

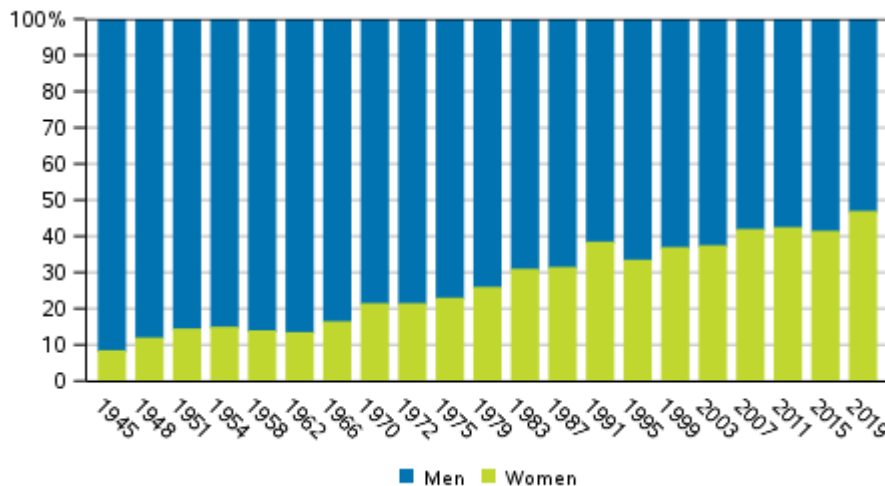
Parliamentary elections 2019

Background analysis of candidates and elected MPs

In all, 41.5 per cent of the elected MPs in the Parliamentary elections 2019 are new Members of Parliament

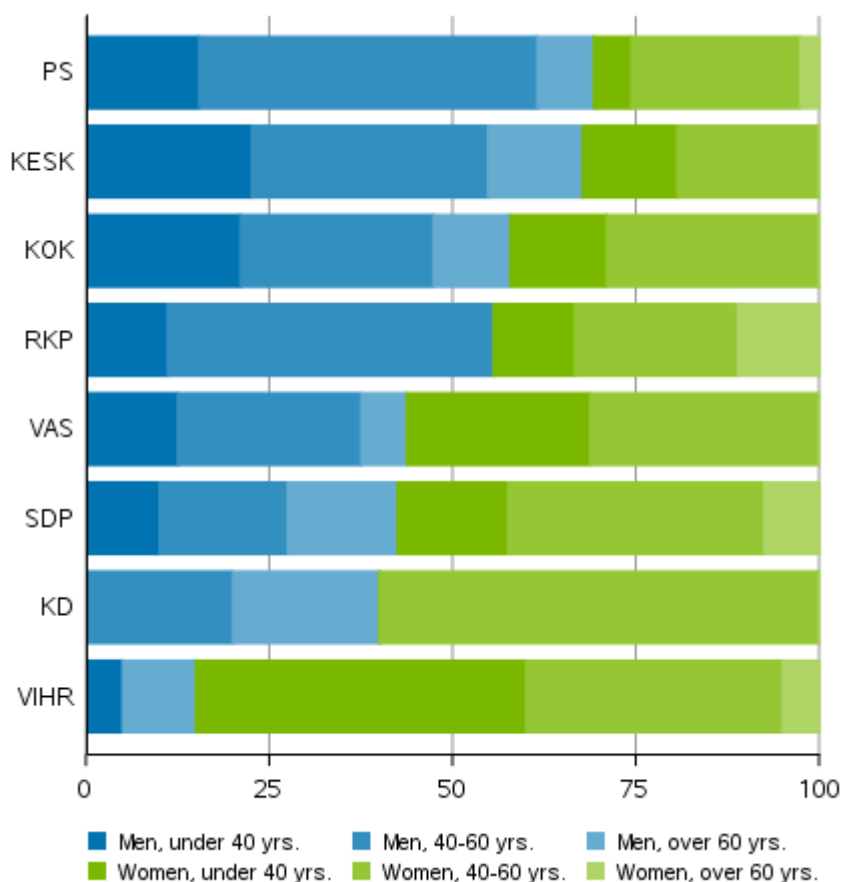
Of the MPs elected in the 2019 Parliamentary elections, 47.0 per cent were women, which is 5.0 percentage points more than among the candidates nominated by the parties. Women's share of elected MPs was bigger than in any previous Parliamentary elections. More detailed data on the candidates and elected councillors of the Parliamentary elections can be found in the review: Background analysis of candidates and elected MPs in Parliamentary elections 2019.

Men and women as percentage of elected MPs in Parliamentary elections 1945 to 2019 (%)



The share of women in parties with representatives in Parliament was biggest for the Green League (85.0%) and smallest for the Finns Party (30.8%). The average age of all MPs elected in the Parliamentary elections was 46.6 years. The average age of the elected men was 48.8 and that of women 44.1 years. The average age of the elected MPs was lowest for the Green League (42.0 years) and highest for the Christian Democrats (56.6 years).

Share of men and women among elected MPs by party and age in Parliamentary elections 2019, parliamentary parties (%)



Of the new Members of Parliament, 85.5 per cent were municipal councillors, 58.5 per cent of the elected MPs retook their seats in the Parliament. The share of persons speaking Finnish or Sami as their native language was 92.5 per cent of the elected MPs and 7.0 per were Swedish speakers. The majority of the elected MPs (96.5%) were employed persons. The median for the disposable income of the elected MPs was over EUR 55,000, over EUR 26,000 more than all candidates.

Table 1. Background analysis of candidates (by party) and elected MPs in the Parliamentary elections 2019

	Members of former Parliament (%)	Counc. in municipal councils (%)	Average age	Finn. or Sami speakers (%)	Swedish speakers (%)	Other lang. speakers (%)	Employed (%)	Unemployed (%)	In inactive pop. (%)	Avg. income
Candidates total	6.7	40.1	46.9	91.2	6.0	2.3	72.9	8.9	18.2	29,111
KESK	17.1	58.8	45.7	95.4	1.9	2.8	90.3	1.9	7.9	39,345
PS	8.0	62.4	48.1	98.1	0.9	0.5	83.6	6.1	10.3	30,257
KOK	17.1	72.5	45.4	97.2	1.4	1.4	91.5	0.9	7.6	47,476
SDP	13.4	71.8	45.6	93.5	2.8	3.7	88.9	4.2	6.9	35,888
VIHR	5.1	60.6	41.3	94.0	2.3	3.7	86.1	5.6	8.3	30,406
VAS	4.6	51.4	44.3	93.5	2.8	3.7	77.8	13.0	9.3	27,866
RKP	7.1	46.9	44.0	7.1	91.8	1.0	83.7	1.0	15.3	36,956
KD	2.6	38.4	51.3	94.7	3.7	1.1	78.4	7.4	14.2	31,119
NYT	0.9	8.3	47.1	93.6	4.6	0.9	72.5	10.1	17.4	29,650
Others	1.5	6.6	49.1	93.7	2.6	2.4	48.1	16.0	35.9	20,012
Elected MPs	58.5	85.5	46.6	92.5	7.0	0.5	96.5	1.5	2.0	55,401

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1. Background analysis of candidates and elected MPs in Parliamentary elections 2019

The following review examines persons entitled to vote in the Parliamentary elections 2019, the candidates nominated by the parties and persons elected into Parliament according to various background information. The data on persons entitled to vote derive from the voting register established on 22 February 2019 and the data on the candidates from the candidate register set up on 14 March 2019. The data on the elected MPs are based on the result confirmed on 17 April 2019. The background data are based on Statistics Finland's statistical data, such as population, employment and family statistics and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees. Of the persons entitled to vote only those resident in Finland are included in this review. The parties that got candidates elected into parliament in the 2019 Parliamentary elections are presented in the Figures and Tables, and in the analysis they are called "Parliamentary parties". This also includes the Blue Reform that separated from the Finns Party. The data on the candidates of other parties and constituency associations are summed under the group "Others".

The candidates and elected MPs differ by age structure and sex from all persons entitled to vote. Considerably fewer of the candidates are aged 30 or under and 70 or over than the persons entitled to vote, and more of the candidates are men than women. This should be considered when comparing the candidates and elected MPs with persons entitled to vote. In the tables and figures of this analysis, the data are not age-standardised. Standardisation would slightly lower the difference between the candidates, elected MPs and those entitled to vote, for example, when comparing the groups' level of education, main type of activity, family status and socio-economic group.

1.1. Summary

Women's share of the candidates rose to over 40 per cent

The total number of candidates nominated in the Parliamentary elections is 2,468, which is 322 more candidates than in the previous elections and more than ever in the 2000s. Of the candidates, 1,432 are men and 1,036 are women. In all elections in the 2000s, women's share of candidates has been just under 40 per cent. Now women's share rose to 42 per cent – the share having risen by 2.6 percentage points from the previous elections. Of the parliamentary parties, the Finns Party (31.5%) and the Blue Reform (32.9%) nominated in relative terms the least female candidates. The share of women candidates is highest in the Green League (62.0%). In addition to the Green League, the Swedish People's Party and the Christian Democrats have more female than male candidates. In constituencies, women's share is biggest in Uusimaa (44%) and smallest in Vaasa (37%).

Record number of women into Parliament

More women were elected to Parliament than ever before. In all, 94 women were elected, which is 47 per cent of all elected MPs. Compared with the 2015 elections, the number of women rose by 11. In relative terms, most women were elected from the Green League, 85 per cent. Women's shares of elected MPs were smallest in the Finns Party (30.8%) and the Centre Party (32.3%).

Nearly one third also ran in the previous elections – more than one half were re-elected

Nearly 30 per cent of the candidates were also nominated in the 2015 elections. Among the parliamentary parties, the Finnish Social Democratic Party has most of the same candidates in the elections compared to the previous elections, over 40 per cent. The Swedish People's Party (23.5%) and the Green League (29.6%) had least of the same candidates. Around 16 per cent of the Blue Reform candidates were candidates of the Finns Party in the 2015 elections.

One-half of the elected MPs were also elected directly to Parliament in the 2015 Parliamentary elections.

Of the parliamentary parties, the Blue Reform has the oldest candidates, the Green League the youngest

Candidates are, on average, 4.3 years younger than persons entitled to vote. The average age of the candidates is 46.9 years and that of persons entitled to vote 51.2 years. Of the parliamentary parties, the Blue Reform has the oldest candidates: the average age of its candidates is 54.4 years and around 38 per

cent of the candidates are aged 60 or over. The candidates of the Green League are in turn youngest in their average age. Around 15 per cent of them are aged under 30, and the average age of the candidates is 41.3 years.

Women in majority of MPs aged under 45

The elected men are clearly older than the women elected to Parliament. The average age of the elected male MPs is 48.8 years and that of female MPs 44.1 years. Nearly 60 per cent of MPs aged under 45 are women. Correspondingly, the share of women is under 30 per cent among those aged 55 or over.

Of the candidates, 2.4 per cent are of foreign origin – and 0.5 per cent of the elected MPs

The share of candidates of foreign origin is on the same level as among persons entitled to vote, around 2.5 per cent. The proportion of persons of foreign origin among all persons living in Finland is, however, higher, as only Finnish citizens are entitled to vote and eligible to stand as candidates in the Parliamentary elections. For example, around seven per cent of the population living in Finland were of foreign origin in 2017. Of the parliamentary parties, the Social Democrats and the Left Alliance have the most candidates of foreign origin, slightly over four per cent and the Finns Party the least, around half a per cent of candidates.

Of the elected MPs, 0.5 per cent are of foreign origin. Examined by language, the share of foreign-language speakers among the elected MPs is also 0.5 per cent. Altogether 7.0 per cent of the elected MPs speak Swedish as their native language. The share of foreign-language speakers among the elected MPs is two percentage points lower than their share among persons entitled to vote. The share of Swedish speakers among elected MPs is slightly bigger than their share of the population.

Candidates and elected MPs are more highly educated and more actively in working life

Nearly one-half of the candidates have tertiary level qualifications. The corresponding share is slightly under one quarter among persons entitled to vote. Under ten per cent of the candidates have only basic level education, but around one-quarter of persons entitled to vote. This is partly explained by the different age structure of people entitled to vote and the candidates. The candidates of the Green League and the National Coalition Party have the highest level of education, one-half of them have higher tertiary or doctorate level degrees.

Persons elected to Parliament are more highly educated than those entitled to vote and the candidates. Of those elected, around 70 per cent have tertiary level qualifications and about three per cent only have basic level of education.

The difference in the age structure of the candidates, elected MPs and persons entitled to vote is also reflected in their labour market position: nearly all of the elected MPs, over 70 per cent of the candidates and slightly more than one half of the persons entitled to vote are employed persons. Nearly one-third of persons entitled to vote are pensioners, but only every tenth of the candidates. Two per cent of those elected to Parliament were pensioners or otherwise in the inactive population. The employment rate is calculated from the working-age population aged 18 to 64. The employment rate of the candidates is 78 per cent, while that of persons entitled to vote is around ten percentage points lower.

By their socio-economic group, more candidates are salaried employees than persons entitled to vote: 70 per cent of the candidates and around 59 per cent of employed persons entitled to vote belong to salaried employees. For all parliamentary parties, the proportion of salaried employees is higher among candidates than among persons entitled to vote.

Nearly 80 per cent of the elected MPs were upper-level employees. Two per cent have an entrepreneurial background and three per cent are in worker occupations. Almost one-half of the new elected MPs are upper-level employees.

Of employed candidates, 43 per cent work in the public sector. Roughly the same proportion of candidates and persons entitled to vote work in the local government sector, but the central government sector employs clearly more MP candidates than persons entitled to vote. When slightly over five per cent of all persons entitled to vote are working in the central government sector, this is so for around 18 per cent of the candidates.

The majority, around two-thirds, of the elected MPs work in the central government sector, which is explained by the re-election of the current MPs. In turn, over one-half of the new MPs work in the private sector, 18.0 per cent are wage and salary earners in the central government sector and nearly one quarter wage and salary earners in the local government sector.

One-half of elected MPs are parents of families with children

The candidates and elected MPs also differ in their family status from persons entitled to vote: considerably more of them are parents of a family with children and clearly fewer are childless couples than is the case among persons entitled to vote. This is of course explained by that the age structure of candidates and elected MPs is younger than among persons entitled to vote. Of all persons entitled to vote, 22 per cent are parents of families with children, good one-third of the candidates and nearly one-half of elected MPs. In turn, one-quarter of persons entitled to vote live alone, slightly over one-fifth of the candidates and around 15 per cent of the elected MPs.

