

EDITORIAL

PAKT VUM ZESUMMELIEWEN

Municipalities are the centre of community life, and the first point of contact for residents.

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CANTONAL FUNCTION

A unique collaboration in the Grand Duchy based on solidarity.

JOURNAL

WËLLE WESTEN

NEWS FROM THE KANTON RÉIDEN & THE MUNICIPALITY OF MERTZIG.

ONLY THOSE WHO REGISTER AND VOTE HAVE A SAY!

17.04.23



A study is being undertaken to determine which industrial zone is most appropriate: Solupla in Redange or the Riesenhaff in Rambrouch.

A rocket launch station in the “Kanton Réiden”?

The municipal and aldermens’ councils of the “Kanton Réiden” and the municipality of Mertzig have taken a strong stand:

Dear readers, imagine if a rocket launch site were planned in the “Kanton Réiden”? Wouldn’t you, as a citizen, want to have a say in this decision?

Thankfully, this scenario is pure fantasy. But it is intended to clarify the importance of being a citizen: voting as a Luxembourger and registering to vote as a non-Luxembourger. Only those who vote can participate in the decision-making process!

Voting is about influencing the future. This newspaper aims to show how our electoral system works, the role of our municipalities

and the “Kanton Réiden”. It should motivate us to actively participate in shaping the future of our region, making sure our concerns are heard and our interests represented, to avoid undesirable outcomes like a rocket launch site!

Not yet registered to vote?

You can register to vote until 17th April, either at the citizens’ office in your commune or via myguichet.lu.

Requirements: you must be at least 18 years old on 11th June 2023 (election day) and have the right to vote (which can be withdrawn in the event of a criminal offence).



Can we do better? We can!

11,7 Currently, only 11.7% of non-Luxembourgers are registered to vote.

24,75 During the 2017 municipal elections, 35.7% of candidates were women, of which 24.75% were elected.

Want to be a candidate in communal elections?

Every Luxembourg citizen or non-Luxembourg citizen, registered in their municipality, can stand as a candidate for the municipal elections.

For further information about the electoral process, visit icanvote.lu.

**ZEITUNG
in Deutsch
erhältlich**

Wählen ist wichtig, wenn man seine eigene Zukunft und die der eigenen Familie mitgestalten möchte. Wollen Sie mehr über das Wahlverfahren in Luxemburg erfahren? → QR Code

**JOURNAL
disponible
en français**

Voter est important si l'on veut contribuer à façonner son propre avenir et celui de sa famille. Vous voulez en savoir plus sur le processus électoral au Luxembourg? → QR Code

**JORNAL
disponível
em Português**

A votação é importante para ajudar a criar um futuro para si e para a sua família. Deseja saber mais sobre a votação no Luxemburgo e como participar? → QR Code





EDITORIAL

PAKT VUM ZESUMMELIEWEN

Hello. My name is Karsten Küpper and I was hired by your municipal representatives, specifically via Kanton Réiden and the municipality of Mertzig. I am of German origin and have been living in Preizerdaul with my family for over 15 years. We have succeeded in integrating thanks to the people who helped us, the associations that accepted us and the institutions that supported us.

I am even happier to be able to work as an integration delegate of the "Pakt vum Zesummeliewen" in both the "Kanton Réiden" and in the municipality of Mertzig. I enjoy contributing to increasing the quality of life in our region. Every single person, every citizen as well as all clubs and associations can contribute to improving communal life, in relation to their interests and resources.

Municipalities are meant to be communal centres by offering social spaces, allowing newcomers to be welcomed and to participate. They are growing and evolving rapidly. New residents are arriving from all around the world. We, "Pakt vum Zesummeliewen", want to strengthen our communities with healthy dynamism for the benefit of all, while welcoming newcomers into a tolerant and diverse environment.

In this sense, the "Pakt vum Zesummeliewen" is an understanding between all citizens who are committed to maintaining a vibrant community. Everyone should have their place in the "Kanton Réiden" and in the municipality of Mertzig. Get involved by voting – or even by becoming a candidate yourself.

Further information on the "Pakt vum Zesummeliewen": zesummeliewen.lu



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de la Famille, de l'Intégration
et à la Grande Région

Département de l'intégration

How does my municipality work?



