

Appendix

Table A.1: Descriptive statistics

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Level of Agreement (Difference to 50%)	1440	25.253	14.337	0.065	50
Assembly (=1)	1463	0.308	0.462	0	1
Turnout in Merger Decision (%)	1298	56.896	18.090	0.054	98
Population Size	1481	1593	4102	11	58381
Size/Coalition Size	1481	0.284	0.272	0.001	0.994
Δ Tax Rate	1458	0.024	0.108	-0.639	0.568
Previous Merger					
None	1541	0.826	0.379	0	1
Failed	1541	0.125	0.331	0	1
Succeeded	1541	0.049	0.215	0	1
Name Change					
New Name	1527	0.748	0.434	0	1
Compound Name	1527	0.099	0.299	0	1
Old Name	1527	0.153	0.360	0	1
Parliament (=1)	1399	0.242	0.428	0	1
Time Period					
1999-2005	1541	0.225	0.417	0	1
2006-2012	1541	0.437	0.496	0	1
2013-2019	1541	0.338	0.473	0	1
Canton					
AG	1541	0.057	0.232	0	1
BE	1541	0.114	0.318	0	1
FR	1541	0.166	0.372	0	1
GR	1541	0.117	0.321	0	1
JU	1541	0.045	0.207	0	1
LU	1541	0.043	0.203	0	1
NE	1541	0.047	0.211	0	1
SG	1541	0.019	0.136	0	1
SH	1541	0.010	0.101	0	1
SO	1541	0.028	0.165	0	1
TI	1541	0.171	0.377	0	1
VD	1541	0.120	0.325	0	1
VS	1541	0.046	0.210	0	1
ZH	1541	0.017	0.129	0	1

Figure A.1: Correlation between reported and approximated turnout

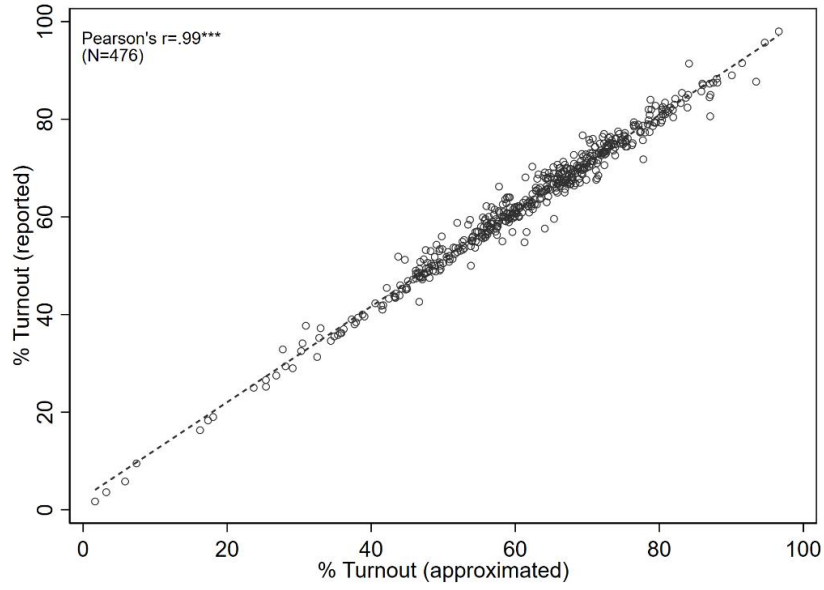


Figure A.2: Abstention (Cantons of Grisons and Ticino)

