



## Presidential election 2024 – Postal voting instructions

These instructions explain what you should do if you wish to vote by post in the 2024 presidential election.

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 then cast your vote and send the ballot to the central municipal election board of your municipality of residence or population registration municipality in Finland.

You will receive the postal voting documents for both the first and the possible second round of the presidential election at the same time.

### How to vote by post?

#### 1. Vote well in advance

You can vote for a candidate in the first round of the presidential election once the candidate numbers have been confirmed, in other words on 21 December 2023 at the earliest.

If a second round is held, you may only vote for a candidate in the second round after the results of the first round and the two candidates proceeding to the second round are known. In other words, if you wish to vote in both rounds, you will need to vote and return your postal vote to Finland twice. You cannot give your vote at the same time in both rounds of the election.

Your postal vote in the first election must arrive at the central municipal election board of your municipality of residence or population registration municipality in Finland by 19.00 on Friday 26 January 2024 and in the second election by 19.00 on Friday 9 February 2024.

Please note that if your vote does not arrive in time, it will not be counted.

So don't wait too long – especially in the second round!

## 2. Find out your electoral district and choose your candidate

The presidential candidates stand for election in the entire country, so you may vote for any of the candidates. Information about the candidates and their candidate numbers is available at [www.electionsfinland.fi](http://www.electionsfinland.fi) and on the websites of the political parties and Finnish media outlets, for example.

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

When you vote in the first election, use the white ballot, and when you vote in the second election, use the brown ballot with a white circle on it. Both ballots state the election for which they are intended.

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

Fill in the 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.

## 5. Place the documents in the covering envelope

You must send the postal voting documents to the central municipal election board of the municipality that has been entered in the voting register as your municipality of residence or population registration municipality.

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.

## 6. Send the covering envelope to the central municipal election board

You must send the covering envelope from abroad to Finland at your own expense.

You are responsible for ensuring that the envelope arrives at the right central municipal election board by 19.00 on the Friday preceding election day. In other words, a postal vote cast in the first election must arrive at the board by 19.00 on 26 January 2024 and a postal vote cast in the second election by 19.00 on 9 February 2024. To ensure this, you must put a sufficient number of stamps on the envelope and deliver it to the postal service to be transported to Finland well enough in advance. If you like, you can also send the envelope as a registered letter or through an international courier service.

## Other useful information

### Postal voting with the help of an assistant

If you are unable to mark the ballot yourself, you can have a person of your choice assist you in marking the ballot and filling in the covering letter. However, a person standing as a candidate in the election or the spouse, children, siblings or parents of a candidate may not act as an assistant in postal voting, nor may either of the witnesses. The name and address of the assistant must be written on the postal vote covering letter. The assistant must conscientiously mark the ballot in accordance with the voter's instructions and keep secret any information they receive in connection with voting. Under no circumstances may the assistant make a recommendation as to which candidate the voter should vote for.

### Who can act as a witness?

Two witnesses must be present when you cast a postal vote. They must be adults, but they do not need to be Finnish citizens or speak Finnish or Swedish. However, the witness cannot be your spouse or child, nor can they be a candidate in the elections or the spouse, child, sibling or parent of a candidate.

### Which central municipal election board do I send my vote to?

Before sending your postal vote, you must find out your municipality of residence or population registration municipality in Finland and the address of the central municipal election board of that municipality. If necessary, you can call the Elections Helpline or the Digital and Population Data Services Agency to ask about your voting municipality.

You can find the addresses of the central municipal election boards on the Electionsfinland.fi website at [www.vaalit.fi/kuntien-keskusvaalilautakunnat](http://www.vaalit.fi/kuntien-keskusvaalilautakunnat) (the page available only in Finnish and Swedish). The address of the central municipal election board of your voting municipality is also mentioned on your polling card.

If you like, you can insert your polling card in the covering envelope together with the covering letter and the ballot envelope so that the address of the central municipal election board appears in the window of the covering envelope. This way you can be sure that the letter is addressed to the right central municipal election board.

### What happens when your postal vote arrives?

When your postal vote arrives at the central municipal election board, the board will first check that you are entitled to vote in the municipality in question. If some necessary information is missing from the covering letter or if it does not appear on the letter that it has been sent from abroad the vote will be discarded. After checking that everything is in order, the central municipal election board will separate the ballot envelope and the covering letter from each other. The ballot inside the ballot envelope will be counted later together with advance votes.

### More information

Elections helpline +358 800 9 4770

Information about elections, candidate numbers and voting: [electionsfinland.fi](http://electionsfinland.fi)

Information about postal voting: [vaalit.fi/en/postal-voting](http://vaalit.fi/en/postal-voting)

An example of how to fill in the covering letter and video instructions on postal voting are available at [vaalit.fi/kirjeaanestys](http://vaalit.fi/kirjeaanestys) (in Finnish) and at [vaalit.fi/sv/brevrostning](http://vaalit.fi/sv/brevrostning) (in Swedish)