

# European elections 2019

Advance voting from 15 to 21 May

Election day on Sunday 26 May

The European Parliament enacts laws that affect our everyday lives.

The European Parliament also decides on the budget of the EU.

Citizens of the EU Member States

elect Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) every five years.

The elections are held in all EU Member States at the same time.

In Finland, election day is Sunday 26 May.

The advance voting period is from 15 to 21 May.

Thirteen MEPs are elected in Finland.

Political parties and constituency associations can nominate candidates.

In Finland, the candidates are the same across the entire country.

## 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.

## Who can vote?

You can vote in the European elections in Finland if

- you are a Finnish citizen, or
- you are a citizen of another EU Member State and you have registered to vote in Finland by 7 March 2019.

You can vote, on election day or in advance,  
as long as your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday is on or before election day, 26 May 2019.  
You can only vote in the European elections of one EU Member State.

### **You will receive a polling card**

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

Each candidate has a candidate number.  
You can vote for any of the candidates up for election in Finland.

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

## 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 14 May 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 choose whether you want to vote on election day or in advance.  
You can vote in advance between 15 and 21 May  
at any advance polling station.

**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.**

## How to vote on election day

**On election day, 26 May 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.**

**More information about elections:**

[electionsfinland.fi](http://electionsfinland.fi)  
[european-elections.eu](http://european-elections.eu)

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

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

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you can also call the elections helpline of the Ministry of Justice.  
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**Vote in the European elections!**

This brochure provides easy-to-read information about voting  
and the European elections of 2019.

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