

17 February 2025

County elections and municipal elections 2025 – Postal voting instructions

These instructions explain what you should do if you want to vote by post in the 2025 county elections and municipal elections in Finland. The county elections and the municipal elections will be held simultaneously.

Persons living or staying abroad for the entire advance voting period and on election day may vote by post from abroad in general elections.

If you are eligible to vote and wish to vote by post, you must order the postal voting documents to an address abroad.

You may order the postal voting documents for both the municipal elections and the county elections if you are eligible to vote in both.

If your municipality of residence is Helsinki, you can only vote in the municipal elections.

How to vote by post?

1. Vote well in advance

You can vote in the 2025 county elections and municipal elections once the candidate numbers have been confirmed, in other words on 13 March 2025 at the earliest.

When voting, make sure that you use the ballot of the right colour. The ballot intended for the county elections is purple and the ballot intended for the municipal elections is white.

You must send the (yellow) covering envelope, containing a ballot sealed in the ballot envelope and the covering letter, to the central municipal election board of the municipality in Finland in which you have the right to vote according to the voting register.

Postal Address	Office	Telephone	Fax	E-mail, internet
Ministry of Justice, Finland PO BOX 25 FI-00023 Government Finland	Meritullinkatu 10 00170 Helsinki Finland	0295 16001 Internat. +358 295 16001	09 160 67730 Internat. +358 9 160 67730	registry.om@gov.fi www.ministryofjustice.fi

If your municipality of residence is Helsinki (on 21 February 2025), you can only vote in the municipal elections.

Your postal vote must arrive at the central municipal election board of your municipality of residence by 19.00 on Friday 11 April 2025.

Please note that if your vote does not arrive in time, it will not be counted. So don't wait too long.

2. Find out your electoral district and choose your candidate

In the county elections, each wellbeing services county has its own candidates. You can only vote for a candidate standing for election in your wellbeing services county.

In the municipal elections, each municipality has its own candidates. You can only vote for a candidate standing for election in your voting municipality. Your municipality of residence is your voting municipality.

You can vote by post once the candidate numbers have been confirmed, in other words on 13 March 2025 at the earliest.

Information about the candidates and their candidate numbers is available at www.electionsfinland.fi and on the websites of political parties and Finnish media outlets, for example.

3. When voting, make sure that you use the right ballot and maintain election secrecy

You must have two witnesses aged 18 or older present when you cast your postal vote.

Fill in each ballot so that no one sees what you write on it. Write the number of your candidate inside the circle.

Do not write anything else on the ballot. Insert the ballot into the turquoise postal ballot envelope and seal it carefully.

4. Fill in the covering letter

Next, write your full name, Finnish personal identity code or date of birth, address, and the date and place of voting on the postal vote covering letter and sign the affirmation on the letter.

After that, both witnesses must sign the affirmation which states that you have voted in such a way that election secrecy has been preserved and electoral freedom respected. Both witnesses must also write their names in capital letters, dates of birth and addresses on the covering letter.

If you vote in both elections, you must fill in the postal voting documents for both elections separately, one set for the county elections and another one for the municipal elections.

5. Place the documents in the covering envelope

Fill in the name and address of the central municipal election board in the appropriate spot on the covering letter form.

Do not address the covering letter to a constituency electoral committee.

Place the postal ballot envelope and the postal vote covering letter that you have filled in and signed in the yellow postal vote covering envelope so that the address of the recipient (central municipal election board) appears in the envelope window.

Do not put anything else in the envelope.

The postal voting documents must be sent to the central municipal election board of the municipality that is listed in the voting register as your municipality of residence.

If you vote in both elections, you must fill in the postal voting documents for both elections separately, one set for the county elections and another one for the municipal elections. In other words, once you have voted, you will have two covering envelopes (yellow), one for the county elections and one for the municipal elections.