The officials in the commune

THE COLLEGE OF ALDERMEN (Mayor, Aldermen and Alderwomen)

The College of Aldermen is the executive and administrative body for municipal policy. As the superior of the municipal staff, the College of Aldermen must ensure that all services available to the population are functioning. The board of aldermen hires its employees, supervises its staff, and implements the mandatory legal measures regarding holidays, promotions and so on. Ultimately, it is also the council of aldermen who decide, with the agreement of the municipal council, on the planning and implementation of local activities.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The municipal council is composed of members directly elected by the citizens. It functions as a "parliament at the municipal level", which means that the council has general powers and decides on the political orientation of the municipality, which must be implemented by the college of aldermen. Among other things, the municipal council is responsible for the recruitment of municipal staff.

THE COMMITTEES

The committees are reconstituted after the elections. This is done in real time, so that the committees can start their work as soon as possible. There are differences in the various committees in each municipality. Who goes where depends on whether the municipality operates under a relative majority system or a list system with proportional representation. In municipalities with proportional representation, the parties appoint their members to the various committees. In municipalities with a relative majority, anyone who wishes to do so can join a committee. There are compulsory commissions like the school commission, the integration commission, and the rent commission. In addition, each municipality can convene other committees, like the youth committee, the sports committee, and the cultural committee.

THE COMMUNAL ADMINISTRATION, COMMUNAL SERVICES

The municipal administration is not elected by the people but appointed by the elected representatives. It assists the

College of Aldermen in the execution of the decisions and regulations adopted by the Municipal Council, as well as the measures provided for by the laws and grand-ducal regulations. It is the interlocutor of the citizens for the services offered by the municipality (e.g., leisure activities, home care, issuing of identity cards, maintenance of the municipal road network, etc.). The municipal administration consists of a secretariat and various other administrative departments and technical services.

AREAS OF ACTIVITY

- Population office
- Finance
- Forestry department
- Waste disposal
- Maintenance of municipal infrastructure
- Construction and maintenance of public places and buildings
- Drinking water supply
- Day care
- Schools
- Social office
- Urban development (PAG)

IN BRIEF

EXECUTIVES

- Mayor
- Aldermen
- Councillors
- Municipal administration, municipal services

BENEFICIARIES

- Citizens

MULTIPLIERS

- Commissions
- Citizen participation
- Associations, sport and culture
- Partners

More information about equality in municipalities:
megacommunes.lu

OVERVIEW OF NATIONALITIES IN OUR REGION

Municipality	Beckerich	Ell	Grosbous	Mertzig	Préizerdaul	Rambrouch	Redange	Saeul	Useldange	Vichten	Wahl
Residents	2.866	1.549	1.126	2.300	1.799	4.800	3.057	970	2.078	1.398	1.071
Non-Luxembourgish	29,20%	30%	21,80%	26%	25%	35%	28,23%	26%	24%	24,75%	22,60%
Other nationalities	51	37	27	41	43	76	63	37	42	34	29
Date of most recent survey	03.11.2022	10.11.2021	04.08.2022	01.01.2022	15.09.2022	05.08.2022	08.12.2022	01.12.2022	01.02.2023	14.09.2022	03.08.2022

TESTIMONIALS

I stood for election!

INTERVIEW WITH MAREIKE BÖNIGK (D/L), COUNCILLOR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRÉIZERDAUL, LIVED IN LUXEMBOURG FOR 15 YEARS



people who are elected. So, I choose my own future. Whether it's the priorities for infrastructure development, the environmental and climate protection activities of my municipality, the meals served at the Maison Relais, the school staff, whether a supermarket will come to the municipality, the way in which the associations are supported, etc. For me, this is a solid reason to vote.

We are currently far from gender parity in political representation. Why do you think this is?

Yes, unfortunately. I am the only woman in many assemblies, and we are almost always in the minority. It is difficult to say why. What I can say for sure is that in the last five years I have NEVER felt unwanted or excluded. All of us in the municipal and aldermen's council have been thinking about how we can get more women interested in political work; we have actively approached some women to convince them to run in the next elections. Unfortunately, without success. Is there a lack of courage? Plus, a lack of time, because the double burden of work and family still often falls on women. I don't know, but I would like to see more women in the different meetings.

What would you recommend to women who want to enter local politics?

