

■ You want to know what your government does?

# Simply ask your government!



abgeordnetenwatch.de

weil Transparenz Vertrauen schafft.

Parliamentwatch runs the German website

[www.abgeordnetenwatch.de](http://www.abgeordnetenwatch.de)

■ On [abgeordnetenwatch.de](http://abgeordnetenwatch.de) (which translates as “member of parliament watch”) German citizens find short profiles of their representatives in the federal and European parliaments and then can ask those elected officials public questions and receive public answers online. As host and impartial moderator, Parliamentwatch checks all questions and ensures civil conduct and respect for privacy.

The screenshot shows the website interface for Abgeordnetenwatch.de. At the top, there is a navigation menu with categories like WAHLEN, BUNDESTAG, HAMBURG, ARCHIV, and DAS PROJEKT. Below this, there are filters for Bundestagswahl, Brandenburg, and Schleswig-Holstein. The main content area is titled 'abgeordnetenwatch.de zur Bundestagswahl 2009' and includes a section for 'Übersicht über Kandidierende'. This section has dropdown menus for 'Kandidierende nach Bundesländern' (set to 'Alle') and 'Kandidierende nach Parteien' (set to 'Alle'). There is also a search bar and a list of candidates with their photos, names, parties, and the number of questions and answers they have received. For example, Frank-Walter Steinhilber (SPD) has 124 questions and 44 answers, Dr. Guido Westerwelle (FDP) has 79 questions and 45 answers, and Dr. Ursula von der Leyen (CDU) has 64 questions and 37 answers.

The screenshot shows the 'Wahlen auf abgeordnetenwatch.de' section. It features a large red 'X' over the text 'Superwahljahr 2009'. Below this, there are statistics for various elections: Schleswig-Holstein (324 Kandidaten, 189 Fragen, 142 Antworten), Bundestagswahl (2195 Kandidaten, 4159 Fragen, 2659 Antworten), and Brandenburg (307 Kandidaten, 202 Fragen, 150 Antworten). There is also a 'FÖRDERER WERDEN: JETZT SPENDEN UND BUCH GEWINNEN' banner and a list of donors under the heading 'Wir bedanken uns bei', including 'anonym, 10 €', 'Dr. Manfred Hanke, 5 €', and 'Moritz Liedtke, 5 €'.

■ Both projects are intended to lead to more transparency and citizens' participation in the democratic process. Furthermore, all answers of members of parliament and candidates add up to a virtual voters' memory, a permanent history of public discourse in Germany.

■ Every month, about 400,000 people visit [abgeordnetenwatch.de](http://abgeordnetenwatch.de). Since launch in December 2006, citizens have asked over 85,000 questions and over 68,000 received answers. Thousands more have participated in public dialogue at [abgeordnetenwatch.de](http://abgeordnetenwatch.de), which supports conversation between citizens and candidates running for state, EU and federal elections.

## ■ Setting up the project in other countries

■ We are looking for entrepreneurs and/or partner organisations who would like to leverage Parliamentwatch's technology platform to start similar transparency/dialogue websites in their home country. So far, our partner organisation Politik Transparent has set up the project in Austria. Another group is about to start the project in Luxembourg.



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**meinparlament.at**

Plattform der direkten Demokratie



■ We ask project partners to be impartial and serious about their involvement. To ensure impartiality, we will not cooperate with political parties or high profile party members or politicians. Applicants should draft a business plan explaining how they plan to secure the future of their project in their country.

■ Parliamentwatch can set up the websites and provide project partners with access to the system. Project partners can choose their own project name (Austria chose: meinparlament.at, Luxembourg chose: politikercheck.lu) and customize their own frontend. We set up the project for a monthly licence fee to finance our web developers who are constantly updating the system and ensure that it is running.

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