Family status does not reveal how many of the candidates have or have had children of their own, because in older families, children may have already moved away from home and in family break-ups, children may live with their other parent. This can, however, be examined based on the number of children recorded in the Finnish Population Information System. Candidates have somewhat more children than average. Of the candidates, 70 per cent have children of their own, whereas the corresponding figure for persons entitled to vote is 66 per cent. The candidates have 1.7 children, on average, and persons entitled to vote have 1.5 children.

Around one-fifth of the elected MPs are childless among both men and women. In all, 23 per cent of the elected women and 38 per cent of the men have at least three children. On average, elected women MPs have 1.8 and men 2.2 children.

Highest income level among Coalition Party candidates

Candidates are more highly educated and a larger share of them are also working than among persons entitled to vote. This largely accounts for the higher income level of candidates than persons entitled to vote. The median disposable income of the candidates is EUR 29,100 and that of all persons entitled to vote EUR 21,500. The candidates' disposable income is about 36 per cent higher than that of persons entitled to vote.

The candidates' income varies by party from around EUR 47,500 in the Coalition Party to EUR 26,300 in the Blue Reform. The highest income decile of the population entitled to vote has at least EUR 39,600 at their disposal and the lowest income decile at most EUR 9,400. Of all candidates, 27 per cent belong to the highest income decile. Of the candidates, those representing the National Coalition Party and the Centre Party belong to the higher end of the income distribution. Around 62 per cent of the Coalition Party candidates and one-half of the Centre Party candidates belong to the highest income decile.

The median for the disposable monetary income of all elected MPs is EUR 55,400 per year. Compared to persons entitled to vote, the disposable income of elected MPs is 2.6 times higher and compared to candidates, almost two times higher.

1.2. Candidates, elected councillors and persons entitled to vote by sex

Women's share of candidates 42 per cent

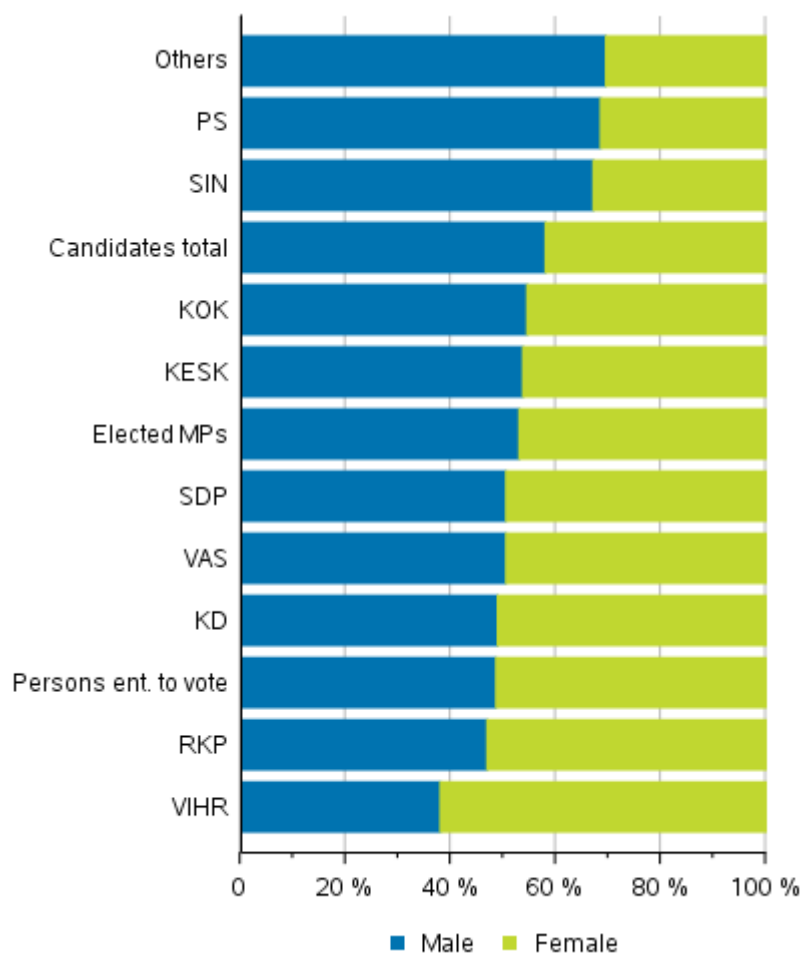
The total number of candidates nominated in the Parliamentary elections is 2,468, which is 322 more candidates than in the previous elections and more than ever in the 2000s. Four parties, that is, the Centre Party, the Social Democratic Party, the Left Alliance and the Green League nominated the maximum number of candidates, which is 216. The number of Finns Party candidates was on level with the previous time even though the Blue Reform that separated from the Finns Party now nominated 152 candidates.

Table 1. Number of candidates by party in Parliamentary elections 2011, 2015 and 2019

	Number of candidates by party			Change from the previous elections, (%)	
	2011	2015	2019	2015	2019
Candidates total	2,315	2,146	2,468	-7.3	15.0
Centre Party of Finland KESK	233	216	216	-7.3	0.0
Finns Party PS	238	215	213	-9.7	-0.9
National Coalition Party KOK	232	214	211	-7.8	-1.4
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	238	216	216	-9.2	0.0
Green League VIHR	228	208	216	-8.8	3.8
Left Alliance VAS	236	216	216	-8.5	0.0
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	83	104	98	25.3	-5.8
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	191	193	190	1.0	-1.6
Blue Reform SIN	.	.	152	.	.
Others	636	564	740	-11.3	31.2

Of the candidates, 1,432 are men and 1,036 are women. Women's share of candidates is now 42 per cent, the share having grown by 2.6 percentage points from the previous elections. Among the major parliamentary parties, the Finns Party (31.5 %) and the Blue Reform (32.9 %) nominated the least female candidates in the 2019 elections. The Green League (62.0 %) and the Swedish People's Party (53.1 %) have the highest shares of female candidates. In addition to them, the Christian Democrats in Finland have more female than male candidates. The majority, or 51.4 per cent, of the persons entitled to vote are women.

Figure 1. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by sex in Parliamentary elections 2019, %



Women's share of candidates in the Parliamentary elections now rose for the first time in the 2000s to over 40 per cent. Women's share of candidates is higher than in the previous elections for all other parties except the Coalition Party and the Finns Party. The share of female candidates fell in the Coalition Party by 0.8 percentage points and in the Finns Party by 3.8 percentage points. The Blue Reform also nominated fewer women as its candidates (32.9%) than the Finns Party in the 2015 elections. The share of female candidates rose most in the Swedish People's Party (by 8.9 percentage points) and in the Centre Party (by 6.5 percentage points).

Women's share of elected MPs 47 per cent

In all, 106 men and 94 women were elected as MPs. Women's proportion of the elected MPs is 47 per cent, which is five percentage points higher than women's proportion of candidates. Women's proportion of the elected MPs rose in the 2007 elections to over 40 per cent. Compared with the 2015 elections, 11 more women were elected, that is, women's share grew by 5.5 percentage points.

In relative terms, most women were elected from the Green League, 85 per cent. Women are also in the majority in the elected MPs of the Christian Democrats, the Social Democratic Party and the Left Alliance. In all these parties, women's share of elected MPs is bigger than among candidates. Women's shares of elected MPs were smallest in the Finns Party (30.8%) and the Centre Party (32.3%). Correspondingly, women's share of elected MPs in these parties as well as in the Coalition Party and the Christian Democrats is smaller than their share of candidates.

Table 2. Women's proportion of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected MPs (by party) in Parliamentary elections 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019, %

		2007	2011	2015	2019
	Persons ent. to vote	51.6	51.6	51.5	51.4
Candidates	Parties total	39.9	39.0	39.4	42.0
	Centre Party of Finland KESK	43.8	41.2	39.8	46.3
	National Coalition Party KOK	44.0	44.8	46.3	45.5
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	49.1	43.3	47.2	49.5
	Left Alliance VAS	45.7	43.6	43.1	49.5
	Green League VIHR	52.5	51.8	56.3	62.0
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	39.4	42.9	45.6	51.1
	Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	45.3	44.6	44.2	53.1
	Finns Party PS	25.0	33.2	35.3	31.5
	Blue Reform SIN	-	-	-	32.9
	Others	28.2	28.5	24.5	30.5
Elected MPs	Parties total	42.0	42.5	41.5	47.0
	Centre Party of Finland KESK	29.4	34.3	28.6	32.3
	National Coalition Party KOK	40.0	34.1	43.2	42.1
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	55.6	64.3	61.8	57.5
	Left Alliance VAS	17.6	42.9	58.3	56.3
	Green League VIHR	66.7	50.0	46.7	85.0
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	57.1	50.0	60.0	60.0
	Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	55.6	55.6	33.3	44.4
	Finns Party PS	20.0	28.2	31.6	30.8
	Others	100.0	100.0	-	-

Least women among candidates in the constituency of Vaasa

In the 2019 elections, the smallest share of women candidates is found in the constituency of Vaasa, around 37 per cent. It is the only constituency where women's share of candidates is under 40 per cent. In the constituency of Vaasa, the share of female candidates has remained unchanged since 2007.

In Mainland Finland constituencies, the share of female candidates is highest in Uusimaa, where 44 per cent of the candidates were women. There are also more women than average among candidates in the constituencies of Central Finland, Oulu, Häme and Southwest Finland. Compared with the previous elections, women's share of candidates grew most in Lapland (by 4.6 percentage points), Uusimaa (by 4.5 percentage points) and Pirkanmaa (by 4.4 percentage points):

Two of the five candidates in the constituency of Åland are women, i.e. 40 per cent.

The majority, 51.4 per cent, of the persons entitled to vote are women. The female majority is biggest in the constituency of Helsinki, where 54.2 per cent of the persons entitled to vote are women. The Oulu constituency is the only one where women's share of persons entitled to vote is under 50 per cent.

The underrepresentation of women among candidates is largest in the constituencies of Vaasa and Helsinki, where there are 13 percentage points fewer women candidates than their share of persons entitled to vote. This difference is smallest in the constituencies of Oulu, Central Finland and Uusimaa, six to seven percentage points.

Most women elected in relative terms from the constituencies of Satakunta and Savo-Karelia

In relative terms, the highest number of women were elected in the constituencies of Satakunta and Savo-Karelia, where women's share was at least 60 per cent of the elected MPs. At least one-half of the elected MPs were also women in the constituencies of Helsinki (59.1%), Varsinais-Suomi (52.9%) and Häme (50.0%). In relative terms, the lowest number of women were elected in the constituency of Vaasa, where under 20 per cent are women. It should be noted, however, that in small constituencies randomness may swing the gender proportions quite substantially.

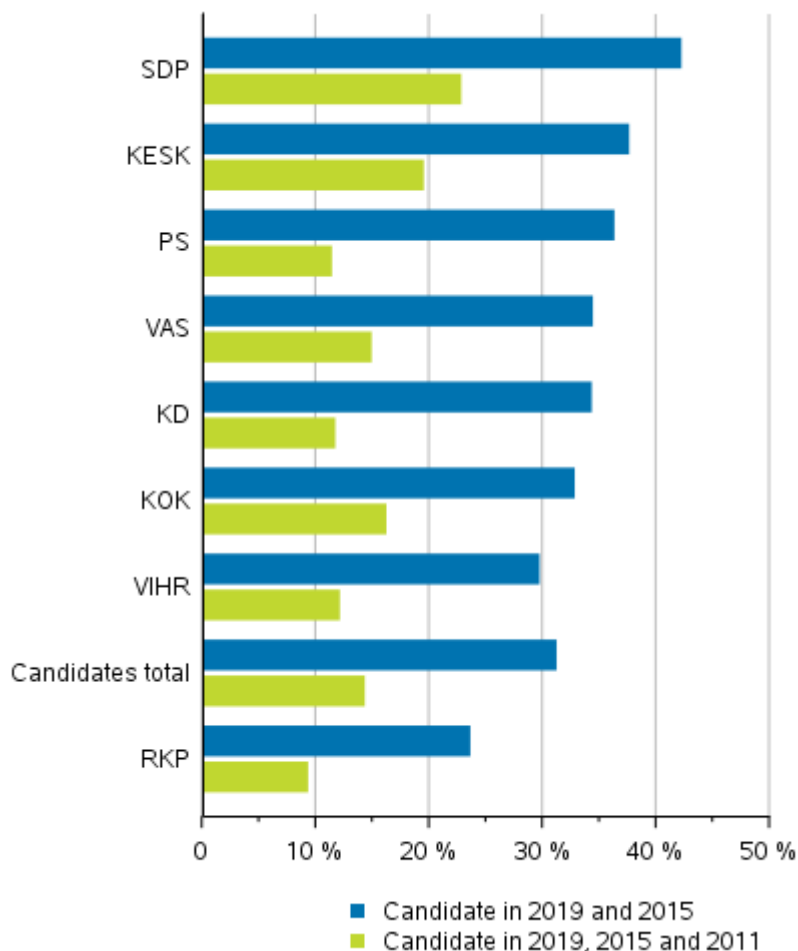
Table 3. Proportion of women of candidates and elected MPs by constituency in Parliamentary elections, 2011, 2015 and 2019, %

	2011		2015		2019	
	Candidates	Elected MPs	Candidates	Elected MPs	Candidates	Elected MPs
Whole country	39.0	42.5	39.4	41.5	42.0	47.0
Helsinki	40.8	42.9	41.3	36.4	41.3	59.1
Uusimaa	40.9	48.6	39.6	34.3	44.1	47.2
Varsinais-Suomi	40.3	47.1	41.0	52.9	42.4	52.9
Satakunta	40.2	33.3	38.1	50.0	40.2	62.5
Häme	38.6	42.9	42.5	42.9	43.2	50.0
Pirkanmaa	36.7	44.4	37.4	42.1	41.8	42.1
Southeast Finland	36.3	38.9	38.9	41.2	40.8	47.1
Savo-Karelia	40.7	33.3	38.1	50.0	41.2	60.0
Vaasa	36.1	35.3	35.9	31.3	36.9	18.8
Central Finland	41.8	60.0	40.9	30.0	43.8	40.0
Oulu	38.5	33.3	40.6	50.0	43.5	44.4
Lapland	33.3	42.9	35.6	57.1	40.2	42.9

Nearly one-third of the candidates also ran in 2015

Of the candidates in the Parliamentary elections 2019, nearly 30 per cent also ran in the 2015 elections and around 13 per cent had been candidates both in the 2015 and 2011 elections. Among the parliamentary parties, the Social Democratic Party (42.1%) has most of the same candidates in the elections compared to the previous elections. The Swedish People's Party (23.5%) and the Green League (29.6%) had least of the same candidates. Around 16 per cent of the Blue Reform candidates were candidates of the Finns Party in the 2015 elections.

