

Municipal elections 2012

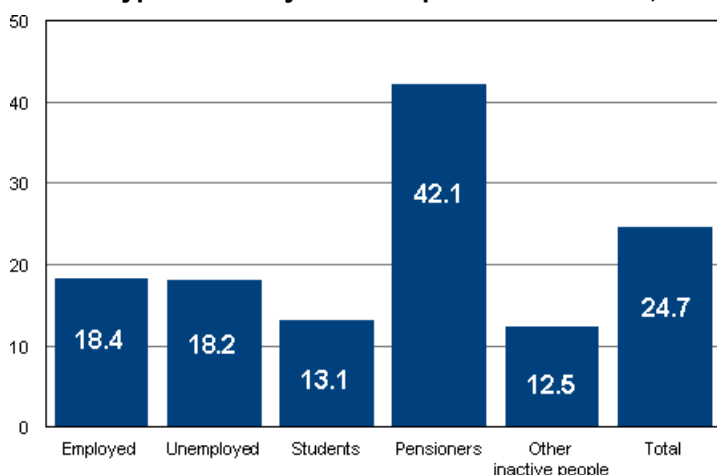
Review of advance voting and women's and men's success in the elections

One-half of advance voters pensioners

Corrected on 19 March 2014. The corrected numbers are indicated in red. Several complaints on Municipal elections 2012 have been filed to administrative courts and the results of the elections have been changed by the decisions of administrative courts (errors in source data have also been corrected).

One-half of advance voters (49.8%) in the Municipal elections 2012 were pensioners. Of pensioners entitled to vote, 42.1 per cent voted in advance, while, on average, only one-quarter of all persons entitled to vote (24.7%) voted in advance. Advance voting was lower than this in the other groups. In all, 18.4 per cent of employed persons and 18.2 per cent of unemployed persons voted in advance. Students and those in the other inactive population voted the least often in advance. The data are based on Statistics Finland's statistics on the Municipal elections 2012.

Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote according to main type of activity in Municipal elections 2012, %



The probability of advance voting grew primarily with age. Persons entitled to vote aged 65 to 74 were the most active advance voters, as 47.0 per cent of them cast their vote in advance. The corresponding percentage was 41.6 among those aged over 75. Younger age groups voted less often in advance. Among

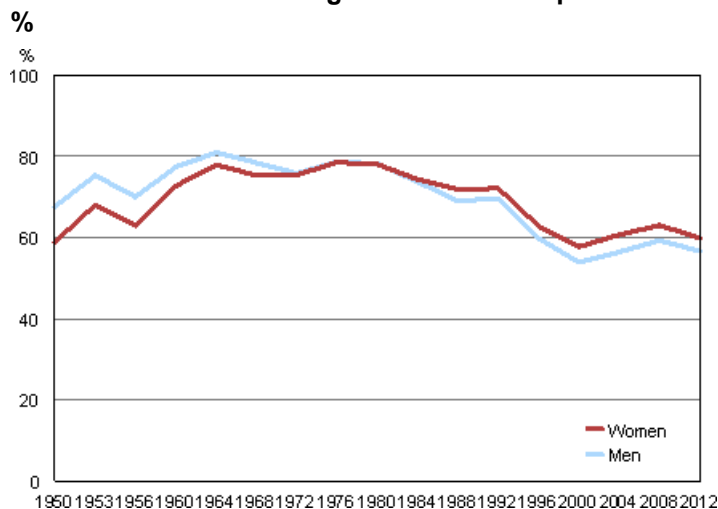
persons aged 18 to 24, 9.5 per cent voted in advance, 12.6 per cent of those aged 25 to 44, and 26.3 per cent of those aged 45 to 64.

Advance voting turnout varied according to the size of the municipality. In small municipalities with fewer than 2,000 inhabitants, 36.8 per cent of persons entitled to vote cast their vote in advance, while in municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants this share remained at 21.5 per cent. In small municipalities, young people also voted in advance clearly more often than in large ones. With respect to family status, advance voting was lowest among young adults living at home and highest among people without a family as well as married and cohabiting. Married or cohabiting persons aged 65 or over were the most active at voting in advance. Advance voting was also more probable among persons with higher education.

Persons with foreign background voted in advance less often than persons who had no foreign background. The probability of advance voting grew with age for persons entitled to vote with foreign background as well. Older age groups had most differences in advance voting turnout of persons with or without foreign background. Just 11.4 per cent of persons aged 45 to 64, whose both parents were born abroad, voted in advance. Of persons in the same age group with one parent who was born abroad, 25.6 per cent voted in advance and 27.1 per cent of those with Finnish background.

In the Municipal elections 2012, the voting turnout of both women and men fell lower than in the previous elections. The last time women's voting turnout has remained below 60 per cent was in the 2000 Municipal elections and before that in the 1950 Municipal elections. Voting turnout went down for both sexes in all constituencies and was higher in rural municipalities than in semi-urban or urban municipalities.

Women's and men's voting turnout in Municipal elections 1950–2012,



The growth in the shares of female candidates, votes cast for women and elected female councillors that had continued for decades, halted in the Municipal elections 2012. The shares varied greatly by municipality and party.

The share of female candidates (38.8%) fell from the previous elections in all constituencies apart from Lapland and was over 40 per cent only in the constituencies of Helsinki, Uusimaa and Varsinais-Suomi.

Female candidates gained 40.7 per cent of all votes cast. The Green League was the only party where women gained over one-half (62.7%) of the votes cast for the party. Relative to the share of female candidates, women gained the most votes in the constituencies of Helsinki and Uusimaa, and the least in the constituency of Kymi. Women fared better in urban municipalities than in semi-urban or rural municipalities. In rural municipalities, women's share of votes cast (35.2%) was clearly smaller than that of female candidates (38.3%). In urban municipalities the situation was the opposite.

As typical for Municipal elections, the share of elected female councillors, 36.2 per cent, was lower than the share of votes cast for women on the level of the whole country. Women gained a majority to the municipal councils of six municipalities. In the 2008 Municipal elections, thirteen female-majority councils were elected. The share of elected female councillors and the share of votes cast for women were divided similarly according to municipalities' degree of urbanisation as the share of candidates: in urban municipalities relatively more women gained votes and got elected than in semi-urban or rural municipalities.

Statistics Finland's election result services

Statistics Finland publishes a review of the Municipal elections that examines advance voters and the voting turnout and success of both sexes in the elections.

More detailed election result data are available in Statistics Finland's PX-Web database service.

[Election map service](#)

[Tables in databases](#)

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1. Advance voters in Municipal elections 2012

In the following, persons having voted in advance in the Municipal elections 2012 are examined according to various background information. The comparison group used is persons entitled to vote with their background information. The data on persons entitled to vote and advance voters derive from the voting register of the Election Information System of the Ministry of Justice. The background information is based on statistical data from Statistics Finland's Population and Social Statistics Department, such as population, employment and family statistics and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The examination includes only advance voters and persons entitled to vote. Those having voted on the day of the election are not included, as information is not collected on them on the level of the whole country. Persons who are not advance voters are included either in those having voted on the day of the election or in those not having voted. For this reason, conclusions cannot be drawn on the voting turnout of different groups as a whole based on advance voting.

1.1. High age and small municipality of residence raised the probability of advance voting

In the Municipal elections 2012, a total of 1,062,190 persons entitled to vote cast their votes in advance. The advance voting percentage reported by Statistics Finland, 42.4 per cent, was obtained by calculating the share of advance voters among all persons who voted. Here, advance voters are viewed with respect to persons entitled to vote, in which case the advance voting turnout is 24.7 per cent. Women voted in advance more than men did: Of women entitled to vote, 26.6 per cent were advance voters and 22.6 per cent of men. The difference is over 114,000 in numbers, as 588,271 women and 473,919 men voted in advance.

The age of the person entitled to vote had the strongest effect on the probability of voting in advance. Advance voting was most common in the 65 to 74 age group. In this group, the share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote was 47.0 per cent. Advance voting was clearly more common than average also among those aged 75 or over. Of them, 41.6 per cent voted in advance. Younger age groups voted less often in advance. Of persons entitled to vote aged 18 to 24, 9.5 per cent voted in advance, 12.6 per cent of those aged 25 to 44, and 26.3 per cent of those aged 45 to 64. (Table 1.)

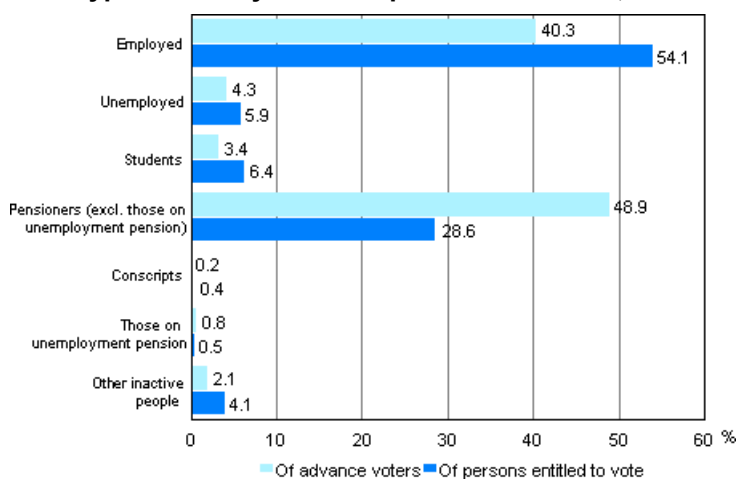
In small municipalities, votes were cast in advance clearly more often than in large ones. In municipalities with fewer than 2,000 inhabitants, the share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote was 36.8 per cent, while in municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants this share remained at 21.5 per cent. Advance voting was more general in smaller municipalities than in large ones for all age groups. In small municipalities with fewer than 2,000 inhabitants, young people aged 18 to 24 also voted in advance (voting turnout 18.5%) more actively than persons of the same age living in towns of over 100,000 inhabitants (9.8%). (Table 1.)

