



E-Voting in the Canton of St.Gallen

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Responsibilities in votings and elections

- Federal Chancellery is responsible for federal issues
- State Chancellery is responsible for cantonal issues
- Municipalities are responsible for communal issues

- Practical work for counting the ballots has always been done on communal level for every issue
- State Chancellery and Federal Chancellery are just summing up the results
- This division of work is central when it comes to projects and changes in the process of votings and elections



Practical work has been done on communal level



Implementation of E-Voting in phases

- 2010-2015
 - E-Voting only available for the Swiss abroad
 - Therefore just the state level is involved
- 2017-2019
 - E-Voting for the Swiss abroad and in 5 municipalities
 - Communal level gets involved in E-Voting
- Legal basis for testing E-Voting was established in 2009. No ordinary implementation of E-Voting allowed

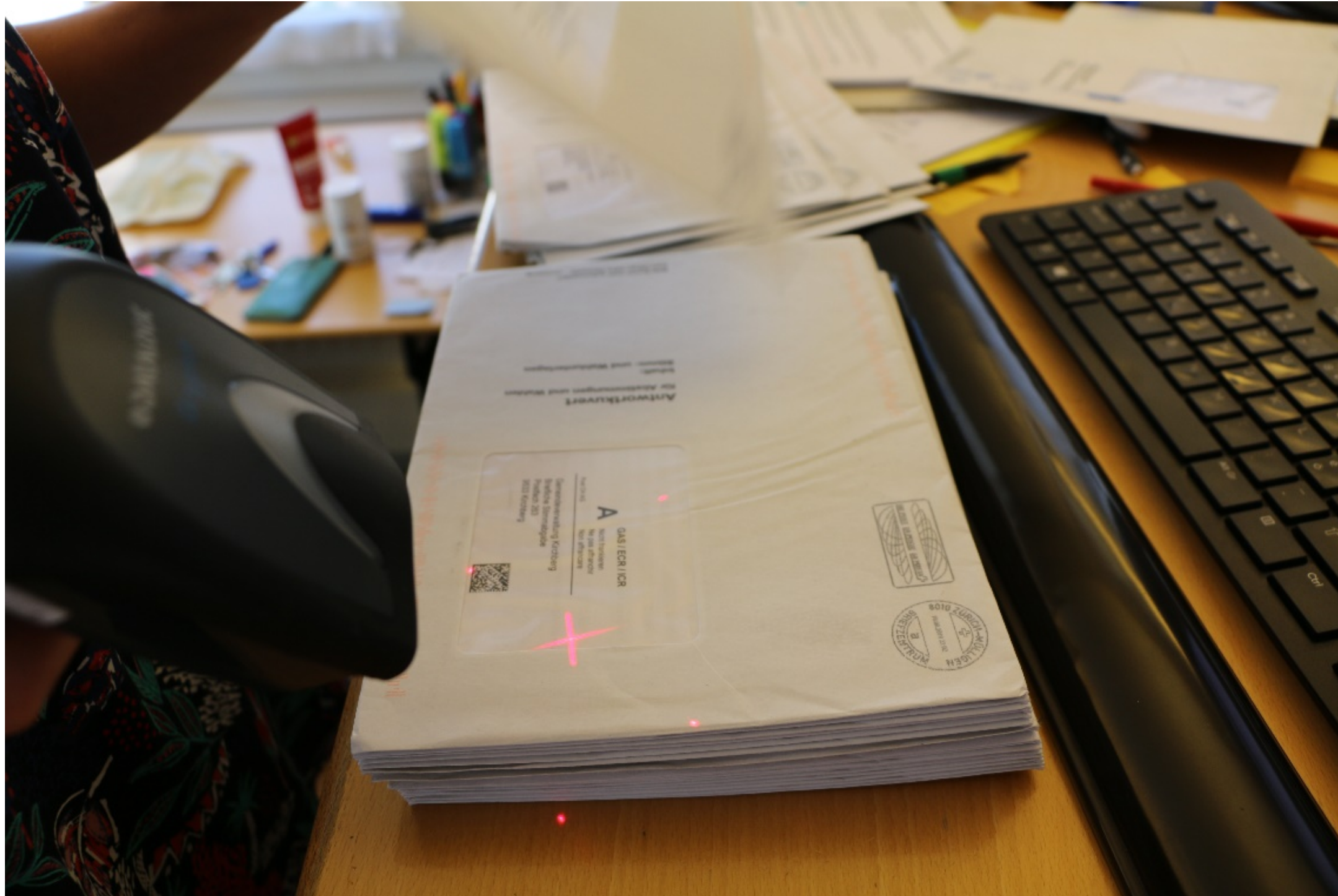


Implementation of E-Voting in municipalities changes the responsibilities

- Due to complexity, E-Voting is administered on state level, not on communal level (e.x. creation of voting cards with return codes, administering the E-Voting-System)
- When having E-Voting, municipalities face more work (exclusion of double votes, merging results) but not having full control of the whole process anymore
- Therefore municipalities have to get involved early in the process to get acceptance of the project
- The municipalities picked for the testing was defined by the association of the municipalities



