

Ballot papers campaigns and tools

Documenting Spanish elections on Wikimedia Commons

For several years now, Wikimedia Spain members have been encouraging each other to **collect the ballot papers of all elections held in Spain**, scan them and upload the images to the **Wikimedia Commons** project. This is possible thanks to the fact that Spanish law excludes from intellectual property all legal texts generated by public bodies, and that the ballot papers include only names, without photographs, with a small party logo that is acceptable in Commons under the *De minimis* principle. In this way, important documentary work is being carried out in the field of the country's political history.

wikimedia.es/papeletas

To facilitate and coordinate this task, we have developed this **web tool**, which includes the following possibilities:

- assignment of users and states to each zone (electoral district);
- automatic colouring on a map according to the assigned state;
- previous dumping of the names of all the candidates/ballot papers published in the official bulletins;
- presentation of links to the Upload Campaign in Commons with automatic assignment of the categories according to the electoral process, zone and name of the candidacy;
- suggestion of a standardized name for the upload of each ballot;
- association of each ballot with its file in Commons (whether or not the standardized name has been used);
- diverse statistics.

Recently, for local elections and due to the high number of possible ballot papers to be collected, the previous dumping has been replaced by the possibility for the user to add by himself the obtained ballot papers. In addition, the tool is designed in such a way that it can be easily adapted to other campaigns or tasks to be distributed by zones or, in general, to any case in which it would be useful to generate and easily change a map with zones of different colours that provide some information, which could later also be uploaded to Commons.

- **Collaborators:** Members, users, followers, relatives and friends
- **Communication:** Social networks, Telegram group, mailing lists
- **Legal issues:** in the public domain according to Spanish Royal Act 1/1996, on April 12, about Intellectual Property, article 13.
- **Difficulties:** scanning the ballot papers, huge amount of documents and election districts, documents available at polling stations and destroyed after the elections. Despite of the difficulty of using them in the projects, the files are used 120 times in 7 projects.
- **Uploading files:** ballot papers can be scanned or photographed, then, uploaded to Wikimedia Commons or sent to regular users. Different Wikimedia Commons campaigns created.

The initiative of the members, combined with the possibilities of the tool, has managed, in an original way, to encourage and involve members from very different parts of the Spanish territory to collaborate in the collection of ballot papers that are only available in their respective areas. In this way, people who in some cases do not have options or time to contribute in other ways to free knowledge, can do so and feel involved with that movement, and at the same time, the personal relationships and collaborative work that the association carries out to achieve its goals are encouraged. In addition, thanks to this "excuse", we have also reached people who are not associated but share our principles, who through this collaboration have known us better and in the future could participate in other activities and even associate.

Ballot papers campaigns in numbers (2016-2019):

+60

Participants

+2600

Files uploaded to Wikimedia Commons

10

Campaigns

120

File usages

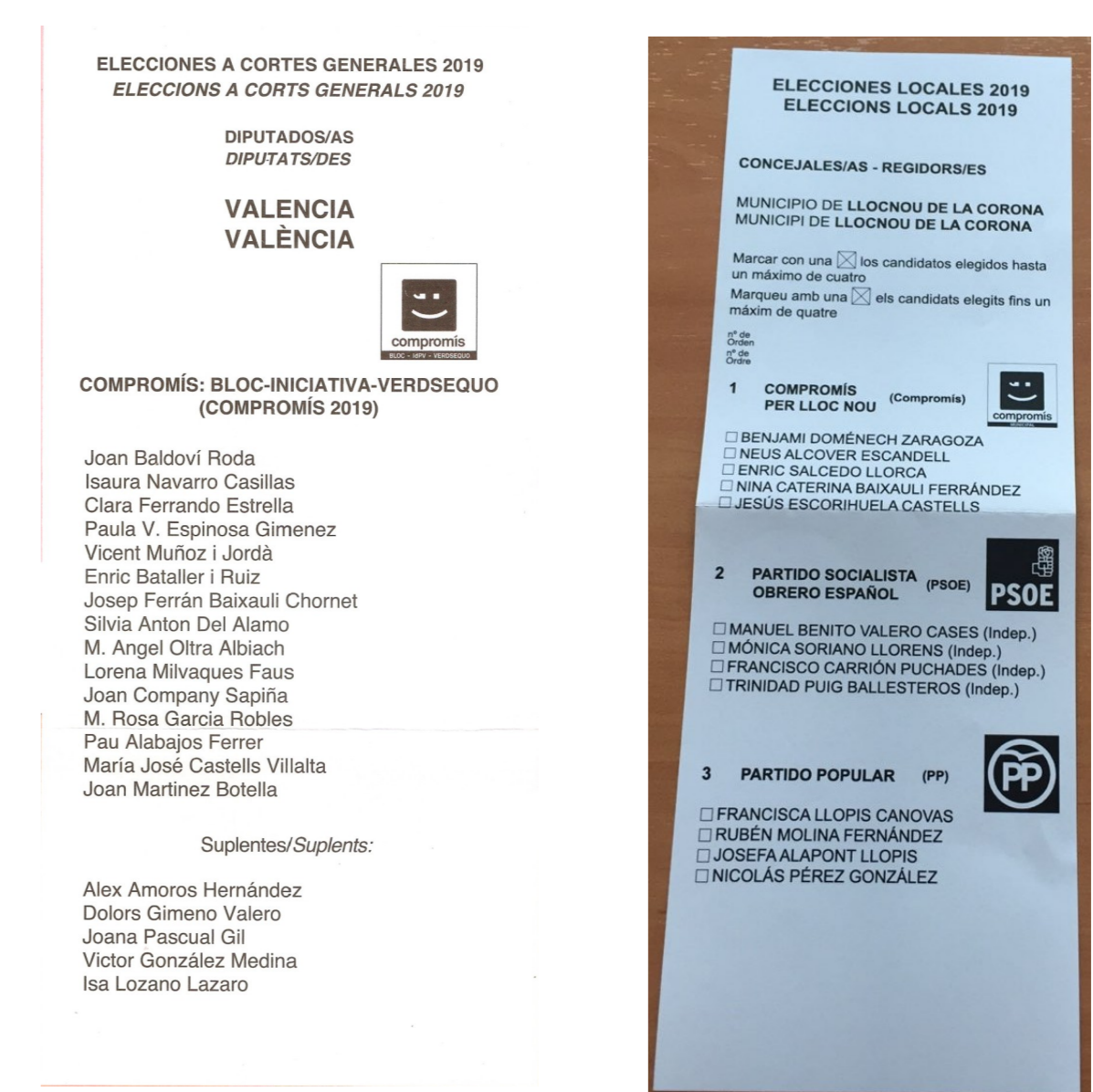
Elecciones generales de España de 2019 - 28-4-2019 - Papeletas

Estadísticas y asignaciones • Tabla de zonas • Categoría en Commons • Ver otros mapas
Pasa el ratón o pulsa en una zona para consultar o modificar sus datos e imágenes:



SITUACIÓN ACTUAL	Color	Zonas	%	Papeletas	%
Total	N/A	59	100,00	641	100,00
Sin asignar		4	6,78	13	2,03
Asignado con dudas		0	0,00	0	0,00
Asignado		15	25,42	175	27,30
Conseguido sin completar		1	1,69	1	0,16
Conseguido		4	6,78	59	9,20
Subido a Commons sin completar		3	5,08	26	4,06
Subido a Commons		32	54,24	367	57,25

Assignment map for 2019 Spanish general elections



Example of two ballot papers (scanned and photographed)