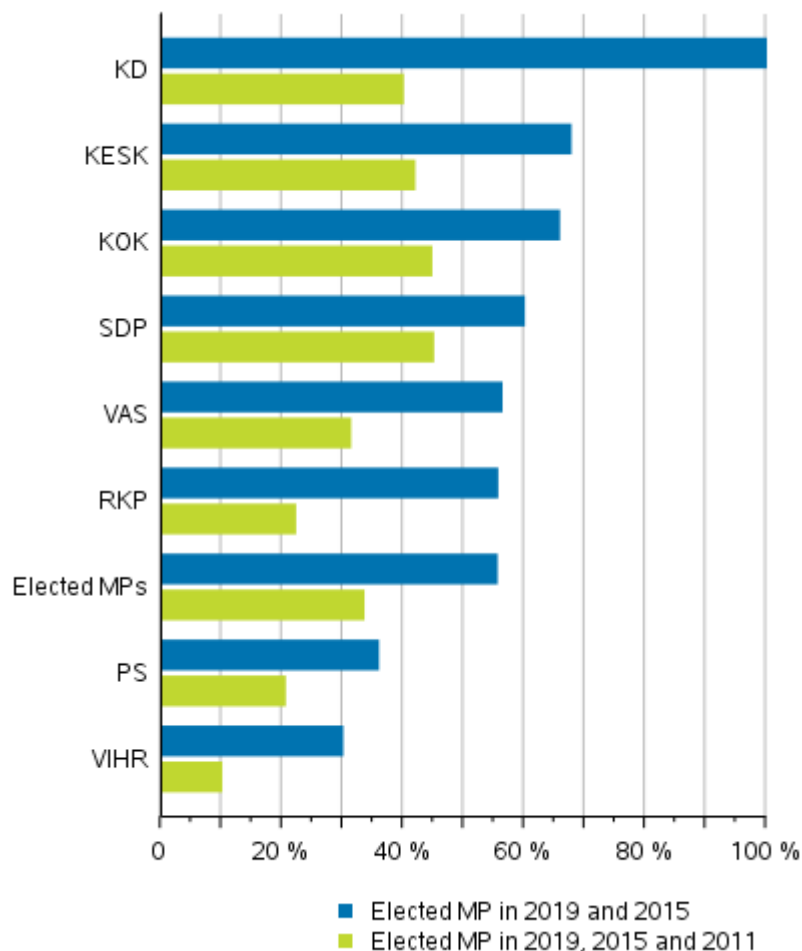
Figure 2. Proportion of the same candidates (by party) in the Parliamentary elections 2011, 2015 and 2019, % of the party's candidates



One-third of elected MPs were also elected in two previous elections

Of the elected MPs, 111, that is, 55.5 per cent had been elected directly in the previous elections in 2015 as well. Due to person changes during the Parliamentary period, slightly more of the elected MPs were MPs in the former Parliament, that is, 117 (58.5%). In relative terms, the Christian Democrats have most of the same elected MPs, as all their MPs elected now were also elected in the 2015 elections. The Centre Party, the loser of the elections, has the second most of the same candidates (67.7%). In relative terms, the lowest number (30%) of the same MPs were elected from the Green League, which is one of the winners of the elections, and from the Finns Party (35.9%), part of whose MPs elected in the previous elections ran for the Blue Reform. Good one-third of the MPs in the new Parliament were elected in both the 2015 and 2011 elections.

Figure 3. Proportion of the same elected MPs (by party) in the Parliamentary elections 2011, 2015 and 2019, % of the party's elected MPs



1.3. Age structure

Candidates are, on average, 4.3 years younger than persons entitled to vote

The average age of male candidates is 47.9 years and that of female candidates 45.5 years. On average, female candidates are nearly seven years younger than persons entitled to vote and male candidates around two years younger. The average age of persons entitled to vote has risen by around one year since the previous Parliamentary elections. On the day of the election, the average age of persons entitled to vote is now 49.8 for men and 52.3 for women.

The age structure of the candidates is different from that of persons entitled to vote. The age pyramid of neither group is no longer a pyramid as the name indicates. The pyramid of persons entitled to vote is fairly uniform up to those aged 74, after which the age groups shrink considerably. The pyramid of the candidates shows the majority of men in all age groups and the fact that the youngest and oldest age groups are missing. There are most male candidates aged 35 to 39 and 55 to 59. For female candidates, the focus is between the ages 40 to 54.

Figure 4. Age distributions of persons entitled to vote by sex in Parliamentary elections 2019, % of all persons entitled to vote

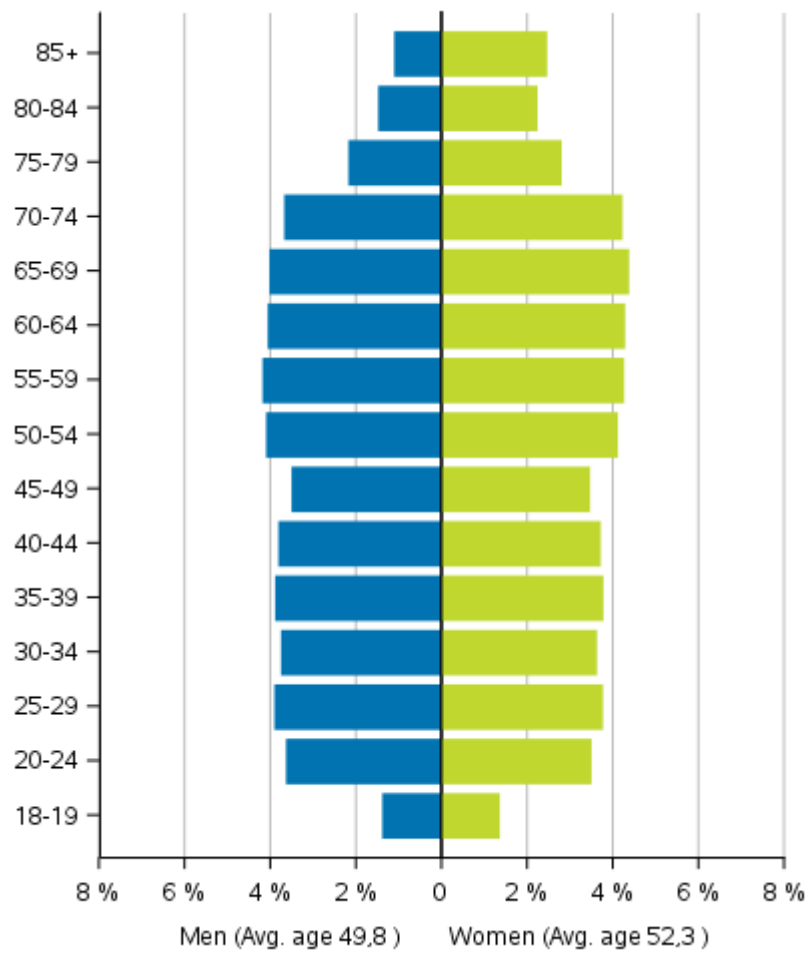
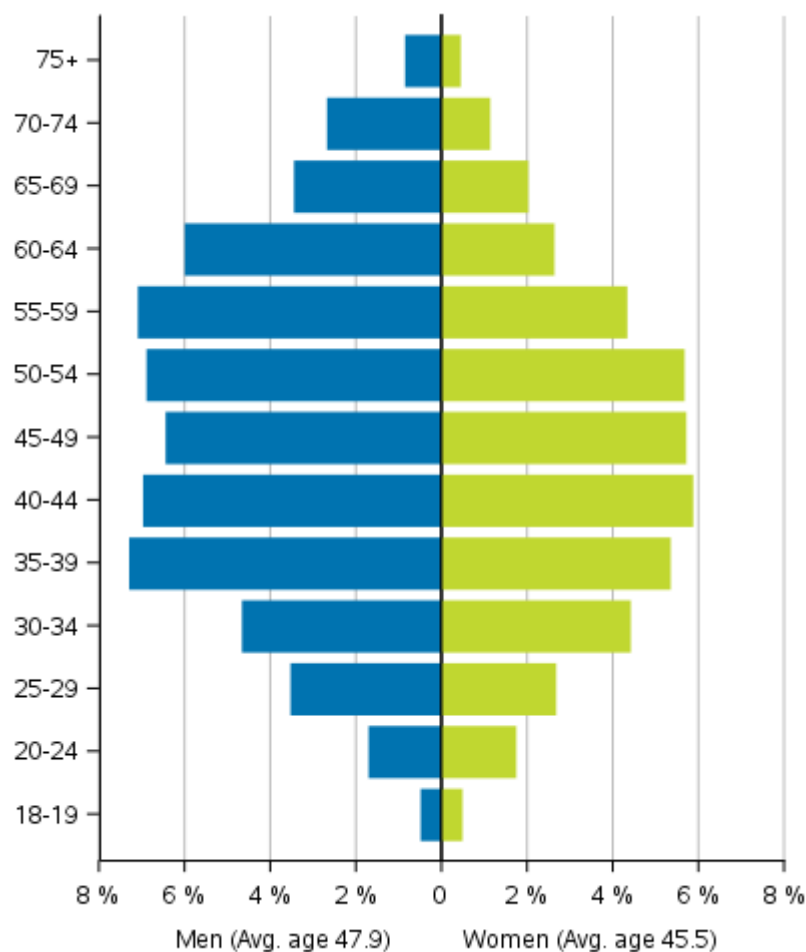


Figure 5. Age distributions of candidates by sex in Parliamentary elections 2019, % of all candidates

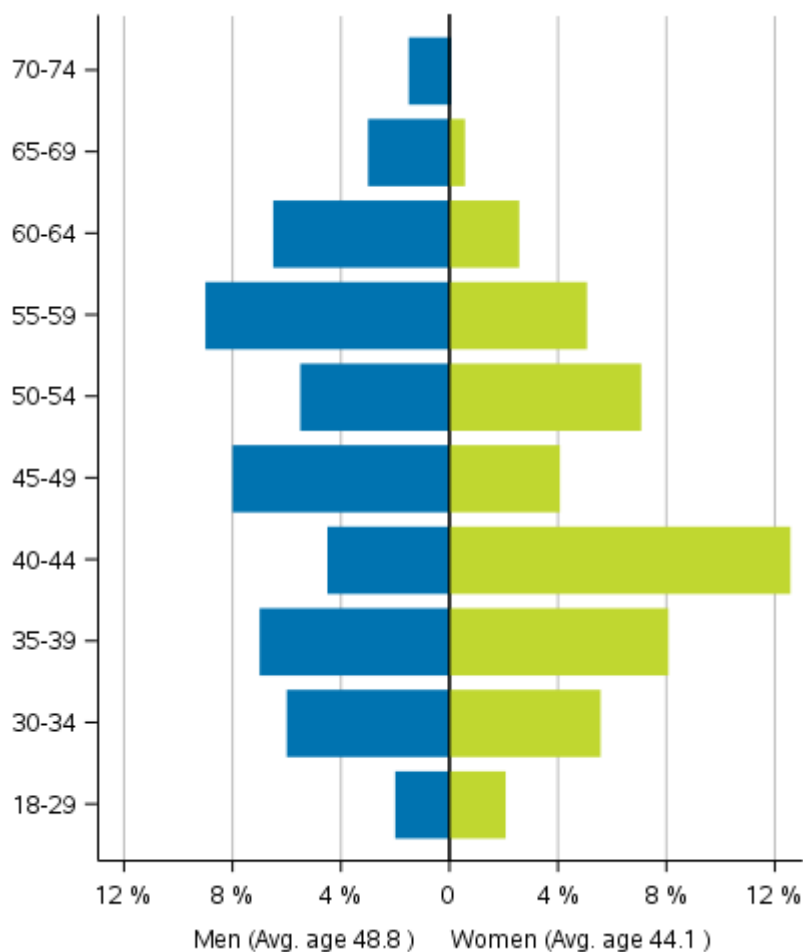


Majority of MPs aged under 45 are women

The elected men are clearly older than the women elected to Parliament. The average age of the elected male MPs is 48.8 years and that of female MPs 44.1 years. Men are most numerous among those aged 55 to 59 (9.0 per cent of all elected MPs) and women among those aged 40 to 44 (12.5 per cent of all elected MPs): Nearly 60 per cent of MPs aged under 45 are women. Correspondingly, the share of women is under 30 per cent among those aged 55 or over.

Elected MPs from the Christian Democrat Party and the Swedish People's Party are older than the average. The average age of elected MPs from the Christian Democrats is 56.6 years and that of MPs from the Swedish People's Party 49.9 years. In turn, the age of MPs is lowest in the Green League (42 years) and the Left Alliance (43 years). (Table 4, Figure 6)

Figure 6. Age distributions of elected MPs by sex in Parliamentary elections 2019, % of all elected MPs



Blue Reform candidates oldest

Of the parliamentary parties, the Blue Reform has the oldest candidates: the average age of their candidates is 54.4 years and around 38 per cent of the candidates are aged 60 or over. The candidates of the Green League are in turn youngest in their average age. Around 15 per cent of them are aged under 30, and the average age of the candidates is 41.3 years. The Swedish People's Party has the most candidates aged under 30, slightly over 17 per cent, which is almost the same as the share of persons aged under 30 among all persons entitled to vote. Around 10 per cent of all candidates are aged under 30 and 19 per cent are aged 60 or over. Only three parties, the Green League, the Swedish People's Party and the National Coalition Party have more candidates aged under 30 than those aged 60 or over.

