

Election of the President of the Republic 2024

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A presidential election is held in Finland every six years.

The election may consist of two rounds.

If one of the candidates receives more than half of the votes in the first round, that person is elected President.

If no candidate receives more than half of the votes in the first round, a second round is held.

The second round is conducted between the two candidates who received the most votes in the first round.

First round of the presidential election:

The election day is Sunday 28 January 2024.

The advance voting period is from 17 to 23 January 2024 in Finland and from 17 to 20 January 2024 abroad.

Possible second round of the presidential election:

If there is a second round, the election day will be Sunday 11 February 2024.

The advance voting period for the second round is from 31 January to 6 February 2023 in Finland and from 31 January to 3 February 2024 abroad.

Duties of the President

The President directs Finland's foreign policy in cooperation with the Government and approves the bills that Parliament has passed.

The President appoints the Prime Minister and other ministers, judges, and certain senior public officials.

The President also decides on matters of war and peace. However, the consent of Parliament is required for these decisions.

Who can vote?

You can vote in the presidential election if

- you are a Finnish citizen and
- you have reached the age of 18 on or before 28 January 2024.

Who can you vote for?

Political parties and constituency associations may nominate candidates in the presidential election. The candidates must be Finnish citizens born in Finland.

The presidential candidates stand for election in the entire country, so you may vote for any of the candidates.

Each candidate has a candidate number. The candidate numbers are displayed at polling stations and in voting booths. Information about the candidates is available in 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. The letter contains two notices of your right to vote, in other words polling cards.

You will receive the polling cards 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.

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.

You do not need to bring the polling card to the polling station, but you must have an ID with you.

At-home voting

If you are ill or if 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 16 January 2023** 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.

If a second round is held in the presidential election, your registration for at-home voting is also valid in the second round.

Voting in advance

You may vote in advance at any general advance polling station.

The advance voting period is from 17 to 23 January 2024 in Finland and from 17 to 20 January 2024 abroad.

If a second round is held, you can similarly choose whether you want to vote on election day or in advance.

The advance voting period for the second round is from 31 January to 6 February 2023 in Finland and from 31 January to 3 February 2024 abroad.

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 advance polling station:

1. Show your ID to the election official.

The official will check your ID and give you a ballot.

2. Go to the voting booth.

Write the number of the candidate whom you wish to 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 28 January 2024.

The election day for the possible second round is Sunday 11 February 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 check your ID, find your name on the electoral roll and give you a ballot.

2. Go to the voting booth.

Write the number of the candidate whom you wish to 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.

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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.

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Vote in the presidential election! This way you can have a say on who will attend to the President's duties for the next six years.

This brochure provides easy-to-read information on voting and the 2024 presidential election.

For more information, please see www.electionsfinland.fi.

If you have any questions about the election or voting, you can also 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.