

HC Newsletter September 2019 – draft

Dear Friends of Austria!

Fall is here – hope you had a wonderful summer, full of interesting and inspiring stories!

Do you know how Uber looks like in Vienna? You can find the answer at the end of this email 😊



September 29: Parliamentary Election in Austria:

75% participation, lower than in previous Parliamentary election 2017 (80%)

Preliminary Results (as of September 30): ÖVP, Grüne and NEOS could gain substantially, the Green party even gained about 10% and achieved their best result ever. SPÖ lost about 5%, the FPÖ lost dramatically. “Liste Jetzt” also lost and is no longer represented in the Parliament.

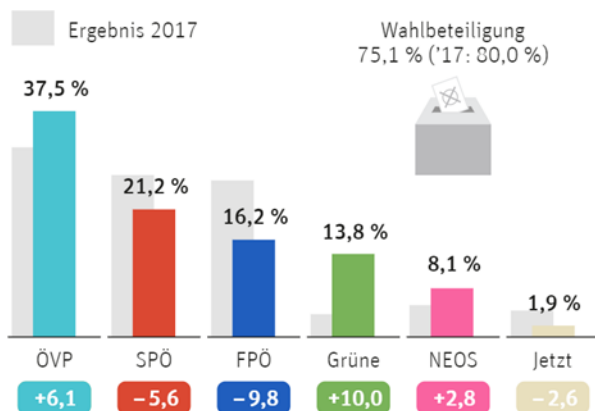
ÖVP with 37.5% of the votes is the clear winner and Sebastian Kurz can choose among several options for coalitions, including also with the Green Party. Stay tuned for the results of coalition negotiations.

Expected distribution of the number of representatives in the Parliament:

ÖVP 71, SPÖ 40, FPÖ 31, Grüne 26, Neos 15

NR-Wahl 2019 – Stimmenanteile

Vorläufiges Endergebnis mit Briefwahl (ohne Wahlkarten)



“Red Vienna: 100 years of affordable housing”

Vienna today is a model worldwide for affordable and socially fair housing. But, though hard to contemplate now, it used to be a place of misery for tens of thousands with next to no roofs over their heads. In 2019, Austria's capital celebrates the 100th anniversary of “Red Vienna” - the start of the era that transformed the city. “Red Vienna” started on May 4, 1919, with the first general elections after World War I; a watershed event in Austria's young democracy. It was the first vote under universal suffrage, meaning women could also cast ballots - and it gave the absolute majority to a party determined to end the housing misery for tens of thousands living in illegally built wooden shacks on Vienna's periphery, exposed to hunger, cold and decimated by diseases such as tuberculosis.



September 20: The Austrian Parliament unanimously adopted a bill to **extend access to Austrian citizenship** to descendants of victims of National Socialist persecution who had to leave until 15. May 1955. Effective September 2020. More info: https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/PR/JAHR_2019/PK0918/#XXVI_NRSITZ_00088

September 20: Austria's oldest Holocaust survivor, **Marko Feingold**, has passed away. He was 106 years of age and had a unique personality that left no one untouched. A true “Mensch” who will be greatly missed. “Niemals vergessen”.



September 23: UN Climate World Conference: President VanDerBellen: *Coping with the Climate Crisis is a century mission. We, the international community, can accomplish it if we start now. If we start to open a new chapter in human history. If we start a journey into a new world. Future generations will be at a loss to understand why we have not acted sooner. We know what it takes, we know what to do.*

September 23: Chancellor Bierlein addressed the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage: *In order to fight persisting gender barriers, it will be crucial to put a special focus on the needs of women of all ages and their children to increase the outreach for a more comprehensive and adequate policymaking. We must always remember that women and children still account for the most vulnerable and affected peer group. This is why they in particular deserve our undivided and continued attention.*

September 26: Austrian Parliament - with votes from all parties but the FPÖ - declared a **“Climate Emergency”**, to put climate change and its consequences on highest priority.



September 26: Austrian- American Day: recognized since 1997, then proclaimed by President Clinton: “I encourage all Americans to recognize and celebrate the important contributions that millions of Americans with Austrian decent have made – and continue to make – to our Nation’s strength and prosperity.”:

In recognition of the significance of this date to the relationship between our Nation and the Federal Republic of Austria, and in gratitude for the many gifts that Austrian Americans bring to the life of our country, it is appropriate that we pause to celebrate Austrian-American Day.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 26, 1997, as Austrian-American Day. I encourage all Americans to recognize and celebrate the important contributions that millions of Americans of Austrian descent have made—and continue to make—to our Nation's strength and prosperity.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON



September 26: on the **International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons** more countries signed & ratified the Nuclear Ban Treaty. Now there are 32 parties who have ratified - 50 needed to enter into force. Austria is one of them, ratified on May 2018.



September 27: record participation worldwide (170 countries) in the “Earth strike” against climate change capping the “Week for Future” of the “Fridays for Future” movement: in Austria, according to the organizers, 150,000 mostly young people, went on the streets to fight for their right for a livable planet. In Vienna and other states, the students got permission from their schools to participate. This impressive demonstration put additional emphasis on indispensable actions needed to combat the consequences of the changing climate, also in the context of the upcoming elections on Sept 29: all political parties but the FPÖ were in favor of the demonstrations.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE SEATTLE REGION:

“.. And The Winners Are”: Oct 18 -22, German Movies, organized by the Goethe Pop-Up Institute, SIFF and NWFF. For more information please see: <https://www.goethe.de/ins/us/en/sta/gps.html>

KINOFEST SEATTLE 2019: October 22- November 5:



A series of German Language movies will be screened at the Northwest Film Forum, 1515 12th Ave, Seattle. Tickets: nwfilmforum.org. A BIG THANK YOU goes to Yvonne Behrens from the Portland German Film Festival for her unbreakable support and effort to bring these remarkable movies also to Seattle.

Especially interesting is the **Austrian contribution: “The Tobacconist”**, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 8pm; a tender, heartbreaking story about a young man and his friendship with Sigmund Freud. Was the last movie with actor Bruno Ganz as Sigmund Freud. The screening of this movie is supported by the Austrian Consulate General in Los Angeles.

A full schedule and the press release are attached.



Austrian National Holiday Celebration: Saturday, October 26, 2019, 2-5pm at the German House, 613 9th Ave, Seattle

The program includes special presentations from 2 accomplished young Austrians who will be sharing with us their work:

Andreas Perdoss-Engel, UW, received the prestigious Young Scientist ASciNA Award, and Christoph Purrer, a senior Software engineer at Facebook.

To compliment the discussions there will be music, Austrian desserts and... Gemütlichkeit!

Please RSVP to Eva Kammel (office@austrianconsulateseattle.org) or Rosie Mulholland (mulho@comcast.net) to make sure we have enough "Topfenstrudel"! Invitation is attached. Hope many of you can join celebrating with us!



Next Stammtisch of the Meet-up Group: Friday, October 18. For more info:

<https://www.meetup.com/Austrian-Stammtisch-and-Events/events/264835976/>

LOOKING AHEAD:

November 11-14: Representatives of the **Vienna Business Agency** will be visiting Seattle and are looking forward to meeting with "Business Friends of Austria" in the Seattle Region who are interested in learning more about Vienna as Business hub. Please let me know if you are interested.

Solution to the intro question:



Mit herzlichen Grüßen

Eva Kammel
Honorary Consul of Austria

Attachments: Invitation Natl. Holiday, Kinofest