Figure 7. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by age group in Parliamentary elections 2019, %

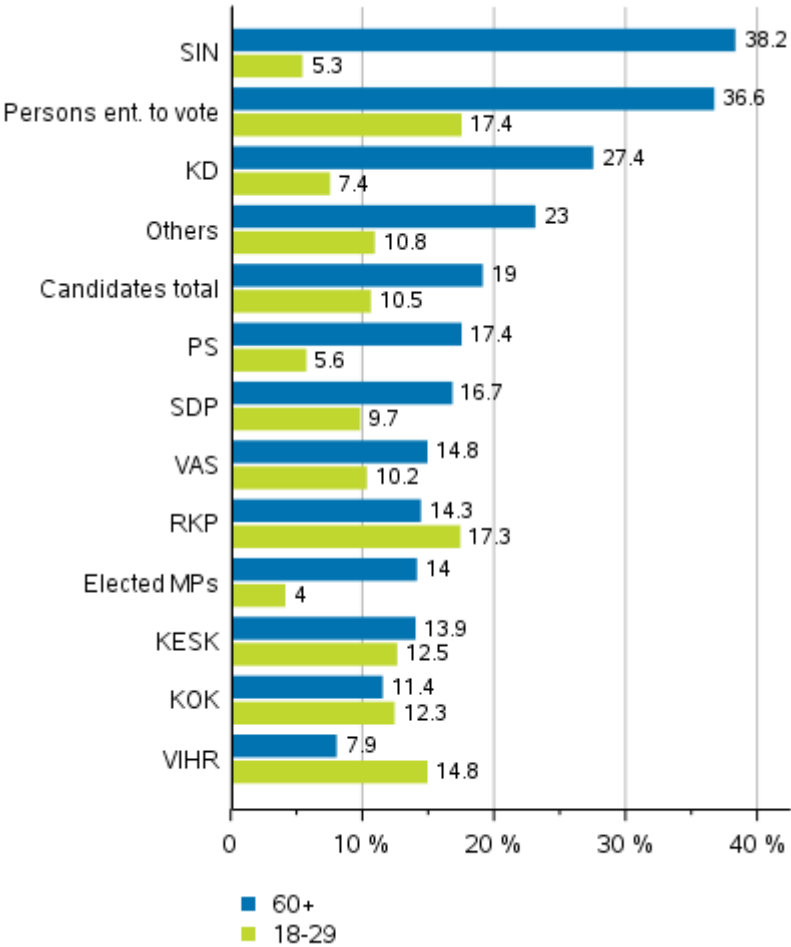


Table 4. Average age of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected MPs (by party) by sex in Parliamentary elections 2019

		Male	Female	Total
	Persons ent. to vote	49.8	52.3	51.1
Candidates	Parties total	47.9	45.5	46.9
	KESK	46.4	44.8	45.7
	PS	49.1	45.8	48.1
	KOK	46.9	43.6	45.4
	SDP	47.2	43.9	45.6
	VIHR	43.0	40.3	41.3
	VAS	44.9	43.7	44.3
	RKP	47.3	41.2	44.0
	KD	51.7	50.9	51.3
	SIN	54.2	54.7	54.4
	Others	47.7	47.7	47.7
	Elected MPs	Parties total	48.8	44.1
KESK		48.0	42.7	46.3
PS		47.3	45.5	46.7
KOK		47.2	43.8	45.8
SDP		52.8	46.3	49.1
VIHR		53.3	39.9	42.0
VAS		49.1	38.2	43.0
RKP		46.8	53.8	49.9
KD		58.5	55.3	56.6
Others		50.0	.	50.0

1.4. Foreign background

Altogether 2.3 per cent of candidates foreign-language speakers

The share of foreign-language speakers among the candidates is on the same level as among persons entitled to vote. Of the candidates, 2.3 per cent are foreign-language speakers and 2.4 per cent of the persons entitled to vote speak a foreign language as their native language. The proportion of foreign-language speaking candidates is almost on the same level starting from the 2011 Parliamentary elections, even though the share of foreign-language speakers entitled to vote has grown. In the 2011 elections, the relative share of foreign-language speakers was higher among candidates than among persons entitled to vote. Over 60 per cent of foreign-language speaking candidates are running in the constituencies of Helsinki or Uusimaa.

There are also slightly more Swedish-speaking candidates than persons entitled to vote. Of the persons entitled to vote, 5.2 per cent speak Swedish as their native language, while 6.0 per cent of the candidates do. In Mainland Finland, the Swedish-speaking candidates are focused on the constituencies of Vaasa, Helsinki, Uusimaa and Varsinais-Suomi.

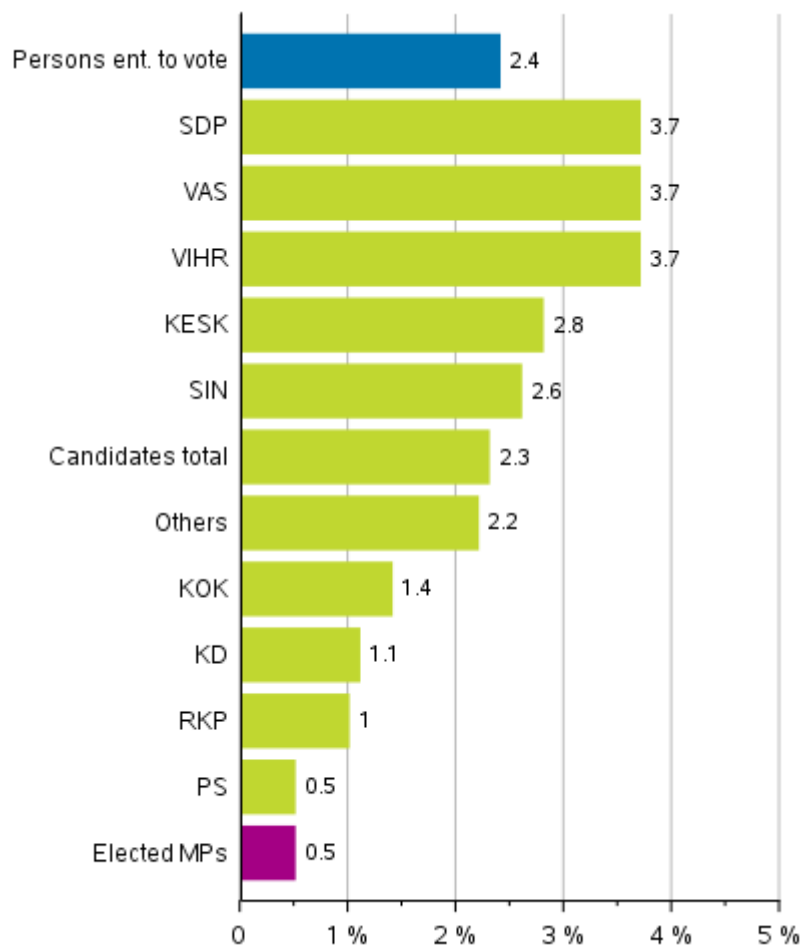
Table 5. Persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected MPs by sex and language in Parliamentary elections 2019, %

		Male	Female	Total
Persons ent. to vote	Finnish, sami	92.2	92.2	92.2
	Swedish	5.4	5.1	5.2
	Other language	2.3	2.6	2.4
	Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Candidates total	Finnish, sami	91.4	90.8	91.2
	Swedish	5.3	6.9	6.0
	Other language	2.6	1.9	2.3
	Unknown	0.7	0.3	0.5
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Elected MPs	Finnish, sami	90.6	94.7	92.5
	Swedish	8.5	5.3	7.0
	Other language	0.5
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

The Green League, the Left Alliance and the Social Democratic Party have the most foreign-language speaking candidates, 3.7 per cent. In turn, the number of foreign-language speaking candidates is lowest in the Finns Party, the Swedish People's Party and the Christian Democrats, around one per cent or lower.

Of the elected MPs, 0.5 per cent are foreign-language speakers and 7.0 Swedish speakers. The share of foreign-language speakers among the elected MPs is two percentage lower than their share among persons entitled to vote. The share of Swedish speakers among elected MPs is slightly bigger than their share of the population.

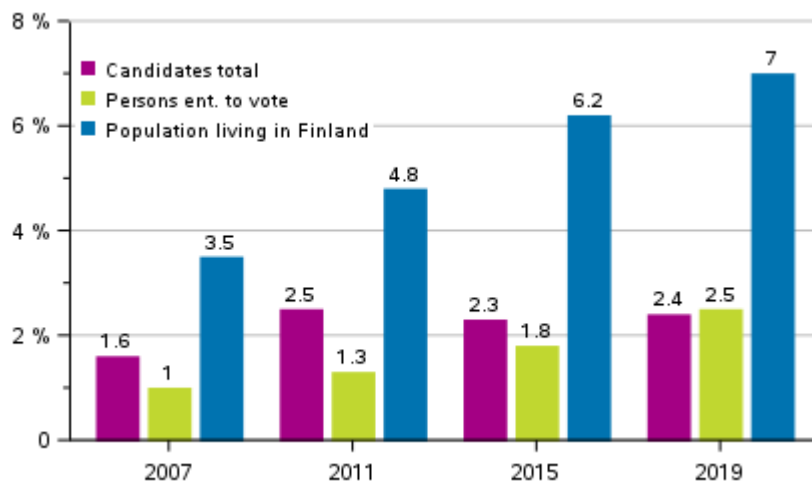
Figure 8. Foreign-language speakers' proportion of persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs in Parliamentary elections 2019, %



In all, 2.4 per cent of the candidates are of foreign origin

The foreign background of the population can also be examined by the person's origin. Persons, whose both parents (or only parent) have been born abroad, are defined as persons of foreign origin. In the Parliamentary elections 2019, altogether 2.4 per cent of the candidates and 2.5 per cent of persons entitled to vote are of foreign origin. Compared with the previous elections, the proportion of persons of foreign origin has grown among persons entitled to vote, but remained on the same level among the candidates. The proportion of persons of foreign origin among all persons living in Finland is, however, higher, as only Finnish citizens are entitled to vote and eligible to stand as candidates in the Parliamentary elections. For example, around seven per cent of the population living in Finland were of foreign origin in 2017.

Figure 9. The proportion of persons of foreign origin among persons entitled to vote and candidates in Parliamentary elections 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019, %

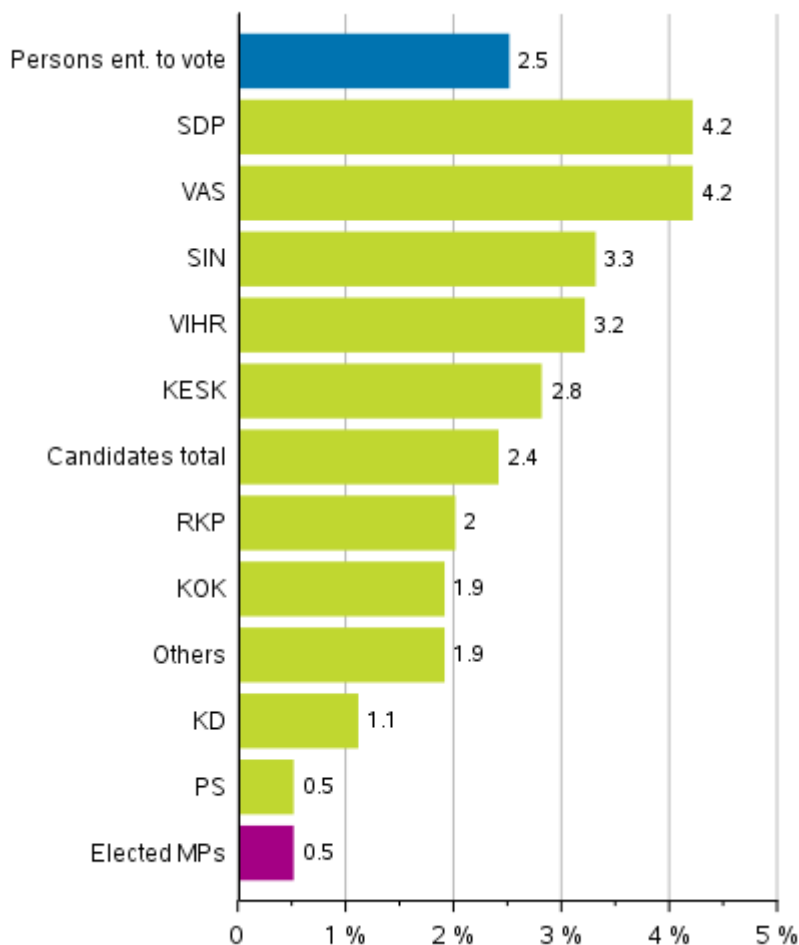


Latest data concerning the population living in Finland is from at the end of 2017

Of the parliamentary parties, the Social Democratic Party and the Left Alliance (4.2%) have the most candidates of foreign origin. Of the parliamentary parties, the Finns Party has the least candidates of foreign origin, around half a per cent of the nominated candidates.

In all, 0.5 per cent of the elected MPs are of foreign origin.

Figure 10. Proportion of persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs of foreign origin in Parliamentary elections 2019, %



1.5. Educational level

More and more highly educated people are seeking entry to the Parliament

Highly educated people are seeking entry to the Parliament. The education level of candidates has risen from one election to another. In the 2007 elections, around 14 per cent of candidates had only basic level education and in the 2015 elections, slightly under 10 per cent and now in the 2019 elections, 8.5 per cent have only basic level education. Correspondingly, the share of candidates with tertiary level qualifications has increased from the 2007 elections by around nine percentage points, from 39 to 48 per cent.

Of persons entitled to vote, around 23 per cent have tertiary level qualifications and 24 per cent have only basic level education.

The candidates of the Green League and the National Coalition Party have the highest level of education, one-half of them have higher tertiary or doctorate level degrees. The number of candidates with this level of education is lowest among the candidates of the Finns Party (17.4%), the Blue Reform and the Left Alliance (in both around 23%).

Seventy per cent of elected MPs have tertiary level qualifications

Highly educated people are elected as MPs. Over 70 per cent of the elected MPs have tertiary level education, while this is the case for around one-half of all candidates and for about 23 per cent of all persons entitled to vote. Just three per cent of the MPs rely on basic level education. Of the candidates 8.5 per cent had completed only basic level education and around 24 per cent of all persons entitled to vote.

Women are nowadays more educated than men, particularly in the youngest age groups. This is also the case in the new Parliament. Around 82 per cent of female MPs have completed tertiary level qualifications and 62 per cent of male MPs.