Table 1. Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote by age and municipality of residence in Municipal elections 2012, %

Size of municipality	18 – 24 years	25 – 44 years	45 – 64 years	65 – 74 years	75 – years	Age groups, total
- 1,999	18.5	22.2	37.9	52.3	43.9	36.8
2,000 - 4,999	12.7	16.2	32.7	48.4	43.4	31.7
5,000 - 9,999	10.8	13.7	29.8	47.1	41.8	28.5
10,000 - 19,999	9.4	12.8	28.6	47.3	42.4	27.0
20,000 - 49,999	7.4	10.8	25.0	46.5	40.8	23.6
50,000 - 99,999	9.0	12.7	27.9	49.4	42.1	25.9
100,000 -	9.8	12.7	22.7	45.5	40.9	21.5
Municipalities total	9.5	12.6	26.3	47.0	41.6	24.7

One-half (49.8%) of advance voters were pensioners by their main type of activity. The group was formed of pensioners, 48.9 per cent, and those on unemployment pension, 0.8 per cent. Pensioners are clearly over-represented among advance voters, because relatively fewer persons entitled to vote are pensioners, in all 29.1 per cent. Groups with other main type of activity voted in advance less often than pensioners. Other groups' shares of advance voters also remained lower than their shares of persons entitled to vote. Although employed persons formed the majority, 54.1 per cent of all persons entitled to vote, only 40.3 per cent of them voted in advance. Among advance voters, students were also under-represented, as the share of students was 6.4 per cent of persons entitled to vote but 3.4 per cent of advance voters, and unemployed persons, whose share of persons entitled to vote was 5.9 per cent, but 4.3 per cent of advance voters. Just 2.1 per cent of advance voters were in the group 'other inactive population', while their share of persons entitled to vote was 4.1 per cent. As pensioners are strongly over-represented among advance voters, we will next examine the effect of other variables on advance voting separately as concerns employed persons, unemployed persons, pensioners, students and the other inactive population. (Figure 1.)

Figure 1. Persons entitled to vote and advance voters according to main type of activity in Municipal elections 2012, %



1.2. Employed and unemployed persons voted equally often in advance

Of employed persons entitled to vote, 18.4 per cent voted in advance. In all, 20.4 per cent of employed women and 16.4 per cent of men were advance voters. In turn, 18.2 per cent of unemployed persons voted in advance. The difference between unemployed men and women in advance voting was slightly smaller than for employed persons, because 19.8 per cent of unemployed women and 17.1 per cent of unemployed men voted in advance.

The probability of voting in advance grows for both employed and unemployed with the age of the person. The advance voting turnout of unemployed persons was, however, clearly lower than among employed persons in the youngest 18 to 24 age group. Of employed persons aged 18 to 24, 8.9 per cent voted in advance, while this was so for 6.1 per cent of unemployed persons of the same age. The shares of advance voters of the older 25 to 44 age group were also small: 12.6 per cent of employed persons and 11.6 per cent of unemployed persons of that age group voted in advance. In contrast, one-quarter of both employed (24.8%) and unemployed persons (25.6%) among persons aged 45 to 64 voted in advance. (Table 2.)

Advance voting by unemployed persons was divided by family status similarly as for employed persons. For both groups the probability of voting in advance grew with age regardless of the family status. Among both unemployed and employed persons, most active voters were those without a family and cohabiting and married persons. Employed persons without a family voted in advance slightly more often than unemployed persons without a family. In both groups, adult children living at home and those whose family status is unknown voted the least often in advance.

The difference between employed and unemployed persons in the advance voting activity was largest among those aged 25 or under. If 10.3 per cent of employed persons of that age without a family voted in

advance, the advance voting of the corresponding unemployed group remained at 6.1 per cent. For those without a family, the advance voting difference between employed and unemployed persons evened out in older age groups. The advance voting turnout of employed young people aged under 25 living at home (9.3%) was also higher than that of unemployed young people aged under 25 living at home (6.5%). (Table 2.)

Table 2. Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote according to main type of activity, family status and age in Municipal elections 2012, %

	18 – 24 years	25 – 44 years	45 – 64 years	65 – years	Age groups, total
Employed, total	8.9	12.6	24.8	..	18.4
Married or cohabiting	7.2	11.6	24.1	..	18.1
Single parent	3.9	12.2	21.2	..	17.3
Without a family	10.3	15.1	28.3	..	20.6
Child living at home	9.3	16.5	28.5	..	13.8
Unknown	9.2	12.4	19.3	..	14.4
Unemployed, total	6.1	11.6	25.6	..	18.2
Married or cohabiting	5.1	10.8	26.3	..	19.5
Single parent	6.2	9.7	19.1	..	14.0
Without a family	6.1	12.6	25.8	..	18.8
Child living at home	6.5	14.8	27.0	..	13.0
Unknown	7.9	8.9	18.2	..	11.8
Pensioners, total	10.5	18.8	35.0	47.4	42.1
Married or cohabiting	5.9	16.3	37.9	48.4	46.1
Single parent	..	15.2	26.8	32.8	31.0
Without a family	12.2	20.5	32.7	41.8	39.5
Child living at home	10.4	19.3	29.4	38.5	23.2
Unknown	9.6	16.3	23.3	16.4	18.0
Students, total	11.0	16.0	23.2	..	13.1
Married or cohabiting	10.2	13.6	21.3	..	13.7
Single parent	4.5	10.9	19.9	..	11.8
Without a family	12.7	18.3	28.0	..	15.7
Child living at home	10.6	22.1	30.0	..	11.4
Unknown	11.5	17.5	21.0	..	14.6
Other inactive population, total	7.4	9.4	20.3	..	12.5
Married or cohabiting	5.4	10.5	22.9	..	14.7
Single parent	4.3	9.5	16.1	..	10.8
Without a family	7.7	8.7	20.4	..	13.8

	18 – 24 years	25 – 44 years	45 – 64 years	65 – years	Age groups, total
Child living at home	8.2	9.2	20.8	..	9.3
Unknown	5.4	4.9	7.2	..	5.7
Total	9.5	12.6	26.3	44.6	24.7
Married or cohabiting	7.6	11.6	25.9	48.1	25.4
Single parent	4.4	11.6	21.1	32.9	18.8
Without a family	10.5	14.9	28.5	41.8	27.6
Child living at home	9.7	16.5	27.8	37.3	12.7
Unknown	8.6	10.2	17.7	16.4	14.0

Examined by level of education, unemployed persons with higher university or doctorate level degrees (advance voting turnout 25.7%) and persons with lowest level tertiary qualifications or lower university degree (25.3%), were more active at advance voting than employed persons with similar education (23.6%, 21.6%). Those with lowest level tertiary qualifications were mainly representatives of older age groups, whose share among advance voters was in any case higher than average. Among both unemployed and employed persons, those with secondary and basic level education or those whose education is not known voted the least in advance. Of unemployed persons with secondary level education, 17.3 per cent had voted in advance, and this figure for employed persons was 16.2 per cent. The corresponding shares of those with basic level education or of persons whose education is not known were 15.3 per cent for unemployed and 14.7 per cent for employed persons. (Table 3.)

Table 3. Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote according to main type of activity and level of education in Municipal elections 2012, %

Level of education	Employed	Unemployed	Pensioners	Students	Other inactive population	Total
Educational total	18.4	18.2	42.1	13.1	12.5	24.7
Only basic level or not known	14.7	15.3	37.6	8.6	9.1	25.6
Secondary level	16.2	17.3	42.8	15.8	13.1	21.4
Lowest level tertiary education or lower university degree	21.6	25.3	53.5	23.4	18.9	28.4
Higher university or doctorate level degree	23.6	25.7	56.0	26.3	17.6	28.0

When examining the occupational status of those having voted, entrepreneurs voted slightly more often in advance than wage and salary earners. The share of entrepreneurs voting in advance was 20.6 per cent and that of wage and salary earners 18.1 per cent. The median income of employed persons having voted in advance, EUR 33,100, was in turn slightly higher than that of all employed persons entitled to vote, EUR 31,600. The median income of unemployed advance voters, EUR 14,200, was also higher than that of all unemployed persons entitled to vote, EUR 12,000. (Figure 2.)

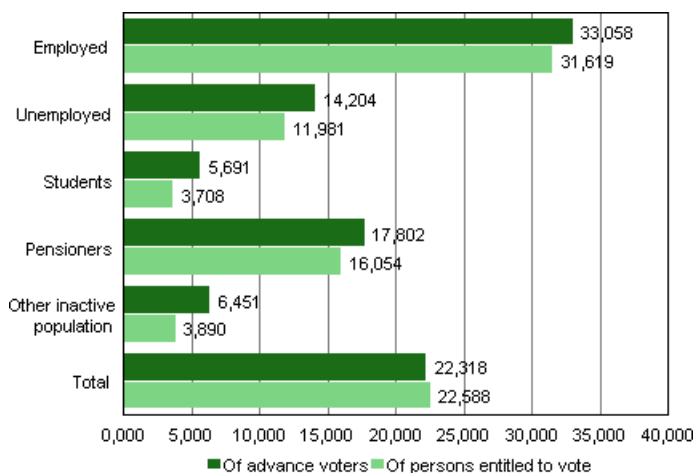
1.3. Nearly one-half of advance voters pensioners

Of pensioners, 42.1 per cent voted in advance. In this examination, the group of pensioners is formed of those on old-age pension, unemployment pension and disability pension. As in the other groups, advance voting by pensioners was more probable among older age groups. Votes were cast in advance by 47.4 per cent of pensioners aged 65 or over, while this was the case for 10.5 per cent of young pensioners aged 18 to 24, for 18.8 per cent of those aged 25 to 44 and for 35.0 per cent of those aged 45 to 64. (Table 2.)

