

FDP and the Green Party lead the pack

The Political Party FDP in *Nordrhein-Westfalen* and *Schleswig-Holstein* as well as the Green Party in *Schleswig-Holstein* decided to hold their elections online, pioneering digital democracy in German political parties.

Berlin, 06/26/2017 - the FDP in *Nordrhein-Westfalen (NRW)* and *Schleswig-Holstein* and the Green Party in *Schleswig-Holstein* have conducted online elections with Polyas. Their elections gauged the support for the coalition agreement in the upcoming federal state elections. These parties are pioneering the way online elections in politics - when will the others follow?

"6,266 FDP members in *NRW* voted on the coalition agreement. With a turnout of 40.45%, we reached a quorum and far exceeded our expectations. As digitally focused party, we think it is right and important to pioneer the use of online voting", explains Johannes Vogel, Secretary General of *NRW* FDP. He was speaking on Friday at a press conference on the coalition agreement in Düsseldorf.

The members of the FDP in *Schleswig-Holstein* voted overwhelmingly in favour, with more than 92% voting "yes". The state chairman, Heiner Garg announced: "I'm very happy with this result and the great involvement of our members".

The Greens in *Schleswig-Holstein* also had their 2449 members vote online on the Coalition agreement with the CDU and FDP. With 84.3% approval rate for the Jamaican Alliance and a turnout of 59.6 percent, expectations of party officials were similarly exceeded: "I am very satisfied with the support shown by our members. This is a very, very clear approval for us and for Jamaica", said Green Country Chief Ruth Kastner in a first interview. (The Jamaican coalition is so named due to the colours of the three parties involved - yellow, black and green)

"The FDP in *NRW* and *Schleswig-Holstein* and the Greens in *Schleswig-Holstein* can be proud to have pioneered internal party participation and democracy through the use of online voting. They have shown how Polyas has simplified the electoral process. The option to vote online has set a new standard in terms of membership participation", says Anna-Maria Palzkill, Head of Communications at Polyas.

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