Keep it simple. No one knows from the beginning how it works, and even



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What I can say for sure is that in the last five years I have NEVER felt unwanted or excluded.

after a term of office, you always come across new questions. As a councillor it's your duty to ask questions. The more fundamental the better - don't worry, you can't go wrong. And I would recommend finding two or three favourite topics. Read more about these topics and go to committees. You can't cover everything in the same way. This makes time management easier. Don't hesitate to

occasionally participate in informal networking - sometimes important ideas are born while socializing, and women should also participate here.

This is the first time sitting on the city council. What surprised you the most? The diversity of topics. In a small municipality, a small number of people work on a lot of issues. This of course mainly concerns the civil servants, who are the experts on the issues, and the council of aldermen, which is responsible for all areas of the municipality. But if the cooperation between the civil servants, the council of aldermen and the local council works well, you also receive a lot of information as a member of the local council, and you can therefore contribute ideas on many subjects. That's great.

Why would you say it is important to use your right to vote?

Echoing my answer above: because everything that affects daily life in our municipality is determined by the



INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTIANE THOMMES (L), MAYOR OF WAHL

My role as mayor

What role does citizen engagement play for you as a mayor?

For me, as mayor, it is very important to get regular feedback from the citizens. It is the best way to see the well-being of the citizens in the municipality, and their problems! Citizen engagement is a central sign of a functioning democracy. It promotes a continuous dialogue and gives local politicians the chance to use the creativity and knowledge of citizens to react quickly to their needs. In this way, citizens and politicians together can continuously improve the communal life within the municipality. For me, this is also a chance to improve cooperation in the community. Use the creativity and valuable knowledge of citizens!

How do you motivate citizens to get involved in their community?

I try to do this mainly through direct dialogue with the citizens, because commitment emerges from citizens getting involved. A municipality is more alive when its citizens participate in municipal life. Of course, transparency and honesty towards citizens are very important. This also means we must justify our projects and decisions.

What challenges do you see for the future in this country?

From a global point of view, it is about protecting the climate and nature, to which everyone must contribute. The municipality has a role here. Another task in our country is the successful integration of new citizens. And finally, housing: How will we provide affordable housing in the future? There is a lot to do, for all of us.

And what are our chances?

As a municipality, we must be well prepared, which is why the merger of the municipalities of Grosbous - Wahl is important to me! Together we are stronger. Together we can create synergies and use resources better. We must continue to develop our already well-established network within the "Kanton Réiden". I hope it will continue to develop further in the future.

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A municipality is more alive when its citizens participate in municipal life.

CANTONAL FUNCTION

The role of our municipalities in Kanton Réiden

SINCE 1990, WE, THE CITIZENS, HAVE RELIED ON THE VOLUNTARY AND SUPPORTIVE COOPERATION OF OUR MUNICIPALITIES, THE SYNDICAT INTERCOMMUNAL "KANTON RÉIDEN".

It has made many things possible that could not have been realised or financed by individual municipalities in rural areas. This exceptional cooperation, which is unique in our country, has made it possible to live here "again". Because there were times when residents moved to the centre and there was a great risk that the "Wild West" would become a "dormant town".

PRINCIPLE OF SUBSIDIARITY & FUNCTIONING

Each member municipality pays a contribution to the communal fund, based on the number of residents. This makes it possible to finance communal projects and services that a single commune could not cover. Project ideas are then submitted, analysed, and discussed in the committee. After a democratic vote, the project is implemented if each municipality has given the green light. A simple

majority vote is not applied here; every municipality must agree. At the beginning of the new legislative period, each municipal council elects its representatives to represent their municipality on the Kanton Réiden committee. Ten people are elected to the committee who then work within a smaller committee, called the "bureau". This committee meets regularly to discuss new and ongoing issues and to take decisions. The "small committee", i.e., the bureau, meets more often to do the preliminary work and thus move forward more quickly.

CLEARLY DEFINED GUIDELINES

The objectives of the Kanton Réiden are clearly defined. It serves to keep the attractiveness of the region up-to-date and to develop it further. The pillars are the development of social, tourist, agricultural and economic activities in the partner municipalities. These objectives are laid down in the Kanton's

statutes. Here is an overview of our 'Best of West' - projects completed and still running today, and to which the Kanton Réiden participated directly or indirectly:

- Foyer de Jour "A Butzen" Reichlange and Ell
- Sport-Krees Atert, Kanner and Jugendbetreuung
- OSCARE - Office Social Kanton Réiden
- HAUSCARE - Agence Immobilière Sociale Kanton Réiden
- Caritas Buttek Réiden
- Youth&work
- Club Senior Atertdall
- Réidener Jugendtreff
- Réidener Energieatelier
- Maison de l'Eau
- KlimaTeam Réiden a Wandkraaft
- Leader Wëlle Westen
- De Kär - local currency Beki
- Synergie - regional magazine
- Industial zones Riesenhaff in Rambrouch SOLUPLA in Redange
- TouristInfo Wëlle Westen
- Atert Lycée Redange
- Pakt vum Zesummeliewen

Further information:
kanton-reiden.lu

ICH WÄHLE, WEIL ...