The differences of both sexes in advance voting turnout were smaller for pensioners than in the other groups. In all, 42.5 per cent of female pensioners and 41.7 per cent of male pensioners voted in advance. Of married or cohabiting pensioners, 46.1 per cent voted in advance, while this was so for 39.5 per cent of those without a family. (Table 2.)

The median income of advance voting pensioners was EUR 17,800 and thus EUR 1,700 higher than that of all pensioners entitled to vote, EUR 16,100. The income level of advance voters was higher than that of persons entitled to vote for employed, unemployed, pensioners, students and the inactive population. The combined median income of advance voters was, however, lower than that of all persons entitled to vote. This is explained by the lower than average income level of the over-represented group in advance voters, pensioners, which reduces the median income of the whole group of advance voters.

Figure 2. Median income of advance voters and persons entitled to vote by main type of activity in Municipal elections 2012, EUR



Advance voting is more common for pensioners with tertiary level qualifications. Votes were cast in advance by 56.0 per cent of those with higher university degrees or doctorate level degrees. The respective share was 53.5 per cent among the attainers of the lowest tertiary level qualifications or of lower university degrees. Pensioners with basic level education (37.6%) and secondary level education (42.8%) voted the least often in advance. (Table 3.) Pensioners with tertiary level education voted in advance more actively than those with basic or secondary level education in all age groups.

1.4. Advance voting of students low

Of all students, 13.1 per cent voted in advance. The advance voting turnout of students was clearly lower than that of pensioners (42.1%), employed persons (18.4%) and unemployed persons (18.2%). Only the other inactive population voted slightly less often in advance than students did (12.5%). (Table 2.)

As in the other groups, the probability of advance voting grew for students slightly along with the higher age of the person entitled to vote. Of students aged 18 to 24, 11.0 per cent were advance voters. In five-year age groups older than this, advance voting varied from 15.3 per cent among those aged 30 to 34 to 17.2 per cent among those aged 40 to 44.

Among female students, 14.1 per cent were advance voters, while this was so for 12.0 per cent of male students. Advance voting was most general for those with higher university or doctorate degrees (26.3%)

and for those with lowest tertiary level education or lower university degrees (23.4%). The share of advance voters was 15.8 per cent for those with secondary level education and just 8.6 per cent for those with basic level education or for persons with missing information on qualifications. (Table 3.)

1.5. Other inactive population voted in advance the least often

Of the other inactive population, 12.5 per cent voted in advance. The group "other inactive population" here consists of persons who are outside the labour force and do not belong to students or pensioners. Those on family leaves form around one-half of this group. In this analysis, conscripts and those in non-military service are also included in the other inactive population.

In all, 11.4 per cent of such men and 13.5 per cent of such women voted in advance. The age was the most determining factor for the advance voting turnout of the other inactive population as well. Of the group aged under 25, 7.4 per cent voted in advance, while the figure was 20.3 per cent among those aged 45 to 64. The advance voting turnout of the oldest age groups in the other inactive population remained, however, far behind the active advance voting of older employed and unemployed age groups. (Table 2.)

Adult children in the other inactive population living at home voted the least in advance, as 9.3 per cent of both women and men voted in advance. Most active voters among the inactive population were those married or cohabiting, of whom 14.7 per cent voted in advance. Of the other inactive population without a family, 13.8 per cent voted in advance.

1.6. Age had more effect on advance voting than foreign background

Origin had a strong effect on the probability of advance voting. Of persons whose both parents were born abroad, 10.2 per cent voted in advance. Persons whose one parent was born abroad and the other in Finland voted slightly more often, i.e. 13.6 per cent. However, the difference was clear to persons whose parents were born in Finland. Of them, 25.5 per cent voted in advance.

Table 4. Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote by age and origin in Municipal elections 2012, %

Origin	18 – 24 years	25 – 34 years	35 – 44 years	45 – 65 years	65 – years	Age groups total
Total	9.5	11.8	13.6	26.3	44.6	24.7
Parents from Finland	9.6	12.2	14.0	27.1	44.9	25.5
One of the parents born abroad	7.4	10.5	12.8	25.6	45.0	13.6
Parents born abroad	8.4	7.1	8.0	11.4	26.3	10.2

Advance voting was lowest among young adults aged 18 to 24 and for those persons whose both parents were born abroad. Of persons aged 18 to 24 whose both parents were born abroad, 8.4 per cent voted in advance. Of persons in the same age group with one parent who was born abroad, 7.4 per cent voted in advance. In this age group, the difference between advance voting by those with foreign background and Finnish background was relatively small. Only slightly more of children aged 18 to 24 of Finnish-born parents voted in advance, 9.6 per cent.

Foreign background had more effect on advance voting turnout in older age groups. High age, which usually increased the probability of advance voting, had not as strong influence on advance voting by persons with foreign background as on others. The advance voting turnout of persons with foreign background, whose both parents were born abroad, did not yet rise much in the 45 to 64 age group, but remained at 11.4 per cent. At its highest, the advance voting turnout of this group was just 26.3 per cent

among those aged over 65. Advance voting was clearly most common among persons aged over 65 whose parents were born in Finland. Of them, 44.9 per cent voted in advance.

2. Women and men in Municipal elections 2012

Corrected on 19 March 2014. The corrected numbers are indicated in red. Several complaints on Municipal elections 2012 have been filed to administrative courts and the results of the elections have been changed by the decisions of administrative courts (errors in source data have also been corrected).

Next we will examine the voting turnout of women and men and their success in the elections by party and area. Differing from the previous section, included are all votes cast and/or persons entitled to vote.

2.1. Voting turnout fell regardless of sex

In the Municipal elections 2012, the proportion of voters of persons entitled to vote remained at 58.3 per cent in the whole country, while in the previous Municipal elections 2008 it was 61.2 per cent. Voting turnout fell for both men and women. The voting turnout of women was **59.8** per cent and that of men **56.7** per cent in the Municipal elections 2012. The last time the voting percentage was under 60 per cent was in the 2000 Municipal elections. Before that, the percentage was under 60 per cent in the Municipal elections 1950. (Table 5.)

Men voted clearly more actively than women until the 1970s, when the difference between the genders in voting turnout narrowed down to one-tenths of a percentage point. Women's voting turnout was for the first time higher than that of men in the Municipal elections 1984. After that, women have been for nearly three decades more active voters in Municipal elections than men.

After 1984, the gender difference in voting turnout grew in favour of women until the Municipal elections 2004. Then women's voting turnout was 4.3 percentage points higher than that of men. In the Municipal elections 2012, the difference in men's and women's voting turnout narrowed to **3.1** percentage points from 3.7 percentage points in 2008.

Table 5. Women's and men's voting turnout in Municipal elections 1950–2012, %

Year	Women	Men	<i>difference</i>	Total
1950	58.9	67.6	-8.7	63.0
1953	68.0	75.3	-7.3	71.3
1956	62.9	70.0	-7.1	66.2
1960	72.7	77.4	-4.7	74.8
1964	77.9	80.9	-3.0	79.3
1968	75.3	78.4	-3.1	76.7
1972	75.4	75.8	-0.4	75.6
1976	78.5	78.6	-0.1	78.5
1980	78.0	78.2	-0.2	78.1
1984	74.3	73.7	0.6	74.0
1988	71.9	69.0	2.9	70.5
1992	72.1	69.6	2.5	70.9
1996	62.8	59.8	3.0	61.3
2000	57.7	53.9	3.8	55.9
2004	60.7	56.4	4.3	58.6
2008	63.0	59.3	3.7	61.2
2012	59.8	56.7	3.1	58.3

Since the 1976 Municipal elections, women in the constituencies of Vaasa, Satakunta (until 1996, Turku South) and Lapland have been more active at voting than in the rest of the country. This was the case in the 2012 elections as well. Women voted the most actively in the constituency of Vaasa (64.5%), the second most actively in the constituency of Satakunta (62.3%) and the third most in Lapland

(62.1%). (Table 6.) In these constituencies, men were also slightly more active at voting than in the other constituencies. Women and men were in turn the least active voters in the constituencies of North Karelia and North Savo.

The voting turnout of women and men fell in all constituencies from the previous elections. For women, it fell least from the previous elections in the constituencies of Helsinki, Uusimaa and North Karelia: in Helsinki by 1.3 percentage points and in Uusimaa and North Karelia by 2.4 percentage points. Men's voting turnout went down least in North Karelia (by 1.0 percentage points). However, men's voting percentage in Uusimaa went down by 2.4 percentage points and remained clearly lower than men's voting percentage in the whole country. Women's voting percentage went down most in the constituencies of North Savo, Kymi and Vaasa and men's in the constituencies of North Savo, Vaasa and Central Finland.

In the Municipal elections, voting has repeatedly been more active in rural municipalities than in urban municipalities. Women's voting turnout was 65.8 per cent in rural municipalities, 61.9 per cent in semi-urban municipalities and 58.0 per cent in urban municipalities. Men's voting turnout similarly correlates with the degree of urbanisation of the municipality. Of the ten largest towns, women's voting turnout was highest in Espoo (61.4%) and Helsinki (59.3%). It was lowest in Lahti (54.0%) and Kuopio (54.3%). Men's voting turnout varied between large towns even more than that. Men voted most in Espoo, where men's voting percentage was 57.0 per cent, and least in Vantaa, where only 49.3 per cent of men entitled to vote used their right to vote.

