



Parliamentary elections 2019

Parliamentary elections are held in Finland every four years. In parliamentary elections, Finnish citizens elect 200 Members of Parliament who decide on our common issues.

The parliamentary elections of 2019 will be held on Sunday 14 April 2019. The advance voting period in Finland is from 3 to 9 April 2019 and abroad from 3 to 6 April 2019.

Parliament's tasks

The most important task of Parliament is to enact laws. Society functions in accordance with its laws.

Parliament also decides on the state's Budget. The Budget defines where the state gets money and what the money is used for. Parliament also monitors how the state spends money. Parliament selects the Prime Minister who leads the Government, and Parliament supervises the Government's activities. In addition, Parliament decides what the state of Finland thinks about many issues that relate to the European Union.

Who can vote?

You can vote in the parliamentary elections if

- you are a Finnish citizen; and
- you have reached the age of 18 by 14 April 2019.

You will receive a polling card

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

The letter includes a polling card that contains information on which polling station to go to on election day. The letter also contains a list of advance polling stations near you.

Who can you vote for?

Finland is divided into 13 electoral districts. Each electoral district has different candidates. You can vote for a person who is a candidate in your electoral district. Your electoral district is stated on the polling card.

Each candidate has a candidate number. You can find the numbers of the candidates in your electoral district at your polling station, and elsewhere. Information about the candidates is available on TV, in the newspapers, and on the internet, for example.

At-home voting

If you are severely disabled or suffer from a long-term illness, you can vote in advance in your own home. You must register for at-home voting by 16.00 on 2 April 2019 at the central municipal election board of your home 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 can vote in advance in the parliamentary elections at any advance polling station in Finland or abroad.

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

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 that you wish to vote for clearly on the ballot.
Do not write anything else on the ballot.
3. Fold the ballot in the middle.

4. Go back to the election official.
The official will stamp the ballot
and give you a brown ballot envelope.
Put the ballot in the envelope
and seal the envelope.
5. 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.
6. Finally, the official will put the ballot envelope and the form that you signed
in a yellow covering envelope.

When you have voted, you can leave the advance polling station.

Voting on election day

On election day, 14 April 2019, polling stations are open between 9.00 and 20.00.

Check the polling card to find out where your polling station is. 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 ID with you, for example your passport, ID card or driving licence.

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 that you wish to vote for clearly on the
ballot.
Do not write anything else on the ballot.
3. Fold the ballot in the middle.

4. Go back to the election official.
The official will stamp the ballot.
5. Drop your ballot in the ballot box.

When you have voted, you can leave the polling station.

Who can you ask for help?

If you need help or advice, you can turn to the election officials who will be present at the polling stations both during the advance voting and on election day.

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 marking the ballot.

A person that you have selected yourself, such as a family member or a friend, can also act as your polling assistant. 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 yourself if you want to vote at all, and who you vote for.

Election secrecy means that you don't need to tell anyone who you voted for.

Vote in the parliamentary elections!

This brochure provides easy-to-read information on voting and parliamentary elections.

More information about voting can be found here:

vaalit.fi

selkokeskus.fi

Ministry of Justice

The Finnish Centre for Easy to Read