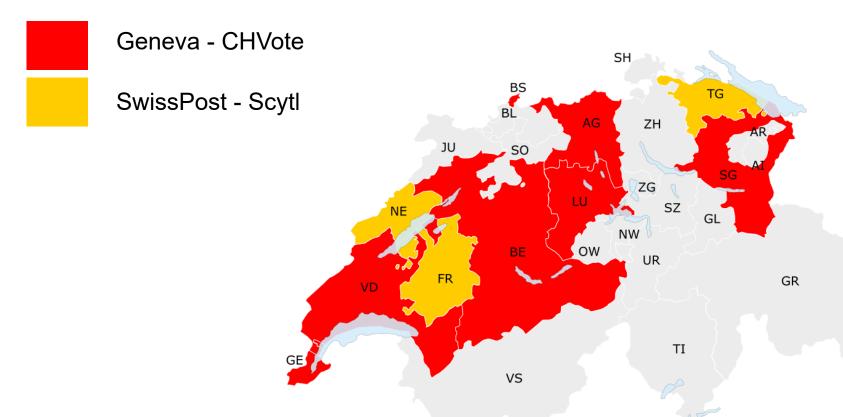
### 2016 – End to end verifiability

- Collaboration with Swiss and European universities
- CHF 6 million, 3 years to develop

## 2016 – Source code publication adopted by Parliament (Geneva)

- Added to the Federal Ordinance on Electronic Voting (OEV) in 2018
- Scytl and SwissPost required to publish their source codes

### 2019 – end of CHVote

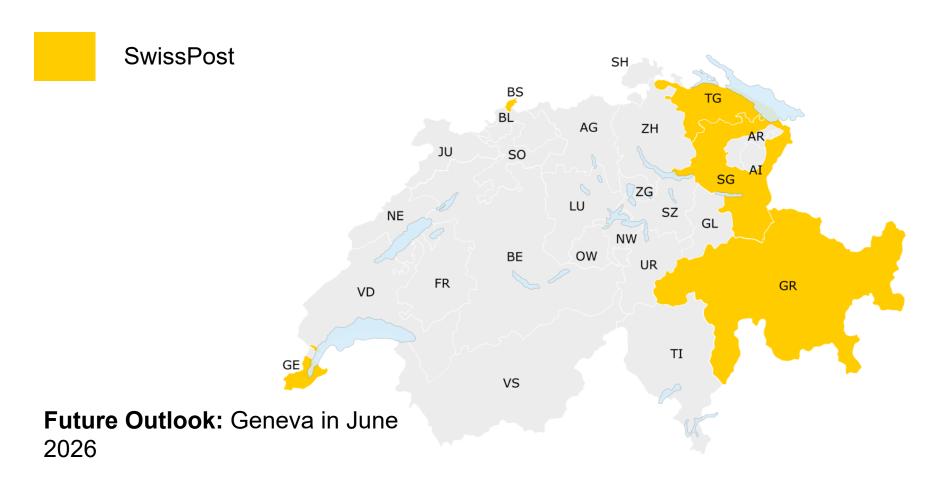




## Key Takeaways

- Security as a priority
   Security must be at the heart of the development process to protect vote integrity and voter trust
- Simplicity and accessibility
   The system should remain user-friendly to facilitate participation and encourage engagement from all eligible voters
- Transparency and inclusion Involving e-voting academics in the development process helps mitigate negative perceptions and fosters a more inclusive approach

## 2023 – SwissPost restart the project



## Thank you for your attention

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