Table 6. Women's and men's voting turnout by constituency in Municipal elections 1976–2012, %

Constituency	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1996	2000	2004	2008	2012
MAINLAND FINLAND	78.5	78.0	74.3	71.9	72.1	62.8	57.7	60.7	63.0	59.8
Helsinki	75.0	72.8	67.1	64.9	68.0	59.8	53.3	59.5	60.6	59.3
Uusimaa	77.6	76.7	72.0	69.3	71.2	61.4	55.3	59.8	61.3	58.9
Varsinais-Suomi	78.8	79.1	75.3	75.1	74.6	64.4	58.1	61.5	64.1	60.1
Satakunta	81.0	81.2	78.1	76.0	76.2	65.1	61.2	63.1	66.1	62.3
Häme	78.8	79.3	75.3	73.2	72.2	62.3	57.2	59.5	61.7	58.7
Pirkanmaa	80.2	79.4	75.7	72.0	73.8	63.0	59.1	60.9	64.3	60.5
Kymi	77.7	76.9	73.6	71.2	71.2	61.6	56.9	59.8	63.1	58.6
South Savo	77.1	76.5	73.0	71.2	70.1	61.2	58.2	60.2	64.7	61.3
North Savo	76.9	75.7	73.6	68.7	68.8	59.7	55.8	58.3	61.8	57.1
North Karelia	75.2	74.2	71.4	68.8	69.8	59.3	55.1	57.5	59.2	56.8
Vaasa	80.9	80.5	79.8	78.0	76.6	70.2	66.0	67.3	68.9	64.5
Central Finland	80.5	80.1	76.5	75.0	71.8	62.6	58.2	59.8	64.2	59.9
Oulu	80.0	80.4	76.2	72.4	71.3	61.7	57.1	58.8	60.8	57.9
Lapland	83.1	83.5	80.1	77.0	75.4	66.8	61.8	63.2	64.8	62.1

2.2. Share of female candidates varied greatly by municipality and party

The share of women among candidates has grown in every Municipal election until 2008. While in 1953 only every tenth candidate was a woman, in the 2008 elections women's share of candidates rose to 40.4 per cent. However, the long growth in the share of female candidates halted at the 2012 elections, when only 38.8 per cent of the candidates were women. (Table 7.) The total number of candidates was 37,124, of whom 14,422 were women.

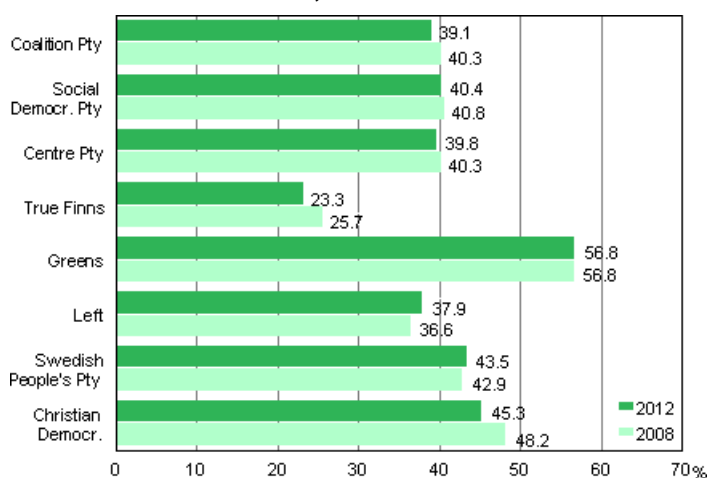
Women were nominated as candidates slightly more often in urban municipalities than in rural or semi-urban municipalities. In towns women's share of candidates was 39.8 per cent, in rural municipalities 38.3 per cent and in semi-urban municipalities 37.7 per cent

The biggest cities in the Greater Helsinki region, Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa, showed the direction already in the 1980s, when the candidate share of women was over 40 per cent in these cities. Rural and small municipalities have caught up with them after this. In the Municipal elections 2012, the number of women candidates was equal to or more than that of men in seven municipalities: Enontekiö (women's share 56.3%), Tyrnävä (55.3%), Korsnäs (54.5%), Virolahti (54.3%), Humppila (53.4%), Hyrynsalmi (52.6%) and Hämeenkoski (50.0%). As in the 2008 Municipal elections, the shares of female candidates were highest in Vantaa, Helsinki and Espoo when comparing the ten largest towns. In the previous elections, in 2008, the female candidate shares varied in the Greater Helsinki region from 45.0 per cent in Helsinki and 45.2 per cent in Espoo to 46.7 per cent in Vantaa. In the 2012 elections, however, the share of female candidates remained slightly lower than in the 2008 elections: in Vantaa at 44.6 per cent, in Helsinki at 44.0 per cent and in Espoo at 41.2 per cent. (Table 9.)

In the 2012 Municipal elections, women's candidate shares fell from the previous elections in all constituencies apart from Lapland, where the share of female candidates among all candidates was 0.7 percentage points higher than in 2008. The share of female candidates fell most in the constituencies of Pirkanmaa and Central Finland. In Pirkanmaa, the share went down by 3.6 percentage points and in Central Finland by 3.4 percentage points from the previous elections. The share of female candidates has usually been higher in southern constituencies. This was also true in the Municipal elections 2012, where the share of female candidates was over 40 per cent only in the constituencies of Helsinki, Uusimaa and Varsinais-Suomi. Their share was in turn lowest in the constituencies of North Karelia (36.5%) and Vaasa (37.0%). (Table 8.)

Of the eight biggest parties (KOK, SDP, KESK, PS, LEFT, GREENS, RKP, KD), only the Left Alliance and the Swedish People's Party were able to raise their share of female candidates slightly from the previous elections. The Green League was the only party that nominated more female candidates than male ones. The Greens now had for the sixth time the biggest female candidate share, 56.8 per cent. The share was of that size in the 2008 Municipal elections as well. The Christian Democrats had the next biggest share of female candidates (45.3%), followed by the Swedish People's Party (43.5%) and the Social Democrats (40.4%). In the Centre Party (39.8%), the Coalition Party (39.1%) and the Left Alliance (37.9%) fewer than 40 per cent of the candidates were women. The Coalition Party, the SDP and the Centre Party nominated slightly fewer female candidates than in the previous elections in relation to all candidates. In True Finns, 23.3 per cent of the candidates were women, and thus considerably fewer than in all other major parties. The share of female candidates in True Finns has also gone down most from the party's female candidate share (25.7%) in the previous elections. (Figure 3.)

Figure 3. Women's shares of candidates in major parties in Municipal elections 2012 and 2008, %



The remaining eight parties taking part in the elections were smaller parties. They nominated altogether fewer candidates than any of the parliamentary parties. The shares of female candidates in small parties varied greatly. The biggest of the small parties, the Communist Party of Finland, nominated 304 candidates,

32.2 per cent of whom were women. Of the 797 candidates nominated by constituency associations, 37.2 per cent were women.

All in all, female candidates were younger than male candidates were. The average age of male candidates was 49.8 years and that of female candidates 47.0 years. The share of male candidates was largest in the 60 to 64 age group and among those aged 65 or over. The share of female candidates was in turn highest in the 30 to 39 age group. Of all female candidates, 30.8 per cent were aged under 40, while this was so for 25.3 per cent of male candidates. Of female candidates, 32.0 per cent were aged 55 or over, as against 42.0 per cent of male candidates. Examined by party, the share of female candidates aged under 40 varied somewhat between the eight biggest parties and even less than this if the small parties are included in the comparison. The share of women aged under 40 was largest in the Green League, 43.1 per cent of female candidates, and the Swedish People's Party had the second largest share, 34.6 per cent. The share of female candidates aged under 40 was smallest for the Christian Democrats, where under 40 age groups formed nearly one-quarter (24.4%) of the party's female candidates. The Social Democrats had the second lowest share of female candidates aged under 40, i.e. 25.5 per cent.

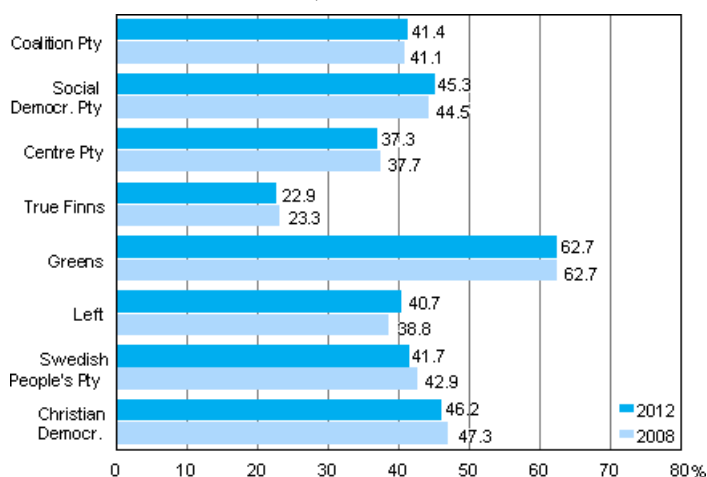
In the Municipal elections 2012, 17.4 per cent of female candidates and 21.1 per cent of male candidates were currently municipal councillors. The share of current municipal councillors among candidates was smaller than in the Municipal elections 2004 and 2008. In 2008, 18.0 per cent of female candidates were currently councillors and 23.8 per cent of male candidates. The nomination of Members of Parliament as candidates was in turn considerably more common than in the previous elections. In all, four out of five MPs (81%) were nominated as candidates in the Municipal elections 2012. Of male MPs, 83.5 per cent were candidates, while the corresponding share for female MPs was 77.7 per cent. The figure of MPs as candidates grew for both male and female MPs. In the 2008 Municipal elections, 77.5 per cent of MPs were nominated as candidates and in the 2004 elections only 71.5 per cent of MPs.