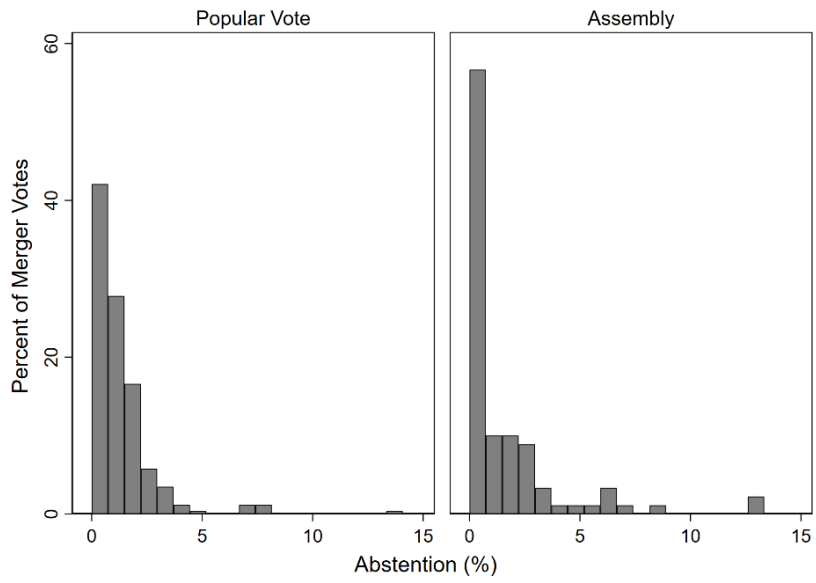


Figure A.3: Difference in level of agreement between decision procedures in same municipality

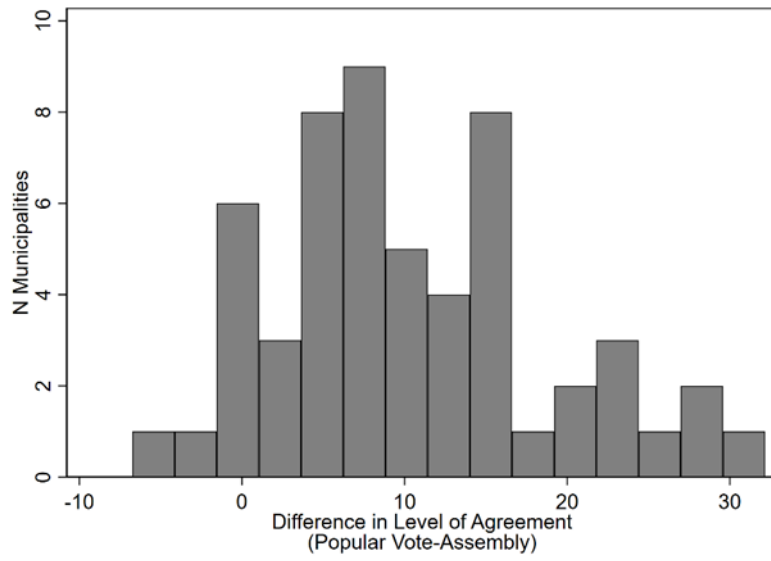


Figure A.4: Level of agreement in assemblies taking final decision and assemblies prior to popular votes

