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## Parliamentary elections 2023

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

### Parliament's tasks

The most important task of Parliament is to enact legislation in accordance with which Finnish society functions.

Another important task of Parliament is to decide on the Budget. The Budget defines where the state gets money and what that money is used for. Parliament also monitors how the state spends money. Parliament is responsible for selecting the Prime Minister, who leads the Government, and for overseeing the Government's activities. In addition, Parliament decides what positions Finland should take on many issues that relate to the European Union.

The 2023 parliamentary elections will be held on **Sunday 2 April 2023**.

The advance voting period is from 22 to 28 March 2023 in Finland and from 22 to 25 March 2022 abroad.

### Who can you ask for help?

**Election officials will be available to advise and help you at the polling station both during the advance voting period 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 person close to a candidate 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 do not need to tell anyone who you voted for. Because of election secrecy, you will fill in the ballot in the voting booth.

## **Who can vote?**

You can vote in the parliamentary elections

- **if you are a Finnish citizen; and**
- **you have reached the age of 18 no later than on 2 April 2023.**

## **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.

You will receive the polling card electronically if you have activated Suomi.fi Messages, an electronic communication 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 do not need to bring the polling card to the polling station, but you must have an ID with you.

## Who can you vote for?

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

The numbers of the candidates in your electoral district are displayed at the polling stations and in the voting booth. Information about the candidates is available in newspapers, on TV and on the internet, for example.

## 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 in your home during the advance voting period.

You must register for at-home voting by 16.00 on 21 March 2023 at 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.

## How to vote in advance

You can choose whether you want to vote on election day or 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 photo 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 in a yellow covering envelope.**

## **How to vote on election day**

**On election day, 2 April 2023, polling stations are open from 9.00 to 20.00.**

Check the polling card to find out where your polling station is. On election day, 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.**

- 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.**

## **Vote in the parliamentary elections!**

More information about elections:  
[electionsfinland.fi](https://electionsfinland.fi)

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.