

# European elections 2024

Citizens of the European Union elect Members of the European Parliament through elections that are held every five years.

Fifteen Members of the European Parliament, also known as MEPs, are elected in Finland.

The elections to the European Parliament, or European elections, are held in all Member States of the European Union at the same time. There are 27 Member States in the European Union.

The schedule for the 2024 European elections in Finland:

- The election day is Sunday 9 June 2024.
- The advance voting period is from 29 May to 4 June 2024 in Finland.
- The advance voting period is from 29 May to 1 June 2024 abroad.

## What does the European Parliament do?

The European Parliament is the parliamentary representative body of the European Union.

The European Parliament enacts legislation together with the Council of the European Union.

The Council represents the Member States of the European Union.

The European Parliament adopts the budget of the European Union together with the Council.

The European Parliament oversees the work of the European Commission and other EU institutions.

## Who can vote?

You can vote in the European elections if

- you have reached the age of 18 by **9 June 2024** and

- you are a Finnish citizen or
- you are a citizen of another EU Member State and you have registered to vote in Finland by 21 March 2024.

## **Who can you vote for?**

Political parties and constituency associations may nominate candidates in the European elections.

The candidates must be Finnish citizens entitled to vote or citizens of other EU Member States who have been entered in the voting register in Finland.

In the European elections, the candidates stand for election in the entire country so you can vote for any candidate.

Each candidate has a candidate number.

You will find the candidate numbers online in the Ministry of Justice's Result Service.

They will also be displayed at polling stations and in voting booths.

Information about the candidates is available in the newspapers, on TV and on the internet, for example.

## **Polling card**

If you have the right to vote, you will receive a letter informing you of this.

You will receive the polling card electronically, if you have activated Suomi.fi Messages, a service provided by the Digital and Population Data Services Agency.

For more information, please see [www.suomi.fi/viestit](http://www.suomi.fi/viestit).

You can choose whether you want to vote on election day or in advance. If you choose to vote on election day, check your polling station on the polling card.

If you choose to vote in advance, you can do so at any of the advance polling stations.

A list of advance polling stations near you is enclosed with the polling card.

Take your ID with you when you go to the polling station.  
You do not need to take the polling card with you.

## **At-home voting**

If your ability to move or function is so limited that going to a polling station or voting there would be unreasonably difficult for you, you can vote from home during the advance voting period.

You must register for at-home voting by 16.00 on 28 May 2024 by contacting the central municipal election board of your municipality. The board's telephone number is given on the polling card. The board will also provide you with more information about at-home voting.

## **Voting in advance**

You may vote in advance in the European elections at any advance polling station.

**The advance voting period is from 29 May to 4 June 2024 in Finland and from 29 May to 1 June 2024 abroad.**

When you go to the polling station, take some form of official photo ID with you, for example your passport, identity card or driving licence.

What to do at the advance polling station:

- 1. Show your ID to the election official.**  
The official will give you a ballot.
- 2. Go to the voting booth.**  
Write the number of the candidate who you vote for on the ballot as clearly as possible.  
Do not write anything else on the ballot.

You will find the candidate numbers in the list of candidates displayed in the voting booth.

- 3. Fold the ballot in the middle so that no one can see the number.**
- 4. Go back to the election official.**  
The official will stamp the ballot and give you a brown ballot envelope.
- 5. Put the stamped ballot in the envelope and seal the envelope.**
- 6. The election official will then ask you to sign a form.**  
By signing the form you affirm that you have marked the ballot yourself, had the ballot stamped and sealed it in the envelope.
- 7. Finally, the official will put the brown ballot envelope and the form in a yellow covering envelope.**  
The official will seal the yellow envelope, which will be delivered to the central municipal electoral board of your municipality of residence.

# Voting on election day

The election day is **Sunday 9 June 2024**.

**On election day, the polling stations are open at 9.00–20.00.**

You can only vote at the polling station mentioned on your polling card.

When you go to the polling station, take some form of official photo ID with you, for example your passport, ID card or driving licence.

What to do at the polling station:

- 1. Show your ID to the election official.**  
The official will find your name on the electoral roll and give you a ballot.
- 2. Go to the voting booth.**  
Write the number of the candidate who you vote for on the ballot as clearly as possible.  
Do not write anything else on the ballot.  
You will find the candidate numbers in the list of candidates displayed in the voting booth.
- 3. Fold the ballot in the middle so that no one can see the number.**
- 4. Go back to the election official.**  
The official will stamp the ballot.
- 5. Drop the stamped ballot in the ballot box.**

## **Who can you ask for help?**

**Election officials will advise and assist you at the polling station.**

There will also be a polling assistant present at the polling station. You can ask the assistant to come with you into the voting booth, if you need help with writing the candidate number on the ballot.

A person who you have selected yourself can also act as your polling assistant.

This person can be a family member or friend, for example.

However, a candidate or a candidate's family member cannot act as a polling assistant.

The polling assistant must not tell anyone who you voted for.

## **Election secrecy**

You decide for yourself if you want to vote at all, and who you vote for.

Election secrecy means that you do not need to tell anyone who you voted for.

Because of election secrecy, you will fill in the ballot in a voting booth.

## **Vote in the European elections!**

**This way you can have a say on who will represent Finland in the European Parliament for the next five years.**

This brochure provides information about voting and the 2024 European elections.

For more information, please see:

[Electionsfinland.fi](https://electionsfinland.fi)

<https://elections.europa.eu/en/>

[selkokeskus.fi](https://selkokeskus.fi)

If you have any questions concerning elections or voting, you can call the Elections Helpline of the Ministry of Justice.  
The number is 0800 9 4770.

You can also send your question using WhatsApp at 050 438 8730.