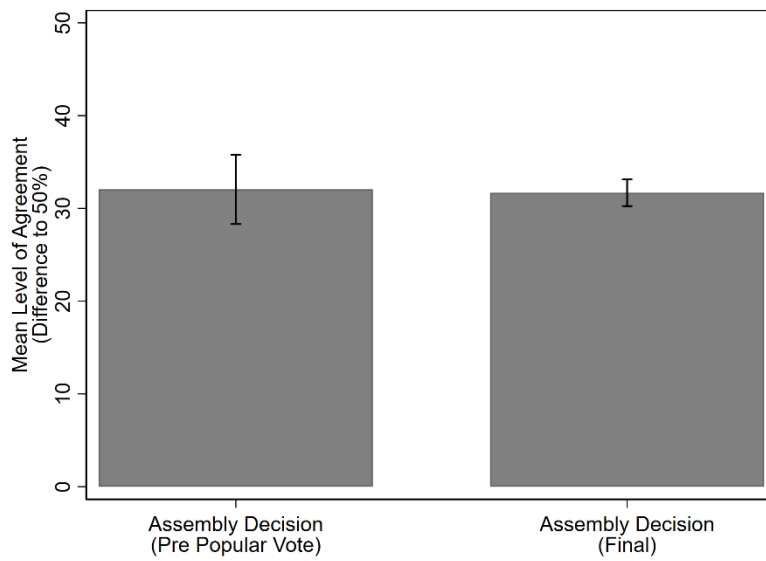


Figure A.5: Level of agreement in popular votes with/without prior assemblies

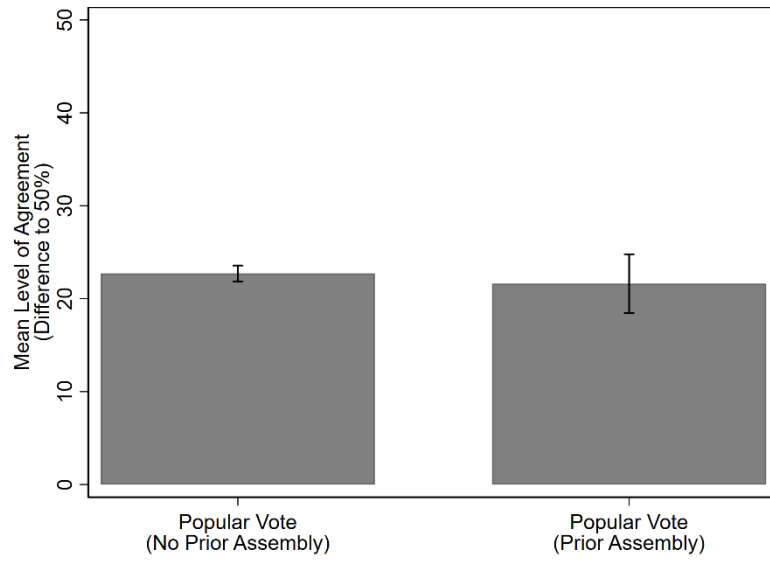


Table A.2: Multilevel Regression Model: Random-Effects ANOVA

	Level of Agreement		Intra-Class Correlation	
	Estimate	SE	Estimate	SE
Constant	24.81	(1.04)		
Level-1 Variance (Merger Decisions)	141.71	(6.32)		
Level-2 Variance (Merger Projects)	57.84	(8.07)	0.05	(0.02)
Level-3 Variance (Cantons)	10.06	(5.35)	0.32	(0.03)
N Merger Decisions	1440			
N Merger Projects	415			
N Cantons	14			
LR test (X^2)	174.59			
$p > X^2$	0.000			

Note. Results obtained through -mixed- command in Stata; standard errors in parentheses.

Table A.3. Robustness, level of agreement: municipalities with assembly followed by popular vote

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Assembly (B=Popular Vote)	10.44*** (1.11)	10.44*** (1.11)	-1.05 (3.78)
Turnout (%)			-0.35** (0.11)
Previous Merger (B=None)			
Merger Attempt Failed		5.91 (4.95)	2.81 (4.45)
Name Change (B=New Name)			
Compound Name		8.30 (6.22)	9.35 (5.49)
Old Name		10.90 (10.51)	10.89 (9.36)
Log(Population Size)		-4.01 (2.67)	-6.24* (2.45)
Size/Coalition Size		6.28 (16.84)	1.14 (15.08)
Δ Tax Rate		38.97* (18.41)	39.37* (16.19)
Time Period (B=1999-2005)			
2006-2012		4.09 (5.81)	2.82 (5.12)
2013-2020		2.88 (6.36)	0.86 (5.63)
Canton (B=AG)			
LU		-5.34 (9.61)	5.46 (9.20)
SH		-6.09 (6.75)	-3.11 (6.01)
Constant	21.61*** (1.73)	37.17* (16.42)	76.39*** (18.76)
Level-1 Variance (Merger Decision)	34.06*** (6.49)	34.06*** (6.49)	38.22*** (8.08)
Level-2 Variance (Municipality)	125.43*** (36.08)	103.32*** (23.18)	73.89*** (20.23)
Level-3 Variance (Merger Project)	1.48 (24.17)	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (.)
N (Merger Decisions)	110	110	107
N (Municipalities)	55	55	55
N (Merger Projects)	23	23	23
Log. Lik.	-409	-404	-390
Wald X^2	88.03	98.81	102.65
$p > X^2$	0.000	0.000	0.000
AIC	828	838	809
BIC	841	878	849

Note. * $<.05$ ** $<.01$ *** $<.001$. Coefficients are obtained through -mixed- command in Stata; standard errors in parentheses.

Table A.4. Robustness, level of agreement: municipalities involved in 1 merger project only

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Assembly (B=Popular Vote)	8.66*** (1.14)	5.37*** (1.13)	-3.12* (1.50)
Turnout (%)			-0.31*** (0.04)
Name Change (B=New Name)			
Compound Name		0.34 (1.56)	0.68 (1.53)
Old Name		4.24* (1.89)	2.22 (1.93)
Log(Population Size)		-3.95*** (0.49)	-5.28*** (0.51)
Size/Coalition Size		16.37*** (3.02)	11.78*** (3.04)
Δ Tax Rate		24.16*** (3.68)	23.48*** (3.61)
Parliament (B=Assembly)		0.41 (1.25)	0.82 (1.23)
Time Period (B=1999-2005)			
2006-2012		-1.34 (1.19)	0.02 (1.18)
2013-2020		-1.50 (1.33)	-1.32 (1.31)
Constant	22.55*** (0.67)	43.17*** (2.87)	73.34*** (4.46)
Level-1 Variance (Merger Decision)	140.84*** (7.15)	142.64*** (7.68)	128.09*** (7.28)
Level-2 Variance (Merger Project)	53.44*** (8.57)	19.33*** (5.90)	18.19*** (5.68)
Level-3 Variance (Canton)	0.00 (0.00)	0.00** (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)
N (Merger Decisions)	1138	979	888
N (Merger Projects)	353	317	296
N (Cantons)	14	14	14
Log. Lik.	-4561	-3870	-3465
Wald X ²	57.85	221.63	291.45
p>X ²	0.000	0.000	0.000
AIC	9132	7766	6957
BIC	9158	7829	7024