2.3. Women gained more votes than men only in four municipalities

In addition to the number of female candidates, the share of votes cast for female candidates grew over several decades, from 1968 until the Municipal elections 2008. The growth was at its largest in the 1972 elections, when the share of votes cast for women went up by 5.4 percentage points from the previous Municipal elections. In the 1976 and 1980 elections, women's share of votes cast grew by over four percentage points. After this, the growth has slowed down. In the 2012 elections, besides the fall in the share of female candidates, the share of votes cast for women also dropped to a lower level than in the previous elections. In the Municipal elections 2012, the share stood at 40.7 per cent. This represented a drop of 1.3 percentage points from the previous elections, when women gained 42 per cent of votes cast. Women got in all 1,015,696 votes, which is 54,067 votes fewer than in the Municipal elections 2008. However, the share of votes cast for women (40.7%) was higher than the female share of candidates. This has been the case in all Municipal elections since 1953. (Table 7.)

Among the established parties, the female candidates of the Greens were most successful by collecting 62.7 per cent of the votes cast for the party. In the Green League, the nomination of women and their success in elections has conventionally been more general than average. Green female candidates gained a similar share of votes cast in 2008 as well. The share grew by 3.6 percentage points from the 2004 elections, when the share of votes cast for women was 59.1 per cent. Women gained less than one-half of all votes cast in all other major parties. Women received larger shares of votes cast than in the previous elections in the Coalition Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Left Alliance. The second biggest share of votes cast was gained by the female candidates of the Christian Democrats, 46.2 per cent of the votes cast for the party. The third biggest share, 45.3 per cent, was gained by female SDP candidates. True Finn voters gave their vote to women clearly the least often. The party's share of votes cast for women was 22.9 per cent and thus 0.4 percentage points lower than the party's female candidate share. Votes were cast for women more than in the previous elections in the Coalition Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Left Alliance. (Figure 4.)

Figure 4. Women's shares of votes cast in major parties in Municipal elections 2012 and 2008, %



Examined by constituency, women were most successful in the constituencies of Helsinki and Uusimaa, where female candidates gained 48.1 and 45.3 per cent of all votes cast. In both constituencies, the share of votes cast for women was 1.1-fold relative to the share of female candidates. Women were least successful in the constituencies of Kymi (34.9%), Vaasa (35.1%) and North Karelia (36.3%). In the last two mentioned constituencies, the shares of female candidates were also the lowest of all. In the constituency of Kymi, women were given the least votes in relation to the share of female candidates, 0.9-fold: 38.6 per cent of candidates were women, while women gained 34.9 per cent of all votes.

In the Municipal elections, women had clearly more success in urban municipalities than in semi-urban or rural municipalities. In urban municipalities, women got 43.1 per cent of the votes cast and in semi-urban municipalities 36.8 per cent. In rural municipalities, the share of votes cast for female candidates stood at 35.2 per cent. In urban municipalities, the share of votes cast for female candidates was higher than their share of candidates (39.8%). In rural municipalities the situation was the opposite. In these municipalities the share of votes cast for women, 35.2 per cent, remained lower than the female candidate share (38.3%) in rural municipalities. Compared with the Municipal elections 2008, the shares of votes cast for women had dropped in urban municipalities by 1.4 percentage points, in semi-urban municipalities by 0.6 percentage points and in rural municipalities by 1.3 percentage points.

Of the ten largest towns, women did best in Espoo, where women gained exactly one-half of all votes cast. The share of votes was 1.2-fold relative to the share of female candidates. In the previous 2008 elections, women candidates in Espoo also reached an equal share of votes. Then, women were most successful of big towns in Helsinki, where women gained 54.2 per cent of all votes cast. In the Municipal elections 2012, votes were cast for women considerably less often in Helsinki, and women got 48.1 per cent of the votes cast. The share of votes cast for women in Helsinki was 6.1 percentage points lower than in the previous elections, although women's share of candidates, 44.0 per cent, went down by just one percentage point from the previous elections. Of the ten largest towns, women were the least successful in Lahti, where their share of votes cast was 34.5 per cent. In Lahti, the share of votes cast for women was 0.9-fold relative to the share of female candidates among all candidates. In contrast, women gained votes as much as 1.3-fold (46.9%) relative to the share of female candidates (36.3%) in Tampere. (Table 9.)

Besides Espoo, votes were cast to women more often than men in three municipalities in the whole country. Women's shares of votes cast were the highest in Tyrnävä (55.2%), Enontekiö (54.5%) and Humppila (51.1%). In the 2008 elections, there were seven municipalities where women gained one-half or over one-half of all votes cast. Correspondingly, there were nine municipalities in the previous elections where the share of votes cast for women remained under 30 per cent. In the 2012 elections, the share of votes cast for women was under 30 per cent in as many as 47 municipalities.

Examined by party, Green female candidates were most successful in the ten largest towns and reached the 50 per cent share of votes cast clearly in all big towns (Table 12). Coalition Party women gained the largest share of votes in Espoo, where they received 56.7 per cent of the votes cast for the party. Coalition Party women were least successful in Kouvola, where their share of votes was 33.1 per cent. In Espoo the

share of votes cast for the SDP was the most female-dominated: 64.6 per cent of those voting for the party voted for a female candidate. (Table 10.) As in the previous elections, Centre Party women did best of all big towns in Helsinki, where the share of votes cast for women was 55.8 per cent of the votes cast for the party. True Finn women received most votes in Kuopio. However, even there the share of votes cast for women remained at 33.5 per cent of the votes cast for the party. True Finns had the most male-dominated share of votes in Kouvola, where women gained just 7.3 per cent of all votes cast. (Table 11.)

2.4. Women's share of elected councillors remained again smaller than women's share of votes cast

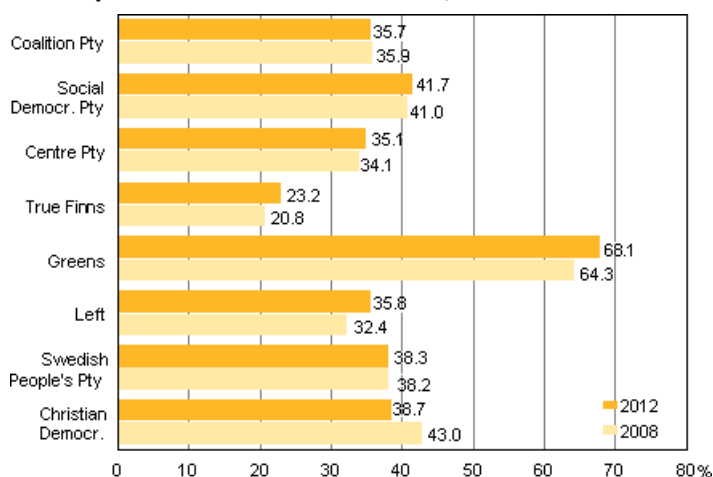
In 2012, the share of women elected to municipal councils fell from the previous elections for the first time since the 1956 elections. Starting from the 1950s, the share of elected women remained around seven to eight per cent, until since the 1968 elections it rose continuously by several percentage points at a time until 2004. In the 1980 elections, the share of women exceeded 20 per cent for the first time and by 1992, the share was already over 30 per cent of council seats. In 2004, the share of the elected women was 36.4 per cent. In the following Municipal elections, 36.7 per cent of the elected councillors were women. In the 2012 elections, the share of women among elected councillors fell to 36.2 per cent after having been rising for decades.

In the whole country, the female share of candidates was 38.8 per cent and 40.7 per cent of all votes cast, but their share of elected councillors was just 36.2 per cent. On the level of the whole country, the share of women elected to municipal councils has conventionally been smaller than the share of votes cast for women in elections. In these elections, the shares of women among elected councillors by constituency were smaller than the shares of votes cast for women, with the exception of the constituencies of Helsinki and Kymi. (Table 8.) There has been even more variation than this by municipality and by party. (Tables 10–13.)

The highest numbers of women were elected from the lists of the Centre Party: 1,079 women got elected and women formed 35.1 per cent of those elected from the party. They were followed by elected councillors from the Social Democratic Party (721 women, 41.7%) and the Coalition Party (619 women, 65.7%). In the Green League, where most women were elected in relative terms, 68.1 per cent, 220 women were elected to municipal councils. The Centre Party, which again did best in small municipalities, got candidates into councils with smaller numbers of votes. Although the number of women elected to councils from the Centre Party was highest, women's share of elected councillors (35.1%) remained lower in the Centre Party than in many other parties. (Figure 5.)

The share of elected women was divided in terms of municipalities' degree of urbanisation quite similarly as the share of votes cast for women. In urban municipalities, women were elected relatively more than in semi-urban municipalities and in semi-urban municipalities relatively more than in rural municipalities. In urban municipalities, 40.4 per cent of councillors were women. In semi-urban municipalities, the share of female councillors was 35.2 per cent and in rural municipalities 34.1 per cent. In all eight major parties, the share of women among elected councillors was higher in urban than rural municipalities. The difference between the shares of elected female councillors in urban and rural municipalities was biggest for the Swedish People's Party, the Left Alliance and the Coalition Party. The share of female councillors from the Swedish People's Party was 45.2 per cent in urban municipalities and 35.3 per cent in rural municipalities. The corresponding figures for the Left Alliance were 40.6 per cent and 31.5 per cent and for the Coalition Party 39.5 per cent and 32.4 per cent. The Centre Party and the SDP had the least differences in the shares of female elected councillors in these municipality groups.

Figure 5. Women's shares of elected councillors in major parties in Municipal elections 2012 and 2008, %



Examined by constituency, most women in relative terms were elected in those constituencies where women had the biggest shares of candidates and votes cast. In relative terms, the largest numbers of women were elected from the constituency of Helsinki, where 49.4 per cent of those elected were women, followed by the constituency of Uusimaa, where 42.0 per cent of elected councillors were women. The shares of elected women were weakest in the constituencies of Vaasa (32.1%) and Satakunta (32.2%), where the share of elected female councillors remained under one-third of all elected councillors. (Table 8.)