How to exclude double votings



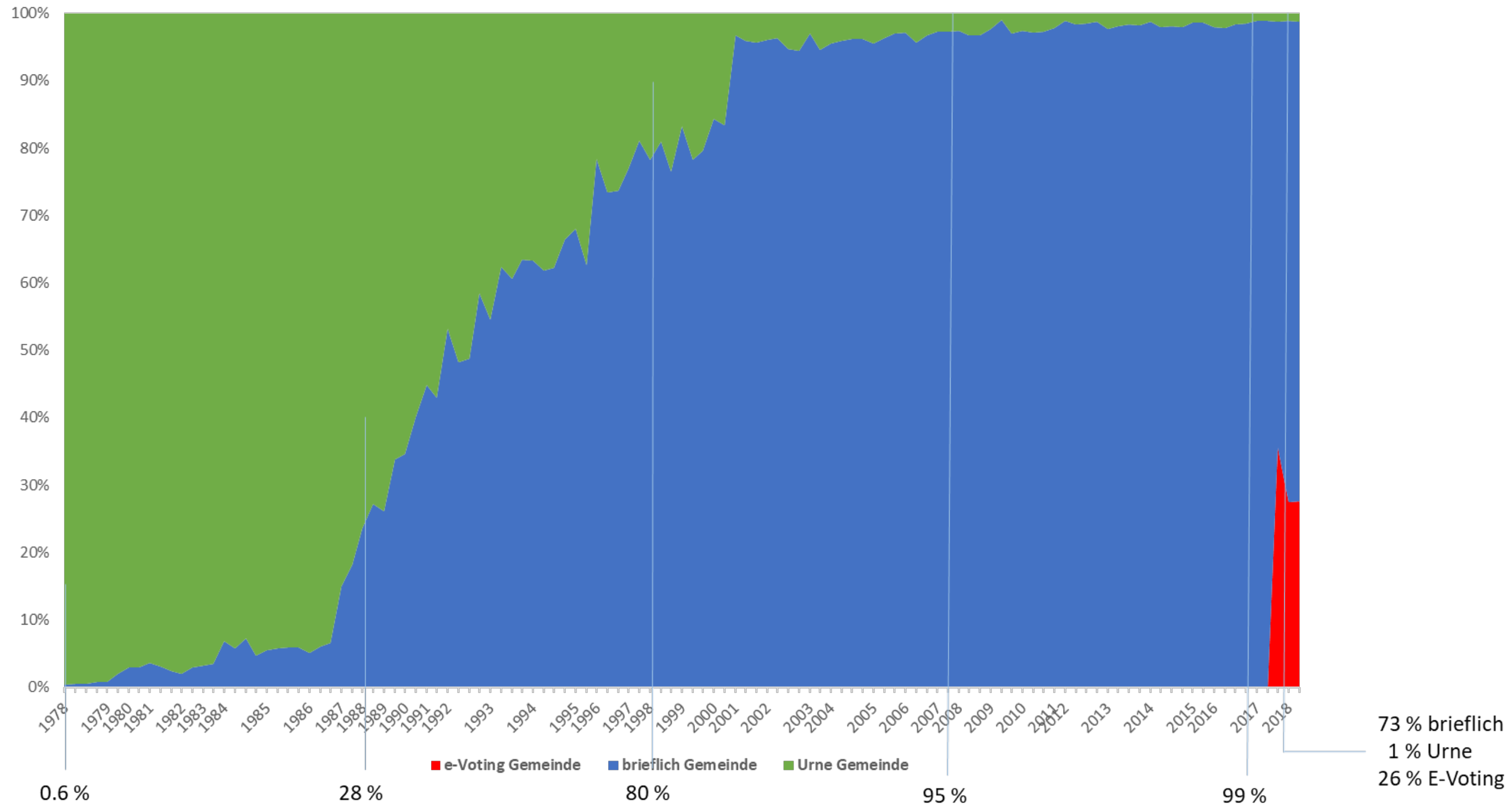
E-Government in St.Gallen is a state and communal issue

- As soon as the state level and the communal level are involved in a project, it is labeled as an E-Government project
- This means, that the financing of the project has to be 50:50
- The state government as well as the municipalities do have to agree to the project
- As soon as this barrier is passed, there will be support of the communal level



Results of the first couple of E-Voting operations in the town of Kirchberg

Verhältnis briefliche Stimmabgabe / Urne / E-Voting auf Gemeindeebene



Get a legal framework for an ordinary implementation of E-Voting

- Having experiences in several municipalities was crucial for the law-making process but also for the discussion in parliament
- Many mayors of municipalities are members of the state parliament
 - Acting as opinion leaders
- Parliament wants to keep a barrier instead of open up all doors
 - Limit of 30% of electorate that is allowed to do E-Voting



The third phase of E-Voting in St.Gallen

- Starting again in 2020
- Offer E-Voting to the whole electorate in the whole Canton
- Implementing a sign-up procedure
 - Due to the 30% limit of the electorate
 - Do not bother people who do not want to use E-Voting
 - Saving money when just having people in the system that want to use E-Voting
- Share costs between the state and the municipalities
 - State finances the basis costs of the E-Voting system
 - Municipalities finance the individual cost of each registered person
- Improving communication
 - Building up of an E-Voting information platform



Conclusion

- When doing E-Voting in the Canton of St.Gallen
 - You have to get the support of municipalities
 - You have to get a co-financing between the Canton and the municipalities
 - You need to get the support of the state parliament to pass the legal basis
- You have to act step by step to gain acceptance