Note. *<.05 **<.01 ***<.001. Coefficients are obtained through -mixed- command in Stata; standard errors in parentheses.

Table A.5. Robustness, level of agreement: multicollinearity test

Variable	Without Turnout		With Turnout	
	Variance Inflation Factor	1/Variance Inflation Factor	Variance Inflation Factor	1/Variance Inflation Factor
Assembly (B=Popular Vote)	2.72	0.37	4.37	0.23
% Turnout			2.99	0.33
Previous Merger (B=None)				
Failed Merger	1.13	0.88	1.15	0.87
Successful Merger	1.15	0.87	1.17	0.86
Name Change (B=New Name)				
Compound Name	1.37	0.73	1.37	0.73
Old Name	2.8	0.36	2.86	0.35
log(Population Size)	2.96	0.34	3.32	0.30
Size/Coalition Size	4.08	0.25	4.23	0.24
Δ Tax Rate	1.11	0.90	1.12	0.89
Parliament (B=Assembly)	3.32	0.30	3.47	0.29
Time Period (B=1999-2005)				
2006-2012	2.75	0.36	2.74	0.36
2013-2020	2.96	0.34	2.93	0.34
Canton (B=AG)				
BE	2.35	0.43	2.19	0.46
FR	3.92	0.26	3.94	0.25
GR	4.02	0.25	4.09	0.24
JU	1.7	0.59	1.37	0.73
LU	1.72	0.58	1.62	0.62
NE	2.17	0.46	2.24	0.45
SG	1.36	0.73	1.33	0.75
SH	1.21	0.82	1.24	0.81
SO	1.43	0.70	1.44	0.69
TI	4.84	0.21	4.93	0.20
VD	1.71	0.59	1.65	0.61
VS	1.66	0.60	1.75	0.57
ZH	1.23	0.81	1.27	0.79
Mean VIF	2.32		2.43	

Note. Coefficients are obtained through `-estat vif-` command in Stata, after `-regress-`.

Table A.6. Turnout: multilevel regression models

	(1)	(2)
Assembly (B=Popular Vote)	-23.05***	-27.13***
	(1.41)	(1.40)
Previous Merger (B=None)		
Merger Attempt Failed		-1.85
		(1.20)
Merger Attempt Succeeded		-1.30
		(1.38)
Name Change (B=New Name)		
Compound Name		-0.07
		(1.22)
Old Name		-5.30***
		(1.35)
Log(Population Size)		-3.58***
		(0.43)
Size/Coalition Size		-17.64***
		(2.38)
Δ Tax Rate		-2.82
		(2.64)
Parliament (B=Assembly)		6.92***
		(1.22)
Time Period (B=1999-2005)		
2006-2012		-1.76
		(1.43)
2013-2020		-1.66
		(1.50)
Constant	63.40***	95.85***
	(1.51)	(3.17)
Level-1 Variance (Merger Decision)	153.73***	74.19***
	(7.08)	(3.75)
Level-2 Variance (Merger Project)	31.21***	39.21***
	(6.05)	(5.15)
Level-3 Variance (Canton)	25.59***	41.10***
	(11.50)	(17.93)
N (Merger Decisions)	1273	1097
N (Merger Projects)	380	343
N (Cantons)	14	14
Log. Lik.	-5118	-4094
Wald X ²	267.78	1232.92
p>X ²	0.000	0.000
AIC	10247	8218
BIC	10272	8293

Note. *<.05 **<.01 ***<.001. Coefficients are obtained through -mixed- command in Stata; standard errors in parentheses.

