READ ME FILE

With the exception of table 7 (which uses canton level data – data file "canton_data"), the tables and figures are obtained based on the data "VOX_prepared".

The "VOX_prepared" combines the post-poll survey data (VOX data) with Census Data (PUS) and the Swissvotes Data Set.

Specifically, the data stem from three different sources:

1) VOX data
   The post-poll survey data are provided by the "Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences" (FORS). http://forscenter.ch/en/

2) "Public Use Sample" from the Census Data
   (can be ordered from the federal office of statistics: www.statistique.admin.ch). These are individual-level data from the census for a random sample of 5% of the Swiss population.

   This data source was used as part of table 1. The variable education is not in this dataset (but can be requested by the bureau of census for the total population).

3) Swissvotes Data
   These data contain information on the national votes, such as results, party recommendations etc. (http://www.swissvotes.ch/). This data is used to double check the official voting results data in the VOX data.

Description of Variables in the **"VOX_Prepared"** Data:

id: individual-level survey-respondent identifier
gender: sex of the survey-respondent (1: man; 2: women)
female: sex of the survey-respondent, dummy-variable (0: man; 1: female)
year: year of the vote
age: age of the survey-respondent (in years)
age2039: age-class-dummy. 1 if age bw. 20 and 39, 0 otherwise
age4059: age-class-dummy. 1 if age bw. 40 and 59, 0 otherwise
age60plus: age-class-dummy. 1 if above59
religion: religion of the survey-respondent, 6 categories
prot: Dummy variable, 1 if survey-respondent protestant, 0 otherwise
cath: Dummy variable, 1 if survey-respondent catholic, 0 otherwise
language: language area of the survey-respondent
German: Dummy equal to 1, if survey-respondent in german speaking area
French: Dummy equal to 1, if survey-respondent in french speaking area
Italian: Dummy equal to 1, if survey-respondent in italian speaking area
highedu: Dummy for education. 1 if survey-respondent has a high-school degree or higher

yes_official: Official Share Yes of the vote (voting result)
turnout_official: Official Voter Participation
share_yes_reported: Share of self-declared voters in the survey, who report to have votes "yes"
vote_passed: Dummy equal to 1, if the vote was accepted
survey_bias: (Reported Share Yes – Official Share Yes), in %
survey_bias_weighted: (Reported Share Yes – Official Share Yes), in %, after re-weighting the survey data with respect to age, religion and education
survey_bias_weighted_left: Survey Bias (in %), after re-weighting the survey samples with regard to share left-wing voters
votenr: VOX-survey number
cooprate: "cooperation rate": share of contacted people, who respond to the survey
revrate: "vote reveal rate": share of self-declared voters in the survey who reveal their voting result
turnoutgap: (Reported Turnout – Official Turnout), in %
datum_id: group-identifiers for a voting date
rec_SP: Recommendation of the left-wing party (SP): 1 if left recommends "yes", 0 otherwise

rec_CVP: Recommendation of the centrist party (CVP): 1 if left recommends “yes”, 0 otherwise

rec_FDP: Recommendation of the right-wing party (FDP): 1 if left recommends “yes”, 0 otherwise
rec_SVP: Recommendation of the ultra-right-wing party (SVP): 1 if left recommends “yes”, 0 otherwise

important: dummy variable, 1 if vote was rated by the survey-respondent as above the mean importance for Switzerland
int_recSP_important: interaction term important*rec_SP

SPVoter: dummy variable, 1 if survey-respondent states “SP” as favourite party
CVPVoter: dummy variable, 1 if survey-respondent states “CVP” as favourite party
FDPVoter: dummy variable, 1 if survey-respondent states “FDP” as favourite party
SVPVoter: dummy variable, 1 if survey-respondent states “SVP” as favourite party
DEVSP: dummy variable, 1 if survey-respondent deviates from his favourite party’s (SP) recommendation (in the votes where the party recommends a “no”)
DEVSVP: dummy variable, 1 if survey-respondent deviates from his favourite party’s (SVP) recommendation (in the votes where the party recommends a “no”)

DEVFDP: dummy variable, 1 if survey-respondent deviates from his favourite party’s (FDP) recommendation (in the votes where the party recommends a “no”)
DEVCVP: dummy variable, 1 if survey-respondent deviates from his favourite party’s (CVP) recommendation (in the votes where the party recommends a “no”)
Deviationsbig4: dummy variable, 1 if survey-respondent deviates from his favourite party’s (SP, SVP, FDP or CVP) recommendation (in the votes where the party recommends a “no”)

ShareSPSurvey: Share of survey-respondents who state the left-wing party “SP” as their favourite party (out of all survey-respondents who declare a favourite party)
ShareCVPSurvey: Share of survey-respondents who state the centrist party “CVP” as their favourite party (out of all survey-respondents who declare a favourite party)
ShareFDPSurvey: Share of survey-respondents who state the centrist party “FDP” as their favourite party (out of all survey-respondents who declare a favourite party)
ShareSVPSurvey: Share of survey-respondents who state the centrist party “SVP” as their favourite party (out of all survey-respondents who declare a favourite party)
shareleersurvey: “vote reveal rate”: share of self-declared voters in the survey who state blank or no answer

yes_parties: sum of vote-shares of parties, which recommended a “yes”

policyarea: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into a classified area.
Pro_Integration: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Pro International Integration”
Pro_Immigration: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Pro Immigration”
Contra_Immigration: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Contra Immigration”
Contra_Military: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Pro Increase Army”
Pro_Environment: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Pro Protection Environment”
Contra_Nuclear: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Contra Nuclear Energy”
Budget_Balance: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Pro Budget Balance”
Direct_Democracy: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Pro Direct Democracy”
Pro_Health_Liberal: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Pro Liberalization Health”
Contra_Health_Liberal: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Contra Liberalization Health”
Pro_Redistribution: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Pro Redistribution”
Pro_Retirement_Age: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Pro Increase Retirement Age”
Contra_Retirement_Age: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Contra Increase Retirement Age”
Pro_Gender: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Pro Gender Equality”
Pro_Liberal: dummy variable. 1 if vote falls into policy area “Pro Liberal Attitudes”