Table 6. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) and elected MPs by educational level in Parliamentary elections 2019, %

	Basic level	Upper secondary level	Lowest level tertiary	Lower-degree tertiary	Higher-degree level tertiary, doctorate	Total
Persons ent. to vote	24.0	43.5	10.0	11.8	10.7	100.0
Candidates						
Candidates total	8.5	34.0	9.4	16.1	32.1	100.0
Centre Party of Finland KESK	2.3	22.7	13.4	19.0	42.6	100.0
Finns Party PS	10.8	43.7	10.3	17.8	17.4	100.0
National Coalition Party KOK	2.8	18.5	10.9	15.2	52.6	100.0
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	6.0	29.2	11.6	19.0	34.3	100.0
Green League VIHR	3.7	19.9	4.6	17.1	54.6	100.0
Left Alliance VAS	5.1	44.4	5.1	22.2	23.1	100.0
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	5.1	26.5	4.1	18.4	45.9	100.0
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	5.8	22.1	12.6	15.8	43.7	100.0
Blue Reform SIN	11.2	37.5	17.1	11.2	23.0	100.0
Others	14.9	44.6	8.0	12.8	19.7	100.0
Elected MPs						
Male	4.7	27.4	5.7	15.1	47.2	100.0
Female	1.1	11.7	5.3	14.9	67.0	100.0
Total	3.0	20.0	5.5	15.0	56.5	100.0

1.6. Labour market position

A majority of candidates are in working life

The biggest difference in the main activity of candidates and persons entitled to vote is found in the share of employed persons and pensioners. The latest statistical data on the population's main type of activity are from the end of 2017. At that time, a little over one-half of all persons entitled to vote were employed, while over 70 per cent of the candidates were employed. There are, in turn, clearly more pensioners among persons entitled to vote than among candidates, i.e. around 32 per cent. Around one in ten of the candidates are pensioners. The difference is mainly caused by the age structure. Of the candidates, around ten per cent are aged 65 or over, while 28 per cent of the persons entitled to vote have turned 65. If the candidates are compared with the persons entitled to vote aged under 65, the difference between the candidates and persons entitled to vote decreases.

Over 90 per cent of the Coalition Party and Centre Party candidates are employed. In addition, over 80 per cent of the Social Democratic Party, Green League, Swedish People's Party and Finns Party candidates are working. Of the parliamentary parties, the share of employed persons is lowest for the candidates of the Blue Reform, where around 60 per cent were employed at the end of 2017. The share of pensioners is nearly triple for candidates outside the parliamentary parties (18.5%) compared with the parliamentary parties (6.7%). Of the parliamentary parties, the Blue Reform (23.7%) and the Swedish People's Party (11.1%) have the most pensioner candidates.

The number of students is slightly higher among persons entitled to vote and that of unemployed persons slightly lower than among the candidates. The Swedish People's Party has the most student candidates and the Left Alliance and the Blue Reform have the most unemployed candidates.

Nearly all elected MPs, or 96.5 per cent, were employed at the end of 2017. In all, 1.5 per cent of elected MPs were unemployed and two per cent were pensioners or otherwise in the inactive population.

Figure 11. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by main type of activity in Parliamentary elections 2019, %

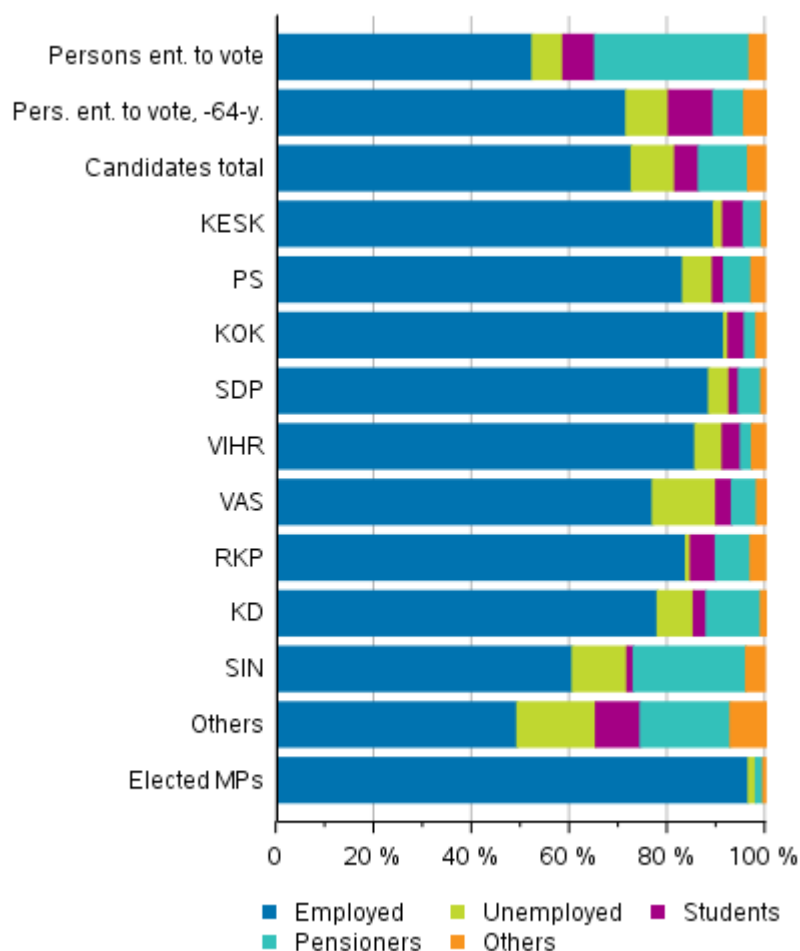


Table 7. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) and elected MPs by main type of activity in Parliamentary elections 2019, %

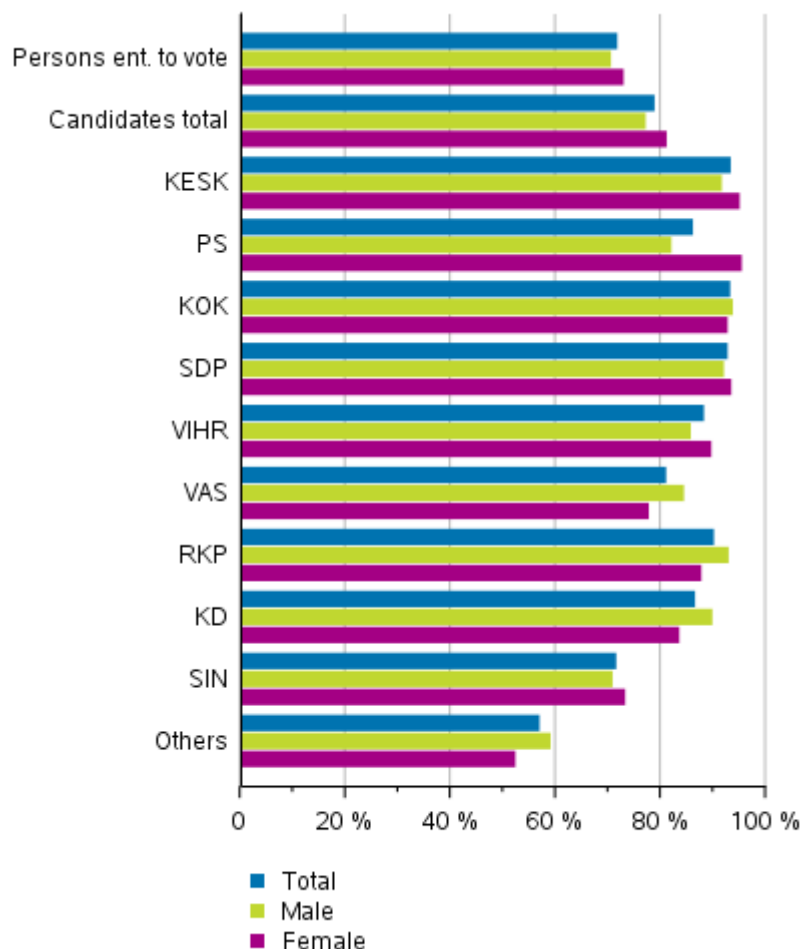
	Employed	Unemployed	Students	Pensioners	Others	Total
Persons ent. to vote	52.3	6.3	6.5	31.6	3.3	100.0
Pers. ent. to vote, -64-y.	71.5	8.7	9.1	6.3	4.5	100.0
Candidates total	72.6	8.9	4.8	10.1	3.6	100.0
Centre Party of Finland KESK	89.4	1.9	4.2	3.7	0.9	100.0
Finns Party PS	83.1	6.1	2.3	5.6	2.8	100.0
National Coalition Party KOK	91.5	0.9	3.3	2.4	1.9	100.0
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	88.4	4.2	1.9	4.6	0.9	100.0
Green League VIHR	85.6	5.6	3.7	2.3	2.8	100.0
Left Alliance VAS	76.9	13.0	3.2	5.1	1.9	100.0
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	83.7	1.0	5.1	7.1	3.1	100.0
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	77.9	7.4	2.6	11.1	1.1	100.0
Blue Reform SIN	60.5	11.2	1.3	23.0	3.9	100.0
Others	49.2	16.1	9.1	18.4	7.3	100.0
Elected MPs	96.5	1.5	-	1.5	0.5	100.0

Employment rate highest among candidates of the Centre Party of Finland, the Finnish Social Democratic Party, and the National Coalition Party

The employment rate refers to the ratio of employed persons to the population of a particular age, usually the age group 15 to 64 is used. Here, the employment rate has been calculated for the age group 18 to 64. The employment rate of persons entitled to vote is 71.5 per cent. The employment rate of the candidates is clearly higher. The employment rate of all candidates is 78.6 per cent. The employment rate is highest among the candidates of the Coalition Party, the Centre Party and the Social Democratic Party: their employment rate is around 93 per cent. The Blue Reform candidates have the lowest employment rate among the parliamentary parties, 71.3 per cent.

Women's employment rate is usually higher. The employment rate of women entitled to vote is 2.4 percentage points higher than that of men, and the rate of women candidates is four percentage points higher than that of men candidates. There are, however, differences between the parties. Women's employment rate is higher than men's for the candidates of the Finns Party, the Green League, the Centre Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Blue Reform. The employment rate is highest of all for the women candidates of the Finns Party, 95 per cent.

Figure 12. Employment rate of persons entitled to vote and candidates by party in Parliamentary elections 2019, share of employed persons aged 18 to 64, %



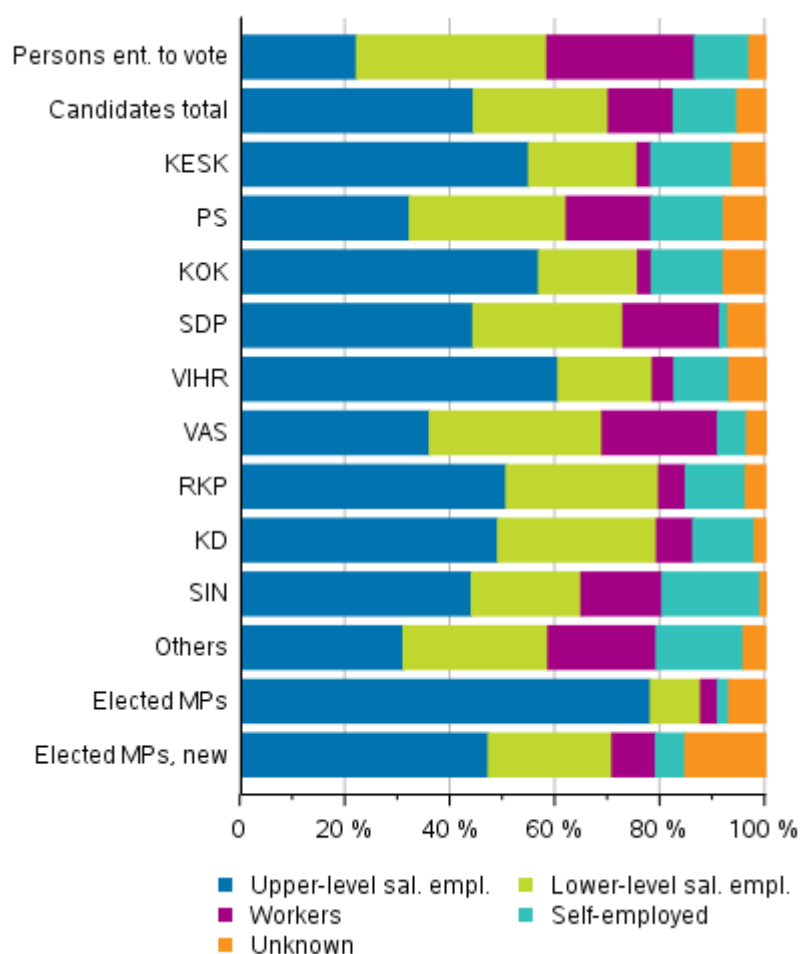
Majority of employed candidates salaried employees

Seventy per cent of employed candidates are salaried employees. Around 59 per cent of employed persons entitled to vote belong to this group. The Swedish People's Party and the Christian Democrats have the most salaried employees (around 80 per cent) as candidates. For all parliamentary parties, the proportion of salaried employees is higher among candidates than among persons entitled to vote. However, the number of salaried employees among candidates of parties outside the parliament and constituency associations is clearly lower than in the parliamentary parties.

One in ten persons entitled to vote and slightly more of the candidates (12%) are self-employed. Among the parliamentary parties, the most candidates with entrepreneurial background can be found in the Blue Reform and the Centre Party. The socio-economic group of 28 per cent of persons entitled to vote is manual worker. A clearly smaller proportion of candidates belong to this group (12.4%). The Left Alliance (22%) and the Social Democratic Party have most worker (18.4%) candidates.

Nearly 80 per cent of the elected MPs were upper-level employees. Two per cent have an entrepreneurial background and three per cent are in worker occupations. Nearly one-half of the new elected MPs are upper-level employees.