Table A.7. Level of agreement: mediation analysis

	Turnout (%)		Level of Agreement	
	B	SE	B	SE
Assembly (B=Popular Vote)	-26.86***	(1.98)	-3.89	(2.01)
Turnout (%)			-0.35***	(0.04)
Previous Merger (B=None)				
Merger Attempt Failed	-1.82	(1.37)	2.65*	(1.06)
Merger Attempt Succeeded	-1.69	(1.28)	-1.72	(1.87)
Name Change (B=New Name)				
Compound Name	0.35	(1.37)	-0.77	(1.41)
Old Name	-6.30***	(1.57)	2.14	(1.67)
Log(Population Size)	-4.03***	(.58)	-5.56***	(.51)
Size/Coalition Size	-14.20***	(2.95)	10.88***	(2.83)
Δ Tax Rate	-0.74	(3.72)	23.26***	(5.23)
Parliament (B=Assembly)	8.92***	(1.54)	3.29*	(1.66)
Time Period (B=1999-2005)				
2006-2012	-1.06	(1.65)	-.25	(1.50)
2013-2020	-1.64	(1.65)	-1.43	(1.53)
Canton (B=AG)				
BE	-1.69	(2.46)	1.77	(1.94)
FR	0.79	(1.89)	2.73	(1.89)
GR	5.47*	(2.52)	3.54	(2.26)
JU	8.44*	(3.73)	.47	(2.93)
LU	13.22***	(2.06)	3.95	(2.45)
NE	-9.04***	(2.36)	-3.29	(2.40)
SG	6.22*	(2.69)	4.44	(2.53)
SH	11.86*	(4.70)	3.43	(3.25)
SO	-1.71	(3.53)	2.75	(2.51)
TI	-3.14	(2.21)	1.70	(1.98)
VD	-7.11***	(2.72)	2.09	(2.93)
VS	14.07***	(2.31)	8.61***	(2.16)
ZH	12.97***	(2.61)	5.20*	(2.44)
Constant	93.17***	(4.05)	75.28***	(4.95)
Average Causal Mediation Effect (ACME)			9.56***	
(Assembly -> Turnout -> Level of Agreement)			[7.14, 12.08]	
Direct Effect			-3.85	
(Assembly -> Level of Agreement)			[-7.73, 0.16]	
Total Effect (=ACME+Direct Effect)			5.71***	
			[2.27, 9.25]	
N (Merger Decisions)	1096		1096	
N Clusters (Merger Projects)	343		343	
F (24, 342)	72.53		16.73	
p>F	0.000		0.000	
R ²	.67		.31	

Note. *<.05 **<.01 ***<.001. Coefficients are obtained through -medeff- command in Stata; clustered standard errors in parentheses, 95% confidence intervals in square brackets.

Table A.8. Unanimous decisions: multilevel logistic regression models

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Assembly (B=Popular Vote)	3.79***	4.13***	2.49*
	(0.53)	(0.95)	(1.11)
Turnout (%)			-0.07***
			(0.02)
Previous Merger (B=None)			
Merger Attempt Failed		0.50	0.55
		(0.53)	(0.55)
Merger Attempt Succeeded		0.53	-1.11
		(0.73)	(1.16)
Name Change (B=New Name)			
Compound Name		0.43	0.38
		(0.59)	(0.62)
Old Name		0.16	-0.29
		(0.68)	(0.79)
Log(Population Size)		-1.81***	-2.22***
		(0.29)	(0.37)
Size/Coalition Size		6.42***	5.31***
		(1.31)	(1.40)
Δ Tax Rate		2.26	3.27*
		(1.40)	(1.52)
Parliament (B=Assembly)		-12.91	-12.06
		(921.82)	(1227.04)
Time Period (B=1999-2005)			
2006-2012		0.32	-0.41
		(0.63)	(0.77)
2013-2020		0.13	-0.30
		(0.71)	(0.74)
Constant	-5.80***	2.00	9.07***
	(0.57)	(1.43)	(2.36)
Level-2 Variance	1.69	0.30	0.17
	(0.83)	(0.50)	(0.51)
Level-3 Variance	0.11	1.18	0.33
	(0.17)	(0.99)	(0.43)
N (Merger Decisions)	1400	1199	1096
N (Merger Projects)	407	368	343
N (Cantons)	14	14	14
Log. Lik.	-219	-152	-115
Wald X^2	51.02	53.30	47.92
$p > X^2$	0.000	0.000	0.000
AIC	446	332	259
BIC	467	404	334

Note. * $<.05$ ** $<.01$ *** $<.001$. Coefficients are obtained through -meprologit- command in Stata; standard errors in parentheses.