Women gained a majority in the municipal councils of six municipalities. In the 2008 Municipal elections, there were 13 municipalities where more women than men were elected to the council, and 23 in the earlier 2004 elections. Six female-dominated councils were now elected: in Enontekiö (women 58.8%), Espoo (53.3%), Hailuoto (52.8%), Hämeenlinna (52.2%), Soini (52.4%) and Tyrvänä (51.9%). There were 35 councils where the share of women was under one quarter. In the previous elections, one fewer such council was elected. In the ten largest municipalities, most women got elected in relative terms in Espoo (53.3%) and least in Kouvola, where the share of women was just 33.9 per cent.

Elected women were younger than elected men were. The average age of women was 47.3 years and that of men 51.5 years. The average age of the elected male councillors was 1.7 years higher than that of male candidates and the elected women were 0.3 years older than female candidates were. Of the elected female councillors, 28.7 per cent were aged under 40, which is 2.1 percentage points less than the share of women of this age among candidates. The figure for men aged 40 among elected councillors was 19.3 per cent, while their share among candidates was six percentage points higher. The share of over 55-year-olds (46.3%) among elected male councillors was 4.3 percentage points higher than among male candidates. The share of elected female councillors aged over 55 (30.5%) remained 1.5 percentage points lower than the share of candidates of this age women. The average age of both elected women and men rose compared with the 2008 Municipal elections.

Figure 6. Women's shares in Municipal elections 1953–2012, %

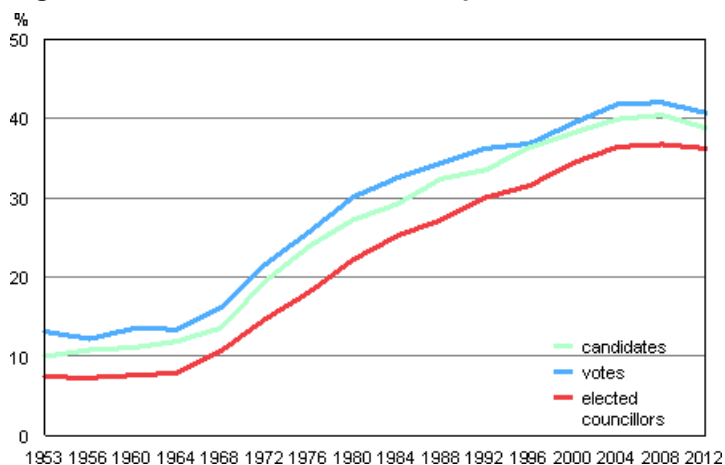


Table 7. Women's shares of candidates, votes cast and elected councillors in Municipal elections 1953–2012, %

Year	Women's share of		
	candidates	votes cast	elected councillors
1953	10.0	13.1	7.4
1956	10.8	12.2	7.3
1960	11.1	13.5	7.6
1964	11.9	13.4	7.9
1968	13.6	16.2	10.7
1972	19.5	21.6	14.7
1976	23.9	25.7	18.1
1980	27.2	30.1	22.2
1984	29.2	32.5	25.2
1988	32.4	34.4	27.2
1992	33.5	36.2	30.0
1996	36.3	36.8	31.5
2000	38.2	39.4	34.4
2004	39.9	41.8	36.4
2008	40.4	42.0	36.7
2012	38.8	40.7	36.2

Table 8. Women's share of candidates, votes and elected councillors by constituency in Municipal elections 2012, %

Constituency	Women's share of		
	candidates	votes cast	elected councillors
MAINLAND FINLAND	38.8	40.7	36.2
Helsinki	44.0	48.1	49.4
Uusimaa	41.5	45.3	42.0
Varsinais-Suomi	40.5	41.3	37.3
Satakunta	37.8	37.7	32.2
Häme	39.4	39.4	38.5
Pirkanmaa	37.7	40.5	35.1
Kymi	38.6	34.9	36.4
South Savo	38.8	37.9	33.8
North Savo	37.9	38.8	36.4
North Karelia	36.5	36.3	35.8
Vaasa	37.0	35.1	32.1
Central Finland	37.3	39.7	36.3
Oulu	37.6	39.1	35.9
Lapland	39.3	38.3	35.0

Figure 7. Proportion of votes won by women in the major parties in Municipal elections 2012, %

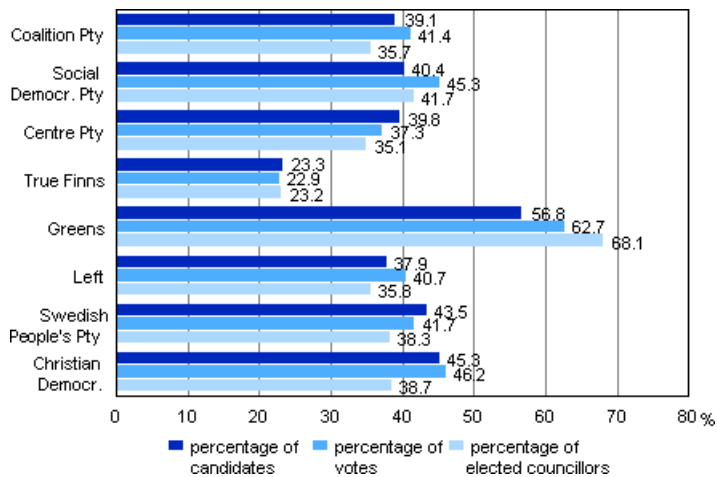


Table 9. Women's shares of candidates, votes cast and elected councillors in the largest towns in Municipal elections 2012, %

Region	Women's share of		
	candidates	votes cast	elected councillors
MAINLAND FINLAND	38.8	40.7	36.2
<i>Urban municipalities total</i>	39.8	43.1	40.4
Helsinki	44.0	48.1	49.4
Espoo	41.2	50.0	53.3
Tampere	36.3	46.9	46.3
Vantaa	44.6	45.2	47.8
Turku	41.1	45.1	47.8
Oulu	41.0	44.4	44.8
Jyväskylä	40.1	44.5	44.8
Lahti	38.7	34.5	37.3
Kuopio	39.4	42.3	37.3
Kouvola	37.0	31.2	33.9

Table 10. Shares of female candidates in the Coalition Party (KOK) and the Social Democratic Party of Finland (SDP) among candidates, votes cast and elected councillors in the largest towns in Municipal elections 2012, %

Region	National Coalition Party KOK			Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP		
	Women's share of candidates	Women's share of votes cast	Women's share of elected councillors	Women's share of candidates	Women's share of votes cast	Women's share of elected councillors
MAINLAND FINLAND	39.1	41.4	35.7	40.4	45.3	41.7
<i>Urban municipalities total</i>	40.5	43.1	39.5	40.3	46.6	43.0
Helsinki	52.8	48.6	43.5	47.2	47.0	46.7
Espoo	45.5	56.7	62.1	40.2	64.6	60.0
Tampere	35.4	44.2	35.3	44.0	58.4	56.3
Vantaa	41.0	41.4	38.9	44.0	47.6	61.1
Turku	49.0	40.5	47.4	48.0	43.5	42.9
Oulu	48.0	49.7	53.8	42.0	53.9	55.6
Jyväskylä	46.0	44.6	38.5	43.0	52.7	47.1
Lahti	37.5	35.0	33.3	43.2	31.8	27.8
Kuopio	42.0	42.0	28.6	38.6	50.8	41.7
Kouvola	39.0	33.1	41.7	38.8	38.2	42.9

Table 11. Shares of female candidates in the True Finns (PS) and the Centre Party of Finland (KESK) among candidates, votes cast and elected councillors in the largest towns in Municipal elections 2012, %

Region	True Finns PS			Centre Party of Finland KESK		
	Women's share of candidates	Women's share of votes cast	Women's share of elected councillors	Women's share of candidates	Women's share of votes cast	Women's share of elected councillors
MAINLAND FINLAND	23.3	22.9	23.2	39.8	37.3	35.1
<i>Urban municipalities total</i>	23.2	24.0	25.5	40.4	39.4	35.6
Helsinki	28.6	23.3	25.0	41.9	55.8	66.7
Espoo	27.2	19.2	20.0	42.9	35.9	–
Tampere	14.0	26.5	22.2	40.3	30.9	33.3
Vantaa	32.0	27.1	18.2	35.6	46.5	66.7
Turku	20.0	19.6	33.3	37.1	45.0	25.0
Oulu	22.4	30.0	50.0	33.0	36.6	31.6
Jyväskylä	23.8	21.3	37.5	40.0	37.1	45.5
Lahti	18.8	13.3	22.2	40.7	55.3	100.0
Kuopio	25.0	33.5	44.4	40.9	38.2	38.5
Kouvola	16.3	7.3	–	33.3	33.3	44.4

Table 12. Table 8. Shares of female candidates in the Green League (GREENS) and the Left Alliance (LEFT) among candidates, votes cast and elected councillors in the largest towns in Municipal elections 2012, %

Region	Green League GREENS			Left-Wing Alliance LEFT		
	Women's share of candidates	Women's share of votes cast	Women's share of elected councillors	Women's share of candidates	Women's share of votes cast	Women's share of elected councillors
MAINLAND FINLAND	56.8	62.7	68.1	37.9	40.7	35.8
<i>Urban municipalities total</i>	55.8	62.6	68.8	38.9	42.4	40.6
Helsinki	58.3	61.5	63.2	40.2	44.0	55.6
Espoo	48.2	63.8	84.6	39.2	34.2	–
Tampere	47.0	53.6	60.0	45.0	62.0	71.4
Vantaa	58.0	68.5	77.8	44.4	39.2	50.0
Turku	49.0	70.5	80.0	42.0	57.7	44.4
Oulu	60.2	64.0	42.9	39.0	41.2	40.0
Jyväskylä	46.6	55.4	71.4	32.9	44.2	33.3
Lahti	48.4	56.2	66.7	34.2	30.6	40.0
Kuopio	64.9	60.5	60.0	29.6	32.1	25.0
Kouvola	69.6	74.5	100.0	33.3	34.1	50.0