Figure 13. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by socio-economic group in Parliamentary elections 2019, %



The central government sector employs candidates more than persons entitled to vote

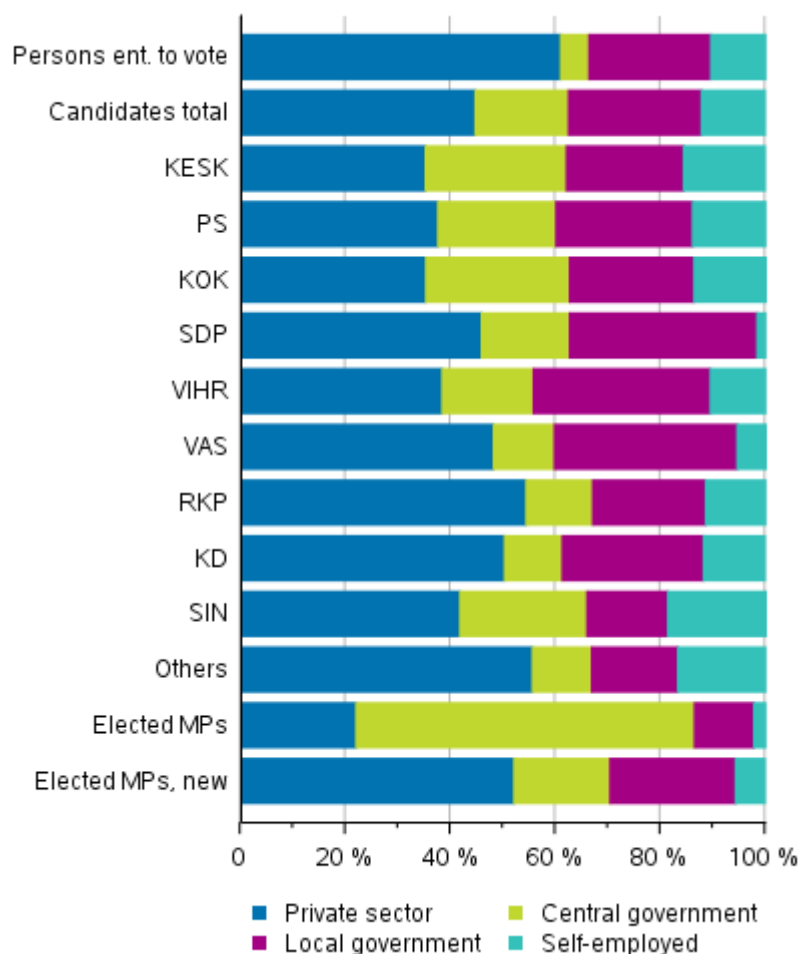
Of employed candidates, 43 per cent work in the public sector. Roughly the same proportion of candidates and persons entitled to vote work in the local government sector but the central government sector employs clearly more MP candidates than persons entitled to vote. When around five per cent of all persons entitled to vote work in the central government sector, among candidates their proportion is nearly one fifth. This is largely explained by the fact that 165 of the candidates are Members of Parliament who are thus employed by the central government sector. If we only examine candidates who are not Members of Parliament at the moment, the proportion of employees in the central government sector is still emphasised among candidates: 10.6 per cent of new candidates work in the central government sector.

The employer sector of the candidates varies significantly by party. The Coalition Party and the Centre Party have the most candidates working in the central government sector, around 27 per cent, the Christian Democrats (11.0%) and the Left Alliance (11.6%) the least. Most local government sector employees were found among the candidates of the SDP, the Left Alliance and the Green League, good one third. Most candidates working in the private sector are those of the Swedish People's Party and the Christian Democrats, that is, over one half. The Blue Reform (18.7%) and the Centre Party of Finland (15.5%) have the most self-employed candidates.

Over one-half of new elected MPs are representatives of the private sector

The majority, around two-thirds, of the elected MPs work in the central government sector, which is explained by the re-election of the current MPs. In turn, over one-half of the new MPs work in the private sector, 18.0 per cent are wage and salary earners in the central government sector and nearly one quarter in the local government sector.

Figure 14. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by employer sector in Parliamentary elections 2019, %



1.7. Family status

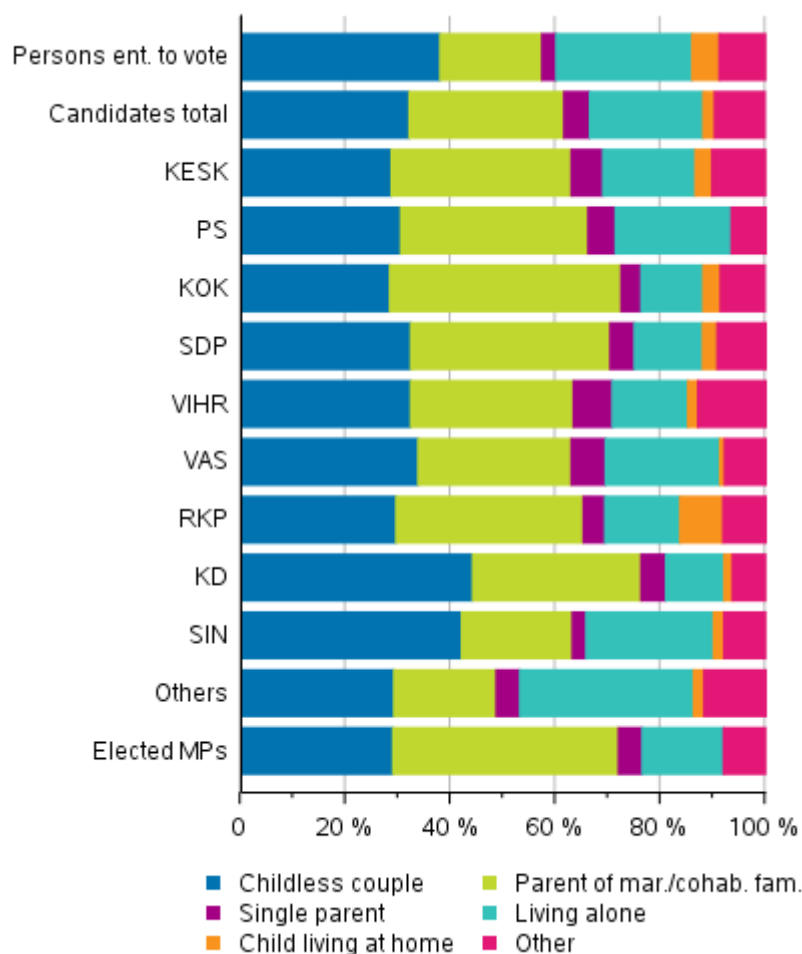
One-quarter of persons entitled to vote and one-fifth of candidates live alone

The candidates also differ in their family status from persons entitled to vote: considerably more of them are parents of a family with children and clearly fewer are childless couples than is the case among persons entitled to vote. This is of course explained by that the age structure of candidates is younger than among persons entitled to vote. For a majority of those entitled to vote, children have already moved from home, while most candidates are at an age when children are still living at home.

Of all persons entitled to vote, around 20 per cent are parents living in two-parent families. Nearly three per cent of all persons entitled to vote are single parents. Of persons entitled to vote, approximately 38 per cent are childless couples, close on 26 per cent live alone without a family, and around five per cent are young adults living at home with their parents. The remaining roughly nine per cent are persons without a family living together with some others, are homeless or in the institutional population.

The National Coalition Party (44.1%) and the Centre Party of Finland (38%) have the most candidates that are parents living in two-parent families. The Blue Reform has the least candidates who are parents of a married/cohabiting family, only one-fifth of their candidates belong to this group. Of all candidates, 5.0 per cent are single parents. Their share is biggest among the Green League (7.4%) and Left Alliance candidates (6.5%).

Figure 15. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and by family status in Parliamentary elections 2019, %



The Swedish People's Party in Finland (8.2%) has the most candidates that are young adults living at home with their parents. The Blue Reform has the highest number of candidates living alone without a family, around one quarter or the same number as people living alone among persons entitled to vote.

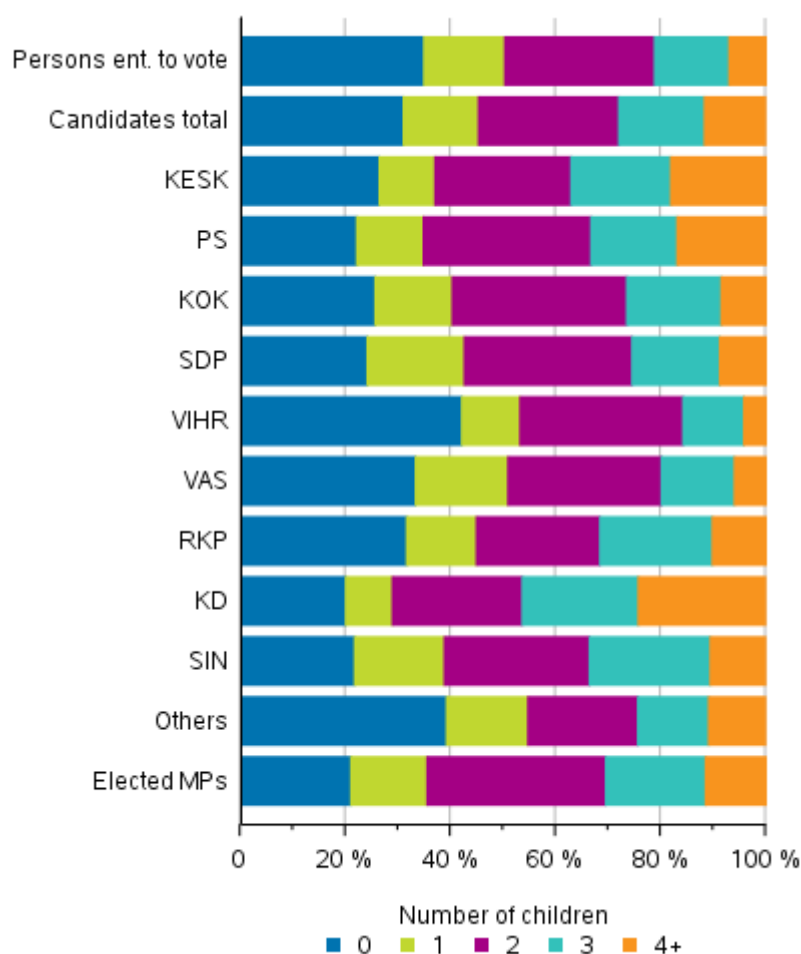
One-half of elected MPs are parents of families with children

Nearly one-half of the elected MPs are parents of families with underage children, that is, they are living together with their underage children in the same family. Of the elected women, 51 per cent are living in a one or two-supporter family with their children, while this is so for around 44 per cent of men. Slightly under 30 per cent of both men and women elected are couples without underage children living at home. In all, 15.5 per cent of the elected MPs are living alone without a family, 17 per cent of men and correspondingly 14 per cent of women.

Candidates of the Christian Democrats in Finland have most children

Although the majority of persons entitled to vote and many candidates are not at the moment going through the everyday life of a family with children, it does not mean that they do not have experiences of it. Thirty-four per cent of persons entitled to vote have never had or do not yet have children of their own, while about 30 per cent of the candidates are completely childless. The Christian Democrats have the lowest proportion of candidates without children, around 20 per cent.

Figure 16. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs by number of children in Parliamentary elections 2019, %



On average, female candidates have 1.8 children and male candidates 1.7 children. Women entitled to vote have, on average, 1.6 children and men 1.4. These figures include all biological and adopted children of the person regardless of their age or whether they still live at home.

Around one-fifth of the elected MPs are childless among both men and women. In all, 23 per cent of the elected women and 38 per cent of the men have at least three children. On average, elected women MPs have 1.8 and men 2.2 children.

1.8. Income level

Candidates' income level higher than that of persons entitled to vote

The following examines the persons entitled to vote and the candidates by their disposable income. The income data derive from the latest taxation data from 2017. Disposable monetary income refers to the monetary income after taxes that consists of earned income, property income, and transfer income.

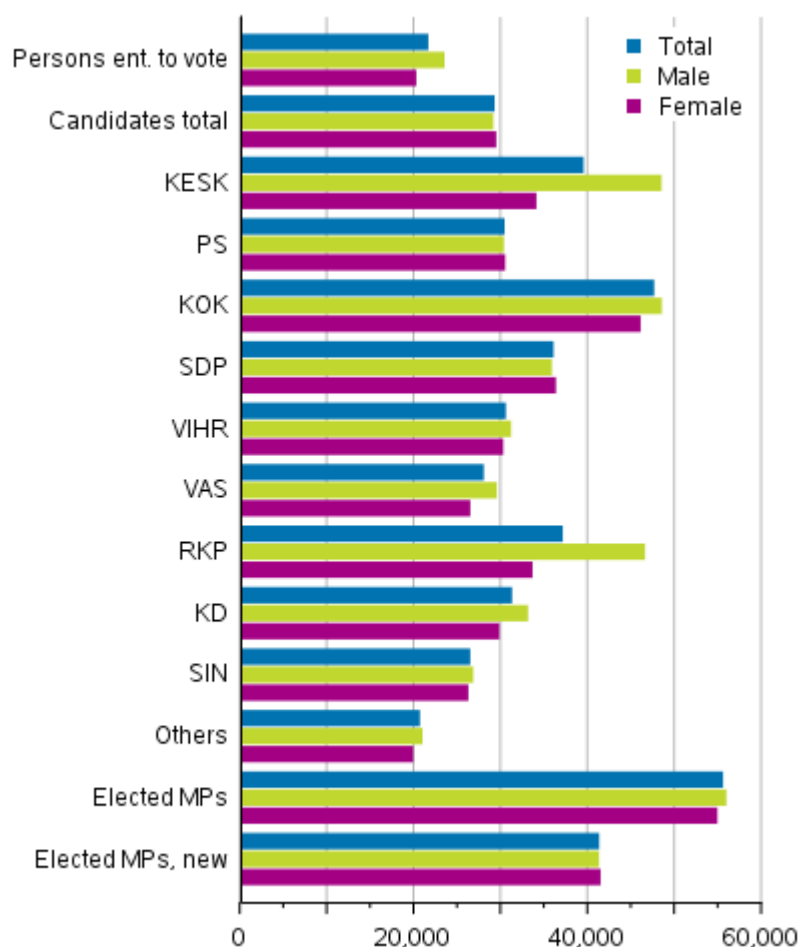
Candidates are more highly educated and a larger share of them are also working than among persons entitled to vote. This largely explains why their income level is also higher than that of persons entitled to vote. The median disposable income of the candidates is EUR 29,100 and that of all persons entitled to vote EUR 21,500. The candidates' disposable income is about 36 per cent higher than that of persons entitled to vote.

The National Coalition Party candidates have the biggest income difference with persons entitled to vote, as their disposable income is over two times higher compared with persons entitled to vote. The income

of candidates in the Centre Party of Finland, the Swedish People's Party and the Social Democratic Party is also at least 70 to 80 per cent higher than that of those entitled to vote. Of the parliamentary parties, the Blue Reform is closest to the voters with a disposable income of EUR 26,300.