„Ich freue mich auf den 11.06.2023! - Nach 9 Jahren in Luxemburg darf und will ich meine Stimme abgeben.“

Julia, 39, weiblich, 9 Joer zu Lëtzebuerg

„Mit meiner Stimme kann ich mit der Wahl meines Kandidaten/ meiner Partei damit helfen, meine Interessen in der Gemeinde durchzusetzen - Mit meiner Stimme nehme ich aktiv an der kommunalen Politik teil - Mit meiner Stimme entscheide ich über die Politik die, die von der mir gewählten Kandidaten/Parteien vertreten - Weil jede Stimme zählt.“

Guy, 55, männlich, 55 Joer zu Lëtzebuerg

„It is important to vote so that we feel represented and the authorities are aware of the needs of all fringes of its population.“

Bento, 50, männlich, 6 Joer zu Lëtzebuerg

„Ao votar nas eleições participo da escolha dos representantes da população para legislar e administrar o país. Pelo voto exerço meu direito de cidadania e me integro com a sociedade local, pois como imigrante também desejo o melhor para toda a população que vive e trabalha em Luxemburgo.“

Aline, 30, weiblich, 5 Joer zu Lëtzebuerg

„تسا مهم میارب اریز مه دیم یار نم - هدنی آرد نم یارب یسک هچ منادب هک ار یرگی زیچ ره ای و یسایس تامیمصت دریگیم.“

Zahra, 24, weiblich, 7 Joer zu Lëtzebuerg

„I think it's important to vote because I have a chance to influence the way things are handled in my home commune that I feel a part of.“

Jana, 44, weiblich, 16 Joer zu Lëtzebuerg

„It is important to vote in order to have representatives that support his interest.“

Stefan 44, männlich, 12 Joer zu Lëtzebuerg

„2008 دزنم غروب مسكول 53، ةفیطل یل ةبسنلاب، بجاو و قح وه تیوصتلا نیلثممل رای تخاب انل حسم سی لمع وه یلع ظافحلل لكدكو تاباختنالال انثأ ان تیطارق می د ةیویح“

Jio Latifa, 53, weiblich, 15 Joer zu Lëtzebuerg

„Voter donne le pouvoir d'activement sculpter le futur. Tous les votes ont la même importance, allez donc tous voter pour un meilleur avenir!“

Cédric, 36, männlich, 36 Joer zu Lëtzebuerg

„It is important to vote so that we feel represented and the authorities are aware of the needs of all fringes of its population.“

Bento, 50, männlich, 6 Joer zu Lëtzebuerg



PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

A municipality with proportional representation has more than 3,000 residents. In this case, you must join a party or a list of citizens to participate in the elections. Each voter can vote as many times as there are councilors to be elected.

Each cross (+ or x) placed in a box behind a candidate's name counts as a vote for that candidate. The voter may give two votes to each candidate without exceeding the total number of votes available.

The voter who colours the white

circle at the top of the list in black approves the list in its entirety, and thus gives one vote to each candidate on the list.

RELATIVE MAJORITY

A commune with a relative majority has less than 3,000 residents. Anyone who has reached the age of majority and has no criminal record may vote.

The voter votes by putting a cross (+ or x) in the box next to the name of each candidate for whom he or she votes.

THE SECOND LARGEST CANTON IN THE COUNTRY IN TERMS OF POPULATION

- 1990** → Creation of the inter-municipal association "De Réidener Kanton" with the five municipalities of Bettborn (Préizerdaul), Ell, Rambrouch, Redange and Saeul.
- 1991** + municipality of Beckerich
- 1995** + municipalities Grosbous and Vichten
- 1998** + municipality of Wahl
- 2000** + municipality of Useldange
- 2021** = 10 municipalities
- 20XX** → The municipality of Mertzig has applied for membership