Table 13. Shares of female candidates in the Swedish People's Party in Finland (RKP) and the Christian Democrats (KD) among candidates, votes cast and elected councillors in the largest towns in Municipal elections 2012, %

Region	Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP			Christian Democrats in Finland KD		
	Women's share of candidates	Women's share of votes cast	Women's share of elected councillors	Women's share of candidates	Women's share of votes cast	Women's share of elected councillors
MAINLAND FINLAND	43.5	41.7	38.3	45.3	46.2	38.7
<i>Urban municipalities total</i>	45.7	45.4	45.2	44.7	47.0	40.2
Helsinki	47.2	50.3	60.0	53.4	50.4	50.0
Espoo	43.8	36.6	28.6	56.0	44.7	50.0
Tampere	–	–	–	48.4	66.8	100.0
Vantaa	58.7	40.0	–	57.9	64.9	50.0
Turku	49.0	37.9	66.7	47.8	34.9	–
Oulu	–	–	–	33.3	61.7	100.0
Jyväskylä	–	–	–	45.7	53.8	25.0
Lahti	–	–	–	43.2	60.0	75.0
Kuopio	–	–	–	50.0	37.2	–
Kouvola	–	–	–	48.6	44.2	25.0

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Voting turnout by sex and constituency in Municipal elections in 1976–2012, %

Corrected on 19 March 2014. The corrected numbers are indicated in red. Several complaints on Municipal elections 2012 have been filed to administrative courts and the results of the elections have been changed by the decisions of administrative courts (errors in source data have also been corrected).

Constituency	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1996	2000	2004	2008	2012
MAINLAND FINLAND	78.5	78.1	74.0	70.5	70.9	61.3	55.9	58.6	61.2	58.3
Female	78.5	78.0	74.3	71.9	72.1	62.8	57.7	60.7	63.0	59.8
Male	78.6	78.2	73.7	69.0	69.6	59.8	53.9	56.4	59.3	56.7
HELSINKI	74.6	72.1	66.3	63.3	66.4	58.1	50.9	57.1	58.9	57.4
Female	75.0	72.8	67.1	64.9	68.0	59.8	53.3	59.5	60.6	59.3
Male	73.9	71.1	65.2	61.2	64.3	55.9	48.1	54.2	56.8	55.2
UUSIMAA	77.4	76.6	71.6	67.3	69.5	59.9	53.3	57.7	59.4	57.1
Female	77.6	76.7	72.0	69.3	71.2	61.4	55.3	59.8	61.3	58.9
Male	77.3	76.4	71.2	65.2	67.7	58.2	51.1	55.3	57.5	55.1
VARSINAIS-SUOMI	78.8	79.2	75.4	73.3	73.4	63.4	56.9	60.0	62.5	59.1
Female	78.8	79.1	75.3	75.1	74.6	64.4	58.1	61.5	64.1	60.1
Male	78.8	79.3	75.6	71.4	72.1	62.3	55.5	58.5	60.9	58.0
SATAKUNTA	81.1	81.7	78.3	75.0	75.0	64.0	59.8	61.3	64.9	61.1
Female	81.0	81.2	78.1	76.0	76.2	65.1	61.2	63.1	66.1	62.3
Male	81.2	82.1	78.4	73.9	73.7	62.8	58.2	59.4	63.6	59.9
HÄME	78.9	79.1	74.4	70.2	70.9	60.8	55.4	57.7	59.9	57.4
Female	78.8	79.3	75.3	73.2	72.2	62.3	57.2	59.5	61.7	58.7
Male	79.1	79.0	73.4	66.8	69.5	59.1	53.5	55.6	58.1	55.9
PIRKANMAA	80.3	79.5	75.3	70.7	72.7	61.7	57.3	59.2	62.4	59.1
Female	80.2	79.4	75.7	72.0	73.8	63.0	59.1	60.9	64.3	60.5
Male	80.5	79.5	74.9	69.3	71.5	60.2	55.2	57.3	60.4	57.7
KYMI	77.6	77.0	73.1	69.9	70.3	60.0	54.9	57.7	60.9	57.2
Female	77.7	76.9	73.6	71.2	71.2	61.6	56.9	59.8	63.1	58.6
Male	77.4	77.1	72.7	68.6	69.4	58.3	52.8	55.6	58.7	55.8
SOUTH SAVO	76.8	76.4	73.1	69.9	68.7	59.9	56.5	58.3	62.8	59.6
Female	77.1	76.5	73.0	71.2	70.1	61.2	58.2	60.2	64.7	61.3
Male	76.5	76.3	73.2	68.6	67.1	58.4	54.7	56.2	60.8	57.7
NORTH SAVO	76.8	76.0	72.8	69.0	67.5	58.3	53.8	56.0	59.9	55.6
Female	76.9	75.7	73.6	68.7	68.8	59.7	55.8	58.3	61.8	57.1
Male	76.7	76.4	71.9	69.2	66.1	56.8	51.7	53.6	57.9	54.0
NORTH KARELIA	75.8	75.5	71.3	68.6	68.9	57.9	53.5	55.4	57.1	55.4
Female	75.2	74.2	71.4	68.8	69.8	59.3	55.1	57.5	59.2	56.8
Male	76.4	76.9	71.2	68.3	67.8	56.4	51.8	53.2	55.0	54.0
VAASA	80.9	80.9	79.5	77.3	75.9	69.0	64.4	65.6	67.5	63.3
Female	80.9	80.5	79.8	78.0	76.6	70.2	66.0	67.3	68.9	64.5
Male	81.0	81.3	79.3	76.6	75.0	67.7	62.7	63.9	66.1	62.2
CENTRAL FINLAND	80.8	80.3	75.9	72.6	70.3	60.9	56.3	57.7	62.3	58.3

Corrected on 19 March 2014. The corrected numbers are indicated in red. Several complaints on Municipal elections 2012 have been filed to administrative courts and the results of the elections have been changed by the decisions of administrative courts (errors in source data have also been corrected).

Constituency	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1996	2000	2004	2008	2012
Female	80.5	80.1	76.5	75.0	71.8	62.6	58.2	59.8	64.2	59.9
Male	81.0	80.4	75.3	70.0	68.7	59.1	54.2	55.6	60.4	56.6
OULU	80.1	80.7	75.8	71.2	70.4	60.1	55.1	56.0	58.7	56.5
Female	80.0	80.4	76.2	72.4	71.3	61.7	57.1	58.8	60.8	57.9
Male	80.1	81.0	75.4	70.0	69.4	58.6	53.0	53.3	56.6	55.0
LAPLAND	83.4	83.5	79.3	75.4	73.9	65.2	59.8	60.9	62.8	60.6
Female	83.1	83.5	80.1	77.0	75.4	66.8	61.8	63.2	64.8	62.1
Male	83.6	83.4	78.5	73.8	72.5	63.6	57.8	58.5	60.8	59.1

Appendix table 2. Persons entitled to vote and those who voted by nationality in Municipal elections 1996–2012

Corrected on 19 March 2014. The corrected numbers are indicated in red. Several complaints on Municipal elections 2012 have been filed to administrative courts and the results of the elections have been changed by the decisions of administrative courts (errors in source data have also been corrected).

Mainland Finland	Total	Finnish citizens	Other EU-citizens, citizens of Iceland and Norway	Other foreign citizens
Persons entitled to vote				
1996		3,941,019	3,896,450	11,734
2000		4,014,611	3,956,450	14,516
2004		4,099,864	4,024,820	29,634
2008		4,191,662	4,095,291	43,296
2012		4,303,064	4,166,110	61,617
Persons who voted				
1996		2,417,057	2,407,809	3,754
%		61.3	61.8	32.0
2000		2,242,811	2,230,683	4,418
%		55.9	56.4	30.4
2004		2,403,260	2,391,800	5,307
%		58.6	59.4	17.9
2008		2,565,413	2,546,513	9,033
%		61.2	62.2	20.9
2012		2,507,244	2,480,428	11,748
%		58.3	59.5	19.1

Municipal elections, quality description

1. Relevance of statistical information

1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

Statistics Finland produces official statistics from municipal elections containing key data on the candidates, elected councillors, those entitled to vote, those who voted and support gained by the parties. Statistics Finland's statistics pages on municipal elections also provide analyses on the backgrounds of the candidates and the elected, and as separate services the election map service and the StatFin online service.

1.2 Essential concepts

Holding of elections

Municipal elections are held every four years on the fourth Sunday in October. In the municipalities of the autonomous territory of the Åland Islands elections (www.val.ax) are also arranged every four years, but one year ahead of those in Mainland Finland. Elections are held in accordance with the Election Act in force, more details on the Ministry of Justice's web pages www.vaalit.fi (=> Legislation) and www.finlex.fi, Election Act (714/1998). In municipal elections advance voting was possible abroad for the first time in 2000.

Legislation on elections

The first act concerning municipal elections was enacted in 1917. 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. The provisions concerning municipal elections are included in it and in the Local Government Act (365/1995).

The main principles of holding elections

All elections in Finland are held according to the following principles:

- **The elections are direct.** Electors (those entitled to vote) vote direct for the person 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.
- **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.**
- 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 voting register, voting and calculation of the election result

Right to vote

Entitled to vote in municipal elections are:

1. Citizens of Finland or another Member State of the European Union as well as of Iceland and Norway who have reached the age of 18 not later than on the day of the election, and whose municipality of residence, as defined by law, is the municipality in question on the 51st day before election day, and
2. Other foreigners who have reached the age of 18 not later than on the day of the election, and whose municipality of residence, as defined by law, is the municipality in question on the 51st day before election day, and who at that time have had a municipality of residence in Finland for an uninterrupted period of two years.

