



Written by [Peter Rykowski](#) on October 1, 2025

Swiss Voters Adopt Digital-ID Scheme

In a nationwide referendum on Sunday, Swiss voters narrowly adopted a digital-ID proposal put forth by the nation's federal government.

The proposal, formally titled the "[Federal Act on Electronic Proof of Identity and Other Electronic Evidence \(E-ID Act, BGEID\)](#)," passed with [50.39 percent](#) of the popular vote. Notably, a majority of cantons (the Swiss equivalent to states in the United States) [voted against](#) the proposal (15.5 against, versus 7.5 in favor, including [half cantons](#)). Since the referendum did not involve a constitutional amendment, however, the proposal did not require a majority of cantons to pass.



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Bern, Switzerland

The now-approved measure creates a government-managed digital-identification system. Under its provisions, users' data will be [stored](#) on their smartphones and used only for identity verification (as opposed to broader purposes), and requires only the [minimum](#) information to be revealed to a third party (e.g., when purchasing alcohol at a store). The digital ID is optional; Swiss citizens may continue to use the country's existing [national ID card](#).

Second Attempt

Sunday's referendum was the federal government's second attempt at implementing a digital-ID system. Voters rejected a [previous proposal](#) in March 2021, with [64.4 percent](#) voting against it, mainly due to [concerns](#) about users' data falling in the hands of private companies, which would have managed the originally proposed program.

Although the Swiss Federal Assembly (parliament) modified its second proposal to address those concerns, any digital ID poses a [fundamental threat](#) to individual freedom and privacy, and would [massively increase](#) government's ability to track citizens' every movement. Furthermore, digital IDs are [part](#) of the United Nations' totalitarian Agenda 2030 plan to impose central planning on a global scale, and the UN and Bill Gates are [working](#) to implement a "digital public infrastructure."

Additionally, conservative groups opposed to the measure [argued](#) that a digital ID would eventually become mandatory, and that any system still risked handing over citizens' data to large companies and being used for purposes beyond simple identity verification.

Unexpected Opposition

Despite the measure passing, Sunday's referendum result was significantly narrower than expected. The proposal passed the Federal Assembly by wide margins — [170-25](#) in the National Council (lower house) and [43-1](#) in the Council of States (upper house) — with only members of the conservative [Swiss People's Party](#) and two minor affiliated parties objecting.

Although opponents gathered enough signatures to force a referendum on the legislation, [polling](#)



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suggested that nearly three-fifths of voters would support it. Ultimately, the measure barely passed, and was rejected by majorities in most cantons.

Swiss media and analysts [saw](#) the narrow passage as resulting from [high turnout](#) by conservative opponents of the measure. Swiss public broadcaster Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen [analyzed](#) that the result “should give the Federal Council and the parliamentary majority pause for thought,” and “is not a good sign for other digitization projects in Switzerland.”

Dangers of Democracy

Sunday’s referendum illustrates the [dangers of democracy](#), specifically of the majority imposing its will on the minority, even if it infringes on the latter’s individual freedom. Although opposition to a digital ID was widespread — voters in a majority of cantons opposed the concept — this potentially far-reaching policy became law with only a 50.4-percent popular majority.

Switzerland, whose current system [incorporates](#) direct democracy, holds nationwide referendums up to four times a year. Despite now being accepted as foundational to the Swiss political system, nationwide referendums were virtually nonexistent [before the 1870s](#), more than 20 years after Switzerland became a federal state. Notably, once Switzerland adopted federal direct democracy, it [quickly inspired](#) multiple U.S. states to do the same in the form of “citizens’ initiatives.”

The U.S. Founding Fathers [recognized](#) the dangers of democracy, and instead [created](#) the U.S. federal government as a [constitutional republic](#). For example, James Madison wrote in [The Federalist, No. 10](#), “Democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.”

The word “democracy” is nowhere to be found in the Declaration of Independence or Constitution — and this is intentional. In contrast, [Article IV, Section 4](#) of the Constitution requires each state to have “a Republican Form of Government.”

The New American has [noted](#) the connection between democracy and socialism:

The fact that every totalitarian leftist revolution from the French Revolution onward self-identified as “democratic” should give pause for thought among the masses who have conferred upon democracy talismanic status, as though popular, majoritarian government were the end-all of human well-being and progress....

Democracy, whatever its professed aims, is fundamentally collectivist, majoritarian, and lawless. In its seemingly unappeasable thirst for so-called social justice, democracy inevitably ends up embracing socialist egalitarianism instead of equality under the law.

In fine, words do matter. The subtle shift in popular perception from republic to democracy is extremely consequential, and the confusion is deliberately encouraged by the Left, with its hodgepodge of “social democrats,” “people’s republics,” and “democratic socialism.” In modern discourse, both “democracy” and “republic” have been stripped of all meaningful features, so let us clarify anew what these two terms meant, in their original senses. Both democracies and republics are non-monarchical forms of popular government. Democracies are majoritarian, collectivist, and absolutely arbitrary where laws are concerned, whereas republics are individualist (in the sense of protecting individual rights, including the rights of minorities) and based on the rule of just law. Republics seek to safeguard God-given



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rights, while democracies seek to enforce the collective will. As a result, republics tend toward both public order and the liberty and well-being of the citizenry, while democracies tend to disorder and constitute the most baneful form of tyranny, the tyranny of the majority.

Restoring Sovereignty

As in other Western countries, individual freedom, self-government, and national sovereignty are under attack in Switzerland, and the country is [sliding](#) toward socialism and [European integration](#). The adoption of a digital ID — which itself followed the implementation of a national ID — is only the latest step in this direction.

The solution is for the Swiss electorate to relearn and recommit to the principles that made Switzerland great in the first place — Christianity, limited government, self-governance, and national sovereignty — and boldly defend and inform others about those principles. Now, more than ever, is this needed — because tomorrow could be too late.



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