



Renowned scientists from all over Germany call on people to vote for democratic parties: Democracy needs facts!

Heidelberg, 04.02.2025 - Renowned scientists across Germany (<https://aufstehenfuerdemokratie.de/englisch/#who>) have launched a petition that has already collected more than 2,500 signatures in a very short time to stand up for fact-based politics and democratic values. Under the slogan "**Go vote - with reason: democracy needs facts**", they warn against voting for parties that do not take scientific findings into account. "Facts are increasingly being relativized and treated as mere opinions," notes co-initiator Prof. Dr. Stefan Pfister, paediatric oncologist and Leibniz Prize winner. "Without fact-based decisions, we cannot overcome the major challenges of our time," says Prof. Dr. Eva Winkler, oncologist and deputy chair of the German Ethics Council.

That is why we as scientists want as many votes as possible for democratic parties:

- Hundreds of thousands of skilled workers from abroad contribute to research, development, education, healthcare and nursing in our country. Germany needs these people for its scientific innovation and medical care. **This is why it is important for parties to implement a targeted immigration policy instead of creating a polemical and undifferentiated mood against migrants.**
- **The climate crisis is the greatest threat to human health worldwide.** Politicians and society must take decisive action, as it is also leading to an alarming increase in illnesses and deaths in Germany - especially among children, the elderly and poorer people.
- Strengthening the economy and finding technical solutions also means **investing in science, education and research.** After all, our country's most important resources are our people and their inventive spirit. Only with them can new knowledge be gained, only with them can evidence-based medical care be maintained at a high level and the business location be strengthened at the same time.
- **Non-democratic parties profit from false information and spread it on the internet.** It is therefore important that parties are committed to implementing rules such as those of the Digital Services Act quickly and efficiently, thereby effectively combating misinformation on the internet.
- In the USA, we are currently seeing how well-founded health information portals are being shut down by an anti-factual governing party. **So vote for democratic parties that protect and promote science-based information for citizens**

Rally on February 12

On **February 12 at 11:55 am (5 to 12)**, supporters will meet at universities and research institutions nationwide. The dress code is "colorful" - as a sign of a pluralistic society.

Together for a fact-based democracy

The initiators are calling on undecided voters in particular to use their vote: "Every vote not cast is a wasted vote for democracy," says Prof. Dr. Frank Winkler, neurologist and winner of the German Cancer Prize.

Interested parties can register or actively participate at teilnahme@aufstehenfuerdemokratie.de.

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About the initiative:

"Aufstehen für Demokratie" is committed to fact-based political decisions and democratic processes

www.openpetition.de/!ychtb

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