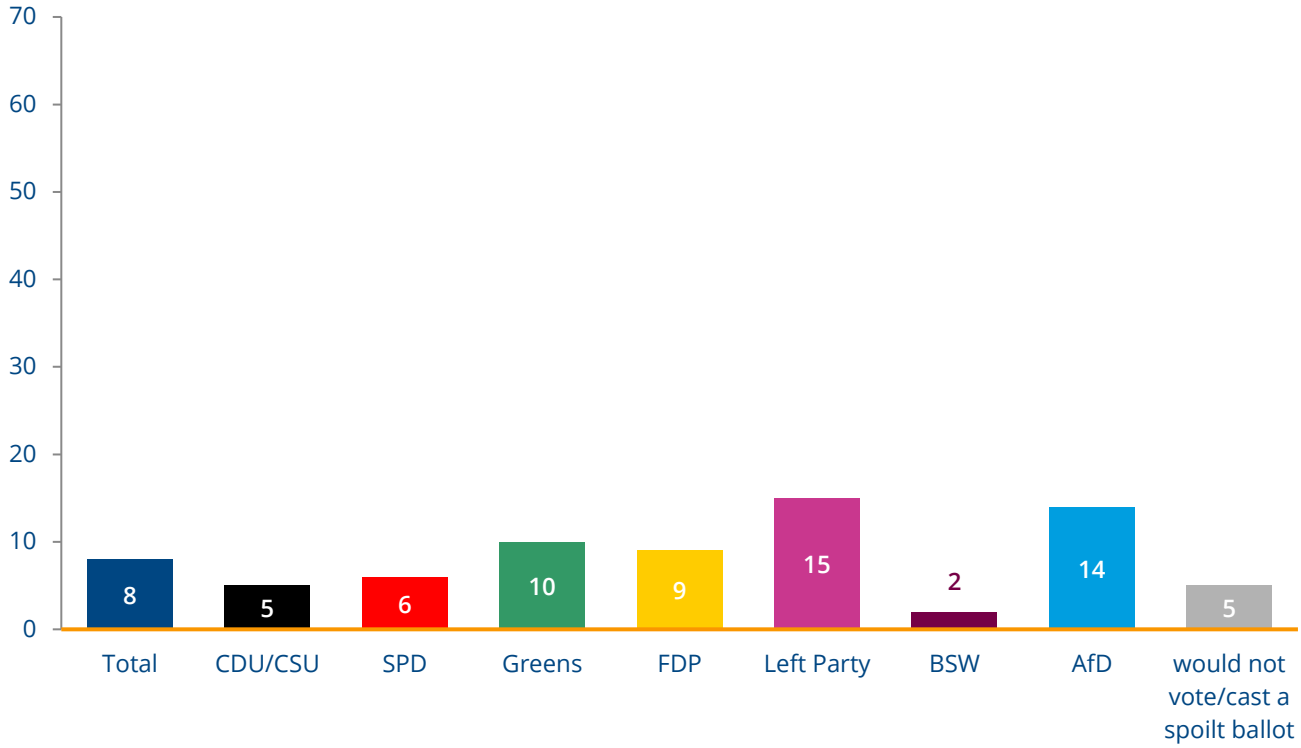
CHART OF THE MONTH

Comments from the fringes

Commenting on political content online by voting intention



Question (translated from German): "Which of the following ways of using the internet apply to you?" Here: "I write comments on political topics." Figures in per cent. Respondents: 4,004. Survey 1059 on behalf of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.

Political information is not only presented on social media; users also have the opportunity to comment on it. But who actually does so?

The share of people active on social media is similar amongst women and men. Up to the age of 69, there are hardly any age-related differences in the share of people engaging with political content online by posting comments. It is only from the age of 70 onwards that this becomes significantly less common.

There is, however, a marked difference based on political orientation. Supporters of fringe parties comment on political content significantly more than the electorates of centrist parties. Voters for the Left Party and the AfD comment particularly more often on social media. The electorates of the Greens and the FDP are also somewhat more active. Those who vote for the SPD, CDU/CSU or BSW are considerably more reserved.

Consequently, the comments on social media present a distorted picture of the political landscape. The fringes are particularly strong, whilst the centre is weak.

Find out further analyses in the study "Fault Lines of the Public – Representative Survey on the Consumption of Political Information" (only in German).