Voting in the Frankfurt Assembly Dataset

Michael Herrmann – ORCID: 0000-0001-8070-5825
Ulrich Sieberer – ORCID: 0000-0003-4027-1393
Simon Richter – ORCID: 0000-0003-1908-8690
Christian Spinner

Description

The dataset records the individual voting behaviour of members of the Frankfurt Assembly 1848/49 (also known as Frankfurt Parliament, *Frankfurter Nationalversammlung,* or *Paulskirchenparlament)* in every parliamentary vote that was carried out by name. The dataset covers 300 votes and 808 members for a total of 147,792 individual voting decisions. The dataset further records members' affiliations with parliamentary clubs (also known as factions or parties) and their committee memberships.

Funding

This work was funded by the *Zukunftskolleg* at the University of Konstanz with funds obtained through the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments.

Citation

Herrmann, Michael, Ulrich Sieberer. Simon Richter and Christian Spinner. 2023. Voting in the Frankfurt Assembly Dataset. Harvard Dataverse. doi: 10.7910/DVN/E8XB5N

Related publications

Herrmann, Michael and Ulrich Sieberer. 2019. The basic space of a revolutionary parliament: Scaling the Frankfurt Assembly of 1848/49. **Party Politics**, 25(6): 841–853. doi: 10.1177/1354068817749778

Sieberer, Ulrich and Michael Herrmann. 2019. Bonding in pursuit of policy goals: How MPs choose political parties in the legislative state of nature. **Legislative Studies Quarterly**, 44(3): 455–486. doi: 10.1111/lsq.12231

Sieberer, Ulrich and Michael Herrmann. 2020. Short-lived parliamentarisation in 19th-century Germany: Parliamentary government in the Frankfurt Assembly of 1848/1849, **Parliamentary Affairs**, 73(3): 603–626. doi: 10.1093/pa/gsz013

Primary sources

Members' voting behaviour and basic information on all votes was compiled from the parliamentary minutes:

> Wigard, Franz. 1849. ***Stenographischer Bericht über die Verhandlungen der Deutschen Constituierenden Nationalversammlung***. Stuttgart: Franz Wigard

Secondary sources

Members' political affiliations and committee memberships are those listed in

> Koch, Rainer, Patricia Stahl, Roland Hoede, Leoni Krämer and Dieter Skala. 1989. ***Die Frankfurter Nationalversammlung 1848/49. Ein Handlexikon der Paulskirchenabgeordneten***. Kelkheim: H. Kunz Verlag

The above source credits Hans Schenk for putting together these lists.

Members' names are those stated in

> Best, Heinrich and Wilhelm Weege. 1996. ***Biographisches Handbuch der Abgeordneten der Frankfurter Nationalversammlung 1848/49***. Düsseldorf: Droste Verlag

and published digitally in the BIOPARL database at

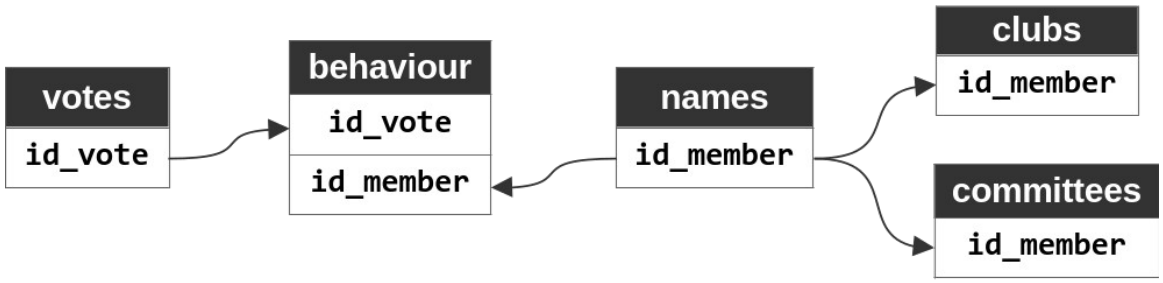
> https://www.bioparl.de/datenbanken/fnv/

Data structure

Data is provided in separate table files (datasets) in comma-separated-value format:

File	Content
votes.csv	Basic information on each vote
behaviour.csv	Individual voting decisions
names.csv	Members' names
clubs.csv	Club affiliations
committees.csv	Committee memberships

Tables are linked via unique identifiers **id_vote** and **id_member**:



For users who wish to combine all table files into a single dataset, we include the R script

join-all.r

as a convenience. The script requires R version 4.1 or later. The resulting dataset **combined.csv** has a similar form as **behaviour.csv**, with rows representing members within votes.

Variables

votes.csv

Variable	Content
id_vote	Vote ID
volume	Volume of parliamentary minutes in which the vote is published
page	Page number (first page) of voting result in the parliamentary minutes
date	Date of the vote
title	Title of the vote stated in the parliamentary minutes
initiator	Whether voting by name was requested by • the presidium in accordance with standing orders §41 to ascertain an otherwise unclear voting result • a single member with the support of at least 49 other members in accordance with standing orders §42
mode	Whether the vote was carried out by • paper ballot • roll call

behaviour.csv

Variable	Content
id_vote	Vote ID
id_member	Member ID

vote	Individual voting decision Regular votes: • *Ja* (yes) • *Nein* (no) • *Enthaltung* (abstain) • *abwesend* (absent) • *entschuldigt abwesend* (absent with excuse) • *unentschuldigt abwesend* (absent without excuse) Election of Vicar of the Empire (*Wahl des Reichsverwesers*): • *Erzherzog Johann von Österreich* (Archduke John of Austria) • *Heinrich von Gagern* • *Adam von Itzstein* • *Enthaltung* (abstain) • *abwesend* (absent) • *entschuldigt abwesend* (absent with excuse) • *unentschuldigt abwesend* (absent without excuse) Vote of emperor (*Wahl eines Kaisers*): • *König von Preußen* (King of Prussia) • *Enthaltung* (abstain) • *abwesend* (absent) • *entschuldigt abwesend* (absent with excuse) • *unentschuldigt abwesend* (absent without excuse)

names.csv

Variable	Content
id_member	Member ID
name	A member’s full name

clubs.csv

Variable	Content
id_member	Member ID
club	Political club that a member was affiliated with

committees.csv

Variable	Content
id_member	Member ID
committee	Committee that a member served on