

PLR Geneva relies on Cyril Aellen for the Council of State



This Tuesday evening, Cyril Aellen was appointed candidate of the PLR Geneva for the complementary election to the Council of State on March 7. “I have been able to make myself appreciated by my PLR colleagues, make myself respected by our allies and be feared by our adversaries,” he noted. This 48-year-old lawyer wants to tackle essential structural reforms for the canton. “The state must be more agile,” he stressed.

Cyril Aellen obtained 132 votes, while the other candidate for the candidacy, **Gilles Rufenacht**, 47, gathered 43 during this assembly organized online. There were two abstentions. The two men presented very different profiles even if, on the bottom, they met.

Cyril Aellen highlighted his political experience. He was a municipal councilor in Bernex and has been elected to the Grand Council since 2013. Close to real estate circles, he was notably at the head of the liberals before the merger with the radicals. He presents himself as a man of dialogue and consensus.

Outside the seraglio

Gilles Rufenacht, director of private clinics, has never assumed an elective mandate. He was president of the association of private clinics of Geneva and of the **Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services**. He described himself as a unifier ready to blow a wind of renewal.

With his two hats – health and economic – he presented himself as the man for the job to join the government in the midst of the Covid-19 crisis. **Gilles Rufenacht** highlighted his proximity to businesses outside of traditional political circles. He wanted to make employment the strong point of his action.

Aellen vs Maudet

Cyril Aellen, whose first attempt at the cantonal executive, will try to keep the PLR seat, put in play after the resignation of Pierre Maudet. The PLR candidate will notably have to face his ex-party colleague. Indeed, the resigning State Councilor, now independent after his ousting from the party, is representing himself.

On the right, several candidates are expected for this complementary election. The UDC has announced that it wants to present a national advisor, namely Céline Amaudruz or Yves Nidegger. The Vert’libéral national councilor Michel Matter has also expressed his interest. The PDC should not introduce anyone and support the PLR candidate.