The median for the disposable monetary income of all elected MPs is EUR 55,400 per year. The average disposable monetary income among those elected MPs is clearly higher than among persons entitled to vote or candidates. Compared to persons entitled to vote, the disposable income of elected MPs is 2.6 times higher and compared to candidates, almost two times higher. New elected MPs also have higher income than those entitled to vote and candidates, their monetary income being around EUR 41,100.

Figure 17. Median disposable income of persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs in Parliamentary elections 2019, EUR per year

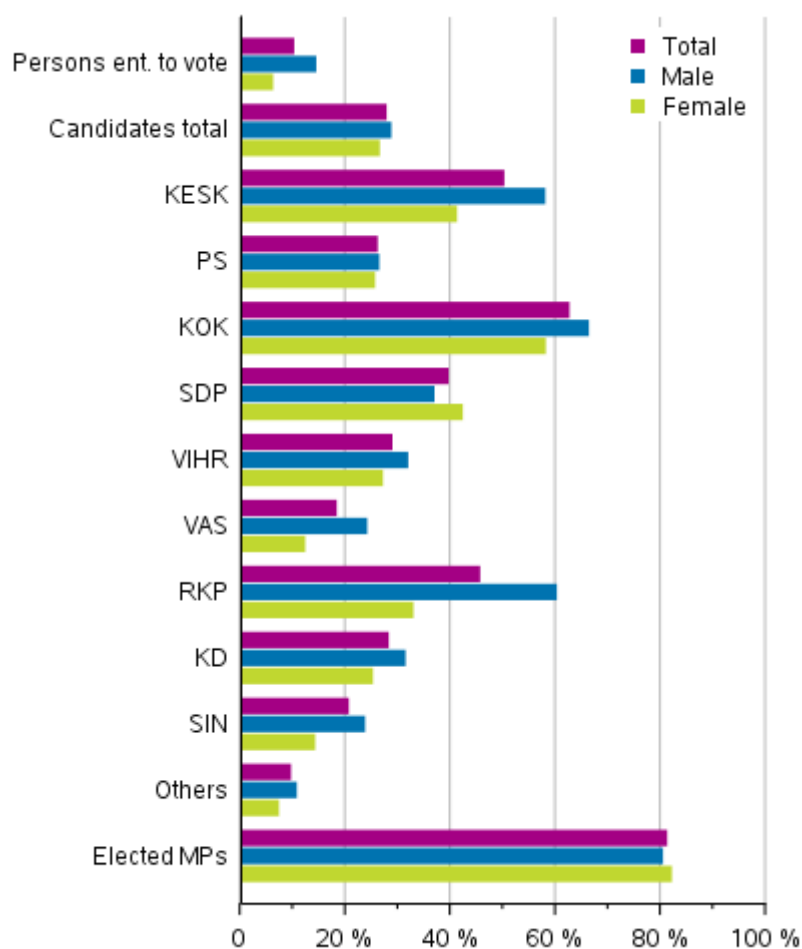


Candidates from the National Coalition Party have the highest income

When the population entitled to vote is arranged according to the income of 2017 and divided into ten equal parts, the income deciles of the population entitled to vote are generated. Each decile contains around 425,000 persons. The highest income decile of the population entitled to vote has at least EUR 39,600 at their disposal and the lowest income decile at most EUR 9,400.

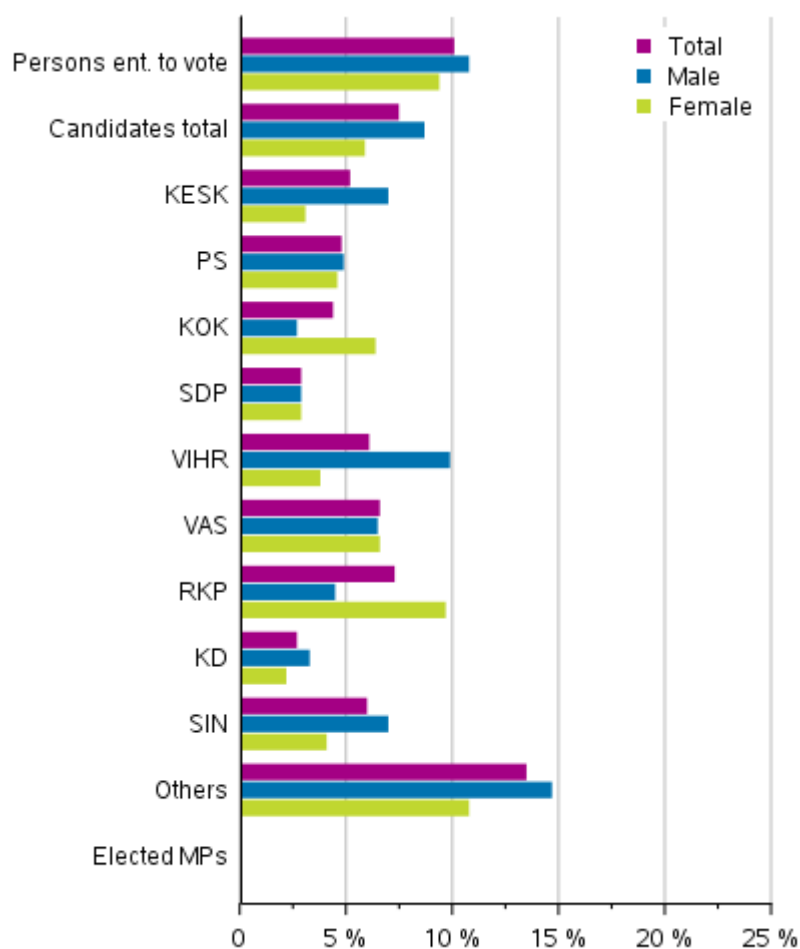
Of all candidates, 27 per cent belong to the highest income decile. Of the candidates, those representing the National Coalition Party and the Centre Party belong to the higher end of the income distribution. Sixty-six per cent of male candidates and 57 per cent of female candidates in the National Coalition Party belong to the highest income decile. Among the candidates of the Centre Party, around 58 per cent of men and 41 per cent of women belong to the highest income decile.

Figure 18. Candidates (by party), elected MPs and persons entitled to vote belonging to the highest income decile in Parliamentary elections 2019, % of the party's candidates (disposable monetary income)



There are fewer women in the highest income decile both among persons entitled to vote and candidates. The biggest difference between sexes is found among the Swedish People's Party, Centre Party and Left Alliance candidates. In these parties, there are over ten percentage points more men in the highest income decile than women. Only the Social Democratic Party has an opposite setting: 42 per cent of its female candidates and 37 per cent of its male candidates belong to the highest income decile.

Figure 19. Candidates (by party), elected MPs and persons entitled to vote belonging to the lowest income decile in Parliamentary elections 2019, % of the party's candidates (disposable monetary income)



There are also more men than women in the lowest income decile, but the differences between women and men are smaller than among those belonging to the highest income bracket. Female candidates in the Swedish People's Party and the National Coalition Party are an exception here: More of them belong to the lowest income bracket than their parties' male candidates.

The majority of the elected MPs, or 80 per cent, belong to the highest income decile and none of the elected MPs are in the lowest income decile.

Table 8. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs belonging to the highest and lowest-income decile in Parliamentary elections 2019, % of the party's candidates

	Lowest-income decile			Highest-income decile		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Persons ent. to vote	10.7	9.3	10.0	14.2	6.0	10.0
Candidates total	8.6	5.8	7.4	28.5	26.3	27.6
Centre Party of Finland KESK	6.9	3.0	5.1	57.8	41.0	50.0
Finns Party PS	4.8	4.5	4.7	26.2	25.4	25.9
National Coalition Party KOK	2.6	6.3	4.3	66.1	57.9	62.4
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	2.8	2.8	2.8	36.7	42.1	39.4
Green League VIHR	9.8	3.7	6.0	31.7	26.9	28.7
Left Alliance VAS	6.4	6.5	6.5	23.9	12.1	18.1
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	4.4	9.6	7.2	60.0	32.7	45.4
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	3.2	2.1	2.6	31.2	25.0	28.0
Blue Reform SIN	6.9	4.0	5.9	23.5	14.0	20.4
Others	14.6	10.7	13.4	10.5	7.1	9.4
Elected MPs	-	-	-	80.2	81.9	81.0

Parliamentary elections, quality description

1. Relevance of statistical information

1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

Statistics Finland produces Finland's official statistics from parliamentary elections containing key data on the following:

- Votes gained by parties and their proportions divided into votes gained during advance voting and votes gained on the election day by constituency, municipality and voting district.
- Votes gained by candidates and shares according to gender by party, constituency, municipality and voting district
- The number of persons entitled to vote and persons who voted by gender and municipality both during advance voting and on the election day;
- The number of candidates and elected representatives by party and gender, and the number of votes to all candidates and the comparative figures by constituency.

The data are available in the Statistics Finland's free database, the StatFin online service starting from 1983 (from 2003 onwards also by voting district).

1.2 Essential concepts

Holding of elections

According to the Finnish Constitution, the powers of the state are vested in the people who are represented by the parliament. Members of Parliament are elected in direct and proportional elections according to the Government's decision on how the seats in parliament are allocated to constituencies. Parliamentary elections are held every four years and the election day is the third Sunday in April of the election year. If the third Sunday in April is Easter Sunday, the election day is the Sunday preceding Easter.

Legislation

With the revision of election legislation in 1998 all provisions on elections were collected into one single act, the Election Act (714/1998), which entered into force on 8 October 1998. Elections are held according to the election legislation in force. More detailed information is available on the Internet pages of the Ministry of Justice at www.vaalit.fi and at www.finlex.fi/en/, Election Act (714/1998).

Amendment to the Election Act (939/2017), which allowed postal voting for Finnish citizens not resident in Finland and other voters staying abroad at the time of the elections, was confirmed on 14 December 2017 and it came into force on 1 November 2018. Voting by post can be used for the first time in the 2019 Parliamentary elections.

Government proposal for an act on amendment to the Election Act (HE 101/2017).

The main principles of holding elections

Elections in Finland are held according to the following principles:

- **The elections are direct.** Electors (those entitled to vote) vote direct for the persons they want to be elected.
- **The elections are proportional.** In proportional elections each party or other group gains seats in relation to the votes cast for it compared with the votes cast for other groups (not in presidential elections).
- **The elections are secret.** Secrecy of the ballot means that neither the election authorities nor anyone else get to know for whom voters have cast their votes or whether they have returned an empty ballot. By contrast, the information on whether a person entitled to vote has exercised his/her right, i.e. actually voted, is not covered by the secrecy of the ballot.
- **The right to vote is universal and equal.** Universal franchise means that the right to vote only depends on requirements which citizens usually fulfil. Equal franchise means that every person entitled to vote has an equal right to influence the election results. In general elections everybody has one vote.

- **Voting is personal.** The right to vote may not be used through an agent.
- **Voting must take place in front of election authorities.** An exception is voting by post that does not take place in front of election authorities. In postal voting, the voter needs to have two witnesses who attest, by their signatures, that voting has taken place in such a manner that election secrecy has been preserved and electoral freedom respected while voting.
- **The Finnish election system is a combination of voting for individuals and parties**, where a vote goes to both a party and a person (not in presidential elections).

Right to vote and eligibility

Every Finnish citizen is entitled to vote in Parliamentary elections provided the person has reached the age of 18 no later than on the day of the election.

Persons with a right to vote can vote either 1) During the advance voting, or 2) On the election Sunday.

Amendment to the Election Act (939/2017), which allows voting by post for Finnish citizens not resident in Finland and other voters staying abroad at the time of the elections came into force on 1 November 2018. Voting by post is used for the first time in the 2019 Parliamentary elections.

Eligibility

All persons entitled to vote and who are not incompetent, i.e. under guardianship can stand as candidates in parliamentary elections. A military official cannot, however, be elected as a member of parliament. In addition, the following high officials cannot act as members of parliament: Chancellor of Justice of the Government, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Justices of the Supreme Court and of the Supreme Administrative Court nor the Prosecutor General. They can stand as candidates but if they are elected they must resign from their office.

Eligibility in the parliamentary elections is independent of the candidate's municipality of residence, so the candidate can stand as candidate in any constituency, however only in one constituency.

Nomination of candidates

A party entered in the register of political parties has the right to nominate 14 candidates in each constituency or, if the number of parliamentary seats for a constituency exceeds 14, at most as many candidates as there are seats. In addition to parties, a constituency association founded by at least 100 enfranchised persons in the same constituency (in Mainland Finland) has the right to nominate a candidate in parliamentary elections. One person may stand as a candidate in a single election only for one party or constituency association and in only one constituency.

In the constituency of Åland, a constituency association founded by at least 30 enfranchised persons has the right to nominate a candidate in parliamentary elections.

In the constituency of Åland, the joint electoral list can have at most four candidates.

The candidate application, as well as the notification of an electoral alliance and of a joint electoral list, must be given to the Electoral District Committee 40 days before the elections (5 March 2019).

Compilation of a combined list of candidates 31 days before the elections (14 March 2019) and entering the candidates and their ages on the day of the elections and personal identity codes in the national candidate register.

Voting percentage = proportion of voters of enfranchised persons

Statistics on general elections include four different voting percentages:

1. The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident in Finland.
2. The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident abroad.
3. The total voting percentage which includes both of the above.
4. A separate percentage for persons belonging to group 2 above and living in Sweden.

Calculating of election results

Counting the advance votes

As a rule, counting of advance votes starts at 3 pm on the actual election Sunday. The count may be brought forward in large electoral districts; the earliest possible starting time being 12 noon. The objective is to finish the counting of advance votes by 8 pm, from which time onwards preliminary data may be released.

Counting the votes cast on the election day

When the doors of the polling stations have been closed at 8 pm the election boards begins a preliminary count of the votes. The board opens the ballot box, counts the ballots within it, and notes down the votes of the candidates in a particular election protocol. Immediately thereafter the board informs the central election committee of the municipality of the votes of the candidates, i.e. of the election results in the voting district.

The central election committee again enters the results in the central calculation system in the Election Information System of the Ministry of Justice. Finally, the election board seals the ballots in a parcel and delivers it to the election committee before 9 am on Monday morning.

Determination of the election results

The so-called d'Hondt method is used to determine the election results. Thus, in the first stage of the calculation the total number of votes of each group, i.e.:

- A (single) party not belonging to an electoral alliance,
- An electoral alliance,
- A joint list, and
- A constituency association not belonging to a joint list,

is counted.