Voting register

The Population Register Centre compiles a computer register of everyone entitled to vote (voting register) 46 days before the election day. This register contains certain information on the voters (including the voters' name, identity code, constituency, municipality of residence and polling station) as this information appears in the Population Information System 51 days before the election day. The voting register is established on 12 September 2012 based on the information included in the Population Information System on 7 September 2012.

The voting register is publicly available at the local register offices (maistraatti) from 41 days before the election day onwards (i.e. from 17 September 2012). In addition, everyone in the register is sent a notice of his or her right to vote (card of information) not later than 24 days before the election day (4 October 2012). The card states among other things the election day, the days for advance voting, the address of the polling station of the recipient and the addresses and telephone numbers of the election authorities. The voting register is later used to print out electoral rolls for the polling stations on the election day.

Claims for correction of the register have to be submitted to the local register offices not later than 16 days (12 October 2012) before the election day and the local register office will decide the claims not later than 13 days before the election day.

The voting register becomes legally valid at noon 12 days prior to the election day, that is, on Tuesday 16 October 2012 at noon.

Voting

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

Advance votes in Finland (17 to 23 October 2012) are cast in general advance polling stations, in institutions and at voters' home under certain conditions. General advance polling stations in Finland are offices, post offices and other locations specified by municipalities. Advance votes abroad (17 to 20 October 2012) are cast at Finnish embassies and their trade missions and Finnish vessels. General advance polling stations abroad are the Finnish embassies and their trade missions specified in a Government decree. Each person entitled to vote can vote in advance in general advance polling stations in Finland and abroad at Finnish embassies.

On the election day an enfranchised person may vote only in the polling station of his or her own voting district.

A voter need not give grounds for advance voting, but may freely choose between voting in advance or voting on the election day. Advance voting commences on the 11th day (17 October 2012) and ends abroad on the 8th day (20 October 2012) and in Finland on the 5th day (23 October 2012) before the election day.

Voting percentage = proportion of voters of persons entitled to vote

Calculation of the result of the municipal elections

Counting the advance votes

Municipalities' central election committees begin counting the advance votes on the election day at 3 pm at the earliest (for a particular reason at noon at the earliest). The brown ballot envelopes sent from the municipalities are opened and the ballots within them are counted. Advance votes are counted so that the result of advance voting should be ready by 8 pm that evening. Before this the central election committees may not reveal anything on how the counting is progressing.

Counting the votes on the election day

As soon as the doors of the polling stations have been closed at 8 pm, the election board 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 central election committee before Monday morning at 9 am.

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 within the municipality are listed in order from best to worst according to their comparative index, and the councillors elected from the municipality are chosen from this list.

Eligibility and nomination of candidates

Eligibility

Eligible as candidates in municipal elections are persons,

1. Whose municipality of residence is the municipality in question,
2. Who are entitled to vote in municipal elections in some municipality, and
3. Who are not under guardianship (legally incompetent).

Section 34 of the Local Government Act prescribes the restrictions to eligibility.

As a rule, eligibility is determined in the same schedule as the right to vote, that is, according to the information drawn from the Population Register Centre's Population Information System 51 days prior to the day of the election (in the 2012 Municipal elections by Friday 7 September). If the person changes his or her municipality of residence after that date, his or her eligibility follows with him or her. The legislation has not set a clear deadline for the determination of eligibility of candidates but in practice, candidates' municipality of residence has to be clear at the latest on the 32nd day prior to the day of the election (in the 2012 Municipal election by Wednesday 26 September), when the central election committees handle and decide the additions made to the candidate applications. Decisions on the candidates' municipality of residence are made based on the information in the Population Information System.

Nomination of candidates

Candidates in municipal elections may be nominated by

1. Parties entered in the party register and
2. Constituency associations established by people entitled to vote.

Each party may nominate a number of candidates equalling the number of councillors to be elected multiplied by one and a half. For example, if 27 councillors are elected in the municipality, the party may have at most 40 candidates. Parties may form electoral alliances, but the number of candidates nominated by an alliance may not exceed the maximum number of candidates for a single party.

A constituency association for the nomination of one candidate may be established by at least ten people who are entitled to vote in the municipality. By a decree of the Ministry of Justice (in the 2012 Municipal elections Decree 237/2012), in some small municipalities a constituency association may, however, be established by five or at least three persons entitled to vote. Constituency associations may form joint lists with a maximum number of candidates equalling the number of councillors to be elected multiplied by one and a half.

The central election committee compiles a combined list of candidates in which the candidates of all parties, constituency associations and joint lists are enumerated in an order drawn by lot. The list contains the following information on the candidates: number (beginning with number 2), name, municipality of residence and title, profession or position.

The number of councillors elected depends on the population of the municipality (the situation at the end of May in the election year). At the beginning of 2013, the number of municipalities is 304 in Mainland Finland and 16 in Åland. According to Section 10 of the Local Government Act (365/1995), the number of councillors varies as follows:

Number of councillors according to the population of the municipality

Population	No. of councillors
at most 2,000	17*
2,001 - 4,000	21
4,001 - 8,000	27
8,001 - 15,000	35
15,001 - 30,000	43
30,001 - 60,000	51
60,001 - 120,000	59
120,001 - 250,000	67
250,001 - 400,000	75
over 400,000	85

* The municipality may decide that the number of councillors elected will be 13 or 15.

Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities

Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities concerning elections of different years are presented on the Internet in the Classifications section (on the home page for Municipal elections).

Municipalities are placed into constituencies according to the constituency division in force.

The valid statistical grouping of municipalities is used in the statistics (Statistics Finland, Municipalities and Regional Divisions Based on Municipalities). The changes in municipalities entering into force at the beginning of the year following the elections are taken into account in the statistics on municipal elections, because the elections are held following the coming municipal division. 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 2012 and the population of the municipality in 2011. 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 councillors, country of residence.

Candidates have been nominated in the Municipal elections 2012 by the following registered parties:

- The 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)
- True Finns (PS)
- Finnish Labour Party (STP)
- Independence Party (IP)
- For the Poor (KA)
- Pirate Party of Finland
- Change 2011
- Liberty Party - Future of Finland
- The Communist Party of Finland (SKP)
- For Peace and Socialism – Communist Workers Party (Finland) (KTP)

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 is assigned to Tieto.

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). The area of responsibility of the Population and Social Statistics Department covers the compilation of statistics describing population, income, education, culture, labour market, justice and other living conditions (Rules of Procedure of Statistics Finland, TK-00-1497-12). These also include election statistics.

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 six subsystems. They are:

1. Basic data, including data on constituencies, municipalities, voting districts and election authorities;
2. Data on polling stations (polling station register), which include data on general advance polling stations and polling stations on the election day;
3. Franchise data (voting register), for which data on every person entitled to vote are collected by the Population Register Centre 46 days before the election day. This register contains certain information on the voters (including the voters' name, identity code, constituency, municipality of residence, and polling station) as this information appears in the Population Information System 51 days before the election day. The voting register becomes legally valid at noon 12 days prior to the election day;
4. Data on candidates (candidate register) in which the following data on each candidate in the elections are entered: name, candidate number, profession, municipality of residence, party/voters' association that has nominated the candidate, and personal identity code;
5. A centralised calculation system to which the electoral district committees and the central election committees submit their results of the elections;
6. A 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 election data system comprises four election data files: regional file, party file, candidate file and candidate register.

Background analysis of the advance voters

The analysis is based on the data derived from the voting register (Population Register Centre) and from Statistics Finland's Population and Social Statistics Department.

In connection with the election statistics, a background analysis is produced on the advance voters in relation to the persons entitled to vote. The population of persons entitled to vote is based on the voting register established on 12 September 2012. Information is entered in the voting register on the voting of all advance voters. The background data on the persons combined with the voting register are based on statistical data from Statistics Finland's Population and Social Statistics Department, such as employment statistics, the Register of Completed Education and Degrees, and family statistics.

In the analysis, advance voters are described with respect to certain variables. The background data derive mainly from year 2011. 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 viewed 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 were born abroad are regarded by origin as coming from a foreign background. The data are from the year 2011.

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.

In this analysis, main type of activity is as follows:

- Employed
- Unemployed
- Students, pupils
- Pensioners (incl. those on unemployment pension)
- Other inactive population

In the analysis, the group of pensioners is formed by those on old-age, unemployment and disability pension. Conscripts and those in non-military service are included in the inactive population. The information used in the analysis describes the person's activity during the last week of 2011.

Family status

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

- Married, cohabiting
- Single parent
- Without a family
- (Adult) child living at home
- Unknown

Married include all those living in marriage or registered same-sex partnership. Young people aged 18 or over living with their own parents/parent or adopted parents/parent having the status of a child are defined as children.

The data on the person's family status are from the year 2011.

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 2011.

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 polytechnic qualifications.

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 polytechnic 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 2011.

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 and awards received from the general government.

The data are based on the National Board of Taxes' data in the tax database concerning income subject to state taxation. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2011.

Median income

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

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

The basic data of the election statistics derive from 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 the elected, whereby even their mutual order may change.

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

The statistics are released on the Internet, in the StatFin online service and on the statistics pages on Municipal elections. Election data by municipality and voting district and the numbers of votes gained by the candidates and elected are entered into the StatFin online service.

Releases 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 Municipal elections.

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

6. Comparability of statistics

The municipal classification of the year following 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 2000. 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 on the statistics pages on Municipal elections from 1921 onwards.

7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity and documentation

The Ministry of Justice publishes exhaustive information about different elections and the national candidate register and election result data on its web pages (www.vaalit.fi). The statistics on advance voters published by the Ministry of Justice differ from Statistics Finland's statistics on 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 website.

Inquiries

Miina Keski-Petäjä 09 1734 3240

Jaana Asikainen 09 1734 3506

Director in charge:

Riitta Harala

vaalit@stat.fi

http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/kvaa/index_en.html

Source: Municipal Elections 2012, Review of advance voting and women's and men's success in the elections, Statistics Finland