Parties which have formed an electoral alliance are thus treated as a single group, as are constituency associations on a joint list. In *the second stage* of the calculation the candidates in each group are ranked in order of their personal number of votes.

In *the third stage* each candidate is accorded a comparative index, i.e. the candidate who has received most personal votes is accorded an index which equals the total number of votes of the group, the second best candidate half of that, the third best a third, the fourth best a fourth, and so on.

In *the final stage* all candidates are listed in order from best to worst according to their comparative index, and as many members of parliament are chosen from this list as are to be elected from the constituency.

Communication of preliminary results

The preliminary result of the elections is clear already on the evening of the election day. When the doors of the polling stations close, the result of advance voting that has been transferred to the election data system at 8 pm are published. Then the preliminary calculations of the election boards are transferred to the election data system as they become completed during the evening of the election day. Usually, the preliminary result is clear by 11 pm at the latest.

Control calculation and confirmation of election results

The Electoral District Committees start the control calculation of ballots on the Monday following the election day at 9 am. The results of the control calculation must be finished on the following Wednesday at 6 pm at which time the Electoral District Committees confirm the final election results in the constituencies and write the proxies for the persons that have been elected as members of parliament.

Constituencies

For the purpose of parliamentary elections, the country is divided into 13 constituencies based on regions. In parliamentary elections the seats in parliament are allocated to the constituencies according to a Government decision.

According to law, one representative is elected from the constituency of Åland and the remaining 199 seats are allocated proportionally to the other constituencies according to the size of their population of Finnish citizens.

Apart from the constituency of Åland, the allocation of seats among constituencies is made based on the number of those Finnish citizens who according to the data of the Population Information System have a municipality of residence in Finland in the constituency in question on the last day of the sixth calendar month preceding the election day.

The allocation, where **changes in the division of municipalities entering into force at the beginning of the election year** are taken into consideration, is made by dividing the number of Finnish citizens in each constituency by the total number of Finnish citizens in constituencies and by multiplying the figure obtained by 199. Each constituency will have the number of seats corresponding to the integer shown by the calculation. If all seats do not become allocated in this manner, the remaining seats are divided among constituencies in the order shown by the size of the decimals of the figures in the calculation. (21 Dec. 2007/1263)

The number of seats in parliament will change for two constituencies (electoral districts) in the Parliamentary elections of 14 April 2019. The constituency of Uusimaa gains one seat and the constituency of Savo-Karelia loses one seat. The figure derived from the Population Information System on 31 October 2018. On 8 November 2018, the Government issued a decree on the allocation of seats in parliament among constituencies. Seats in Parliamentary elections 2019 are proportionally divided as follows:

- 01 Helsinki constituency 22
- 02 Uusimaa constituency 36 (+1)
- 03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency 17
- 04 Satakunta constituency 8
- 06 Häme constituency 14
- 07 Pirkanmaa constituency 19
- 08 Southeast Finland constituency 17
- 09 Savo-Karelia constituency 15 (-1)
- 10 Vaasa constituency 16
- 11 Central Finland constituency 10
- 12 Oulu constituency 18
- 13 Lapland constituency 7
- 05 Åland constituency 1

Changes in constituencies and consolidations of municipalities

Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities are presented on the website of Parliamentary elections, in the Classifications section.

The division into constituencies was changed in the act on amending the Election Act (271/2013) that entered into force on 1 September 2013 and the act was applied for the first time in the Parliamentary elections 2015 (19 April 2015). In the amendment of the Election Act, the constituencies of Kymi (08) and South Savo (09) were combined into the new Southeast Finland constituency (08) and the constituencies of North Savo (10) and North Karelia (11) were combined into the new Savo-Karelia constituency (09).

Municipalities are placed into constituencies according to the constituency division in force. At the beginning of 2019, the number of municipalities is 295 in Mainland Finland and 16 in Åland.

The valid statistical grouping of municipalities is used in the statistics (Statistics Finland, Municipalities and Regional Divisions Based on Municipalities). In the statistical grouping of municipalities, municipalities are divided by the proportion of the population living in urban settlements and by the population of the largest urban settlement into urban, semi-urban and rural municipalities. The classification is based on the definition of urban settlements made in 2018 and the population of the municipality in 2017. The definition of urban settlements is produced yearly by the Finnish Environment Institute.

1. Urban municipalities are those municipalities in which at least 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements, or in which the population of the largest urban settlement is at least 15,000.
2. Semi-urban municipalities are those municipalities in which at least 60 per cent but less than 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements, or in which the population of the largest urban settlement is at least 4,000 but less than 15,000.
3. Rural municipalities are those municipalities in which less than 60 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements, and in which the population of the largest urban settlement is less than 15,000, as well as those municipalities in which at least 60 per cent but less than 90 per cent of the population lives in urban settlements, and in which the population of the largest urban settlement is less than 4,000.

Classifications used

Statistics Finland's classification of municipalities. Constituency, municipality group, municipality, voting district, party (entered in the Party Register), age of candidates and elected MPs.

Candidates have been nominated in the Parliamentary elections 2019 by the following registered parties:

- Finnish Social Democratic Party (SDP)
- Centre Party of Finland (KESK)
- National Coalition Party (KOK)
- Swedish People's Party in Finland (RKP)
- Christian Democrats in Finland (KD)
- Green League (VIHR)
- Left Alliance (VAS)
- Finns Party (PS)
- The Communist Party of Finland (SKP)
- Communist Workers Party (Finland) - For Peace and Socialism (KTP)
- Liberal Party – Freedom for Choice (LIBE)
- Pirate Party of Finland
- Animal Justice Party of Finland (EOP)
- Citizen's Party (KP)
- Feminist Party (FP)
- Independence Party (IP)
- Blue Reform (Sin)
- Finnish People First (SKE)
- Seven Star Movement (STL)

Data collection methods and data sources

Statistics Finland receives basic election data from the Ministry of Justice's election data system, the technical implementation of which it has assigned to Tieto Oyj. Statistics Finland collects data with a separate form on advance voting from municipalities that do not use an electronic voting register (municipalities in the constituency of Åland).

1.3 Acts, decrees and recommendations

The function of Statistics Finland is to compile statistics describing conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). These also include election statistics. Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure define the Population and Social Statistics department as the producer of election statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-954-18).

2. Methodological description of survey

The statistics are based on census data. The basic data of the statistics are based on the Ministry of Justice's election information system consisting of five subsystems. They include:

1. Basic data and geographical information system that includes, for example, data on constituencies, municipalities and voting districts, as well as election authorities and polling stations (polling station register, which include data on general advance polling stations and polling stations on the election day);
2. Data on parties and candidates (candidate register) in which the following data on each candidate in the elections are entered: name, candidate number, occupation, municipality of residence, party/constituency association that has nominated the candidate, and personal identity code (14 March 2019). The data on candidates also includes the party register;
3. Franchise data (voting register), for which data on every person entitled to vote are collected by the Population Register Centre on the 46th day (27 February 2019) prior to the election day. The voting register is formed separately for each election. The voting register includes personal data on each person entitled to vote (name, personal identity code, constituency, municipality of domicile and polling station) included in the Population Information System on the 51st day (22 February 2019) prior to the election day. The voting register gains legal force at 12:00 noon on the 12th day (2 April 2019) prior to the election day. The voting register is in use in the advance polling stations and every person that votes in advance is marked in the register. After the advance voting, electoral rolls for the polling stations on the election day are printed from the register. The voting register can, however, also be used in the polling stations instead of the electoral rolls on the election day.
4. A centralised result calculation system to which the electoral district committees and the central election committees submit their results of the elections;
5. The result service system (statistical and information service system) by means of which the results of the elections and other statistical data are transmitted to the media and to Statistics Finland.

Statistics Finland's data concerning elections comprises four data files: regional file, party file, candidate file and candidate register.

Background analysis of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected MPs and Review of voting

In connection with the election statistics, a background analysis is produced on persons entitled to vote, candidates nominated by the parties and elected representatives. The population of persons entitled to vote is based on the voting register established on 27 February 2019 (data drawn from the Population Information System on 22 February 2019) and the candidates on the candidate register of the Ministry of Justice. The background data on the persons combined with these registers are based on statistical data from Statistics Finland such as population, family and employment statistics, and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees. Of the persons entitled to vote only those resident in Finland are included in the review.

The analysis describes the persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected representatives with regard to certain variables. The background data usually relate to the years 2016 to 2017. More recent data than that have not been available. The person's age is the age on the day of the election in full years.

The background variables used in the analysis are described in the following.

Constituency

The constituency used in the analysis is for the candidates the one for which the person stands as a candidate. For those entitled to vote the constituency is based on the information drawn from the Population Register Centre's Population Information System 51 days prior to the day of the election.

Foreign background

Foreign background is examined by means of two variables, that is, native language or origin. Persons whose native language is not Finnish, Swedish or Sami are regarded by language as coming from a foreign background. Persons whose both parents or the only parent were born abroad are regarded by origin as coming from a foreign background. The data are from the year 2018.

Main type of activity

The concept of main type of activity describes the nature of the person's economic activity. The population is divided by their main type of activity to the active and inactive population. These groups can be further divided into sub-groups. The classification is based on the person's activity during the last week of the year. The main type of activity is based on data derived from different registers.

The classification of main type of activity is as follows:

- Employed
- Unemployed
- 0 to 14-year-olds
- Students, pupils
- Pensioners
- Conscripts, conscientious objectors
- Other inactive population

The information used in the analysis describes the person's activity during the last week of 2017.

Family status

In this analysis the population is divided into the following groups by family status:

- Parent of a married/cohabiting family
- Single parent
- Childless couple
- Living alone
- Youth living at home
- Other

Parents of a married/cohabiting family include all married and cohabiting persons and partners in a registered partnership, who have their own and/or spouse's children living at home. Childless couples are married/cohabiting persons and partners in a registered partnership who have no children. People living with their own or adopted parent/s having the status of a child are defined as the youth living at home. The group "Other" includes persons without a family living together with others (for example, a mother/father living with the family of their child), homeless persons and institutional population. Persons living alone without a family belong to the group "Living alone".

The data on the person's family status are from the year 2017.

Number of children

In the analysis, the number of children used is the number of the person's biological and adopted children. The data are from the year 2017.

Level of education

Those with basic level education have at most nine years of education. They have qualifications from primary schools, middle schools or comprehensive schools.

Those with upper secondary level education have 11 to 12 years of education. These qualifications include matriculation examination, vocational qualifications attained in one to three years and initial vocational qualifications.

Lowest level tertiary education lasts two to three years after upper secondary level education. Examples of these qualifications include the qualification of a technician engineer, diploma in business and administration, and diploma in nursing, which are not university of applied sciences degrees.

Completion of lower-degree level tertiary education requires three to four years of full-time studies after upper secondary level education. Lower-degree level tertiary education comprises university of applied sciences degrees and lower university degrees.

Completion of higher-degree level tertiary education requires as a rule five to six years of full-time studies after upper secondary level education. Higher-degree level tertiary education leads to master's degrees and specialist's degrees in medicine, for instance.

Completion of doctorate or equivalent level tertiary education requires independent research work or doctorate theses fit for publication. The degrees are scientific licentiate and doctorate degrees.

The data on education are derived from Statistics Finland's Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2017.

Disposable cash income

Disposable money income includes monetary income items and benefits in kind connected to employment relationships. Money income does not include imputed income items, of which the main one is imputed dwelling income. When current transfers paid are deducted from gross money income, the remaining income is the disposable money income.

The data are from the year 2017.

Median income

When income earners are put in the order of size by income, median income is the income of the middle income earner. An equal number of income earners remains on both sides of the middle income receiver. Median income is not as sensitive to extreme observations as mean income.

Income subject to state taxation

With certain exceptions, all income received as money or a benefit of monetary value is taxable. Certain social benefits, allowances and compensations are not taxable. These are such as child benefits, housing allowances and income support. Taxable are neither grants nor awards received from the general government.

Occupation

Occupation is examined by the Classification of Occupations 2010 which describes occupational structure in society.

The data are from the year 2016.

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

The basic data of the election statistics derive on the Ministry of Justice's election data system and from data supplied by the election authorities, which can be considered reliable.

4. Timeliness and accuracy of data

The confirmed data always differ somewhat from the figures of the preliminary statistics.

The results change once the result is confirmed in all respects: by voting district, municipality, constituency, party and number of votes gained by all candidates and by elected representatives, whereby even their mutual order may change.

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

The first data, or preliminary statistics are published on the Internet, in the StatFin service and on the statistics pages on Parliamentary elections as soon as possible. Election data by municipality and voting district (starting from 2003) and the numbers of votes gained by candidates and elected representatives are entered into the StatFin online service.

Reviews and time series tables in addition to the tables concerning the elections in question are available in three languages (Finnish, Swedish and English) on the statistics pages on Parliamentary elections. The second, or final data are supplied to Statistics Finland after the election result is confirmed. After the confirmation of the election result, the confirmed data corresponding to the preliminary statistics are released on the statistics pages and the StatFin databases are updated.

Key election results on Parliamentary elections are published in the election map service.

6. Comparability of statistics

The municipal classification of the election year is used in the statistics. The new statistical grouping of municipalities (urban, semi-urban and rural) was introduced starting from the year 1999. Prior to that,

municipalities were grouped as follows: towns and other municipalities. Changes in constituencies and municipalities between elections have been taken into account in statistics which contain comparative data with the previous elections.

Election results are presented as time series tables starting from 1908 on the statistics pages on Parliamentary elections. Preliminary statistics on Parliamentary elections have been released on the Internet since 1995. In addition, the StatFin online service contains a time series on Parliamentary elections starting from 1983 (NB! From 2003 onwards also data by voting district).

7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity and documentation

The Ministry of Justice publishes information about the results of different elections and the national candidate register on its website (www.vaalit.fi). The statistics published by the Ministry of Justice differ from those of Statistics Finland with regard to advance voters, because they are defined on different grounds:

- The Ministry of Justice counts the number of advance voters from the number of those entitled to vote,
- whereas Statistics Finland counts the number of advance voters from the number of all persons who voted.

The classifications used in the statistics can be found on Statistics Finland's homepages.

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Source: Parliamentary Elections 2019, background analysis of elected MPs. Statistics Finland