

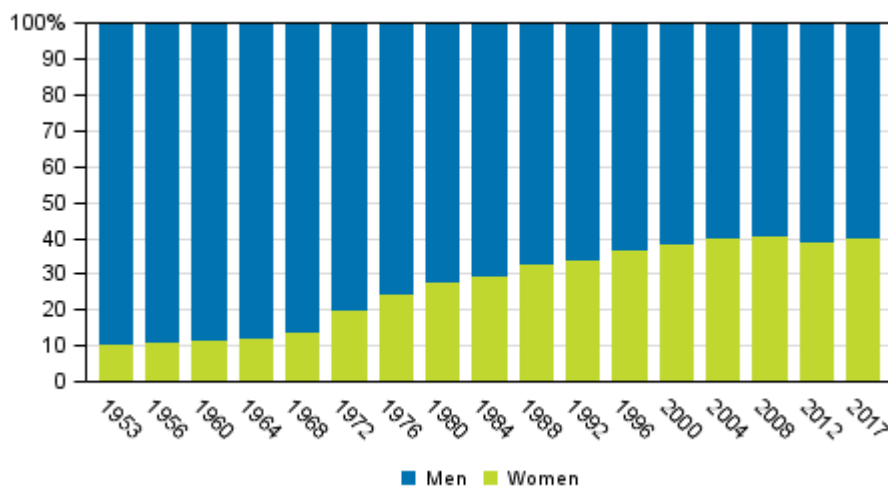
# Municipal elections 2017

## Nomination of candidates and background analysis of candidates

### A total of 33,618 candidates in Municipal elections 2017

Of the registered parties, 15 nominated candidates in the Municipal elections 2017. The total number of candidates in the 295 municipalities in Mainland Finland is 33,618, of whom 805 were nominated by constituency associations. The number of candidates in the Municipal elections declined by 3,506 from the previous Municipal elections (9.4 per cent). Of the candidates, 20,207 are men and 13,411 are women. Of the candidates, 6,669 are current councillors in municipal councils, 162 are Members of Parliament and four are members of the European Parliament. Of the parties, the most candidates were nominated by the Centre Party of Finland, 7,461 candidates and the least candidates were nominated by the Animal Justice Party of Finland, 15 candidates. The data are based on Statistics Finland's statistics on the nomination of candidates for the Municipal elections 2017.

### Women's and men's proportions of candidates in Municipal elections 1953–2017



In Municipal elections, candidates can be nominated by registered political parties and constituency associations established by persons entitled to vote. Parties can form electoral alliances and constituency associations can form joint lists. Each party or electoral alliance may nominate at most one and a half times the number of candidates as the number of elected councillors in the municipality. Ninety-six per cent of the candidates were nominated by current parliamentary parties – the Centre Party of Finland,

National Coalition Party, Finns Party, Finnish Social Democratic Party, Green League, Left Alliance, Swedish People's Party in Finland, and Christian Democrats in Finland. Of the candidates, 1.6 per cent were nominated by parties that do not have MPs in the present Parliament. Of such parties, the most candidates were nominated by the Communist Party of Finland, 221 candidates and the least by the Animal Justice Party of Finland, 15 candidates. Of the candidates, 2.4 per cent are nominated by constituency associations.

A majority of the candidates in the Municipal elections have always been men. Of the candidates in the Municipal elections 2017, altogether 39.9 per cent were women, which is 1.1 percentage points more than in the previous Municipal elections. Among the parliamentary parties, the Green League nominated most female candidates in relative terms, 57.9 per cent of the candidates nominated by the party. Among the parliamentary parties, the Finns Party nominated the least female candidates, 25.2 per cent. Among all parties, the proportion of female candidates was highest in the Feminist Party (90.0 per cent) and lowest in the Independence Party (11.4 per cent).

**Table 1. Number of candidates by age group and party in Municipal elections 2017**

Party	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
KESK	353	902	1,442	1,761	1,792	1,211	7,461
KOK	300	603	1,233	1,531	1,239	833	5,739
PS	118	469	791	974	867	612	3,831
SDP	171	599	1,180	1,388	1,609	1,185	6,132
VIHR	156	476	795	631	377	165	2,600
VAS	122	426	606	608	818	623	3,203
RKP	103	185	262	295	255	224	1,324
KD	50	210	336	439	490	446	1,971
SKP	4	35	32	22	53	75	221
KTP	1	3	3	3	6	23	39
LIBE	7	21	14	9	3	2	56
Piraattip.	12	71	38	14	2	-	137
EOP	1	9	2	3	-	-	15
Femin.p.	3	15	13	6	2	1	40
IP	-	4	14	9	10	7	44
Others	27	65	162	223	195	133	805
Total	1,428	4,093	6,923	7,916	7,718	5,540	33,618

The average age of all candidates in the Municipal elections is 49.5 years, that of male candidates is 50.7 and that of female ones 47.8. Of the candidates, 21,174 (63.0 per cent) are aged 45 or over, 5,540 (16.5 per cent) are aged 65 or over. Altogether, 1,428 candidates (4.2 per cent) are aged under 25. Among the parliamentary parties, the Swedish People's Party has the most candidates aged under 25 (7.8 per cent) and the Christian Democrats have the least (2.5 per cent). In relative terms, the Christian Democrats have the most candidates aged 65 or over (22.6 per cent) and the Green League has the least (6.3 per cent). Of all the parties that nominated candidates in the Municipal elections 2017, the Liberal Party has the most candidates aged under 25 in relative terms (12.5 per cent) and the Independence Party has the least (0.0 per cent). In relative terms, the Communist Worker's Party has the most candidates aged 65 or over (59.0 per cent) and the Pirate Party and the Animal Justice Party have the least (0.0 per cent). The age of the candidate is the age on the election day.

**Table 2. Background analysis of candidates by party in the Municipal elections 2017**

Party	Councillors in municipal councils (%)	Average age of candidates	Finnish or Sami speakers (%)	Swedish speakers (%)	Other language speakers (%)	Employed (%)	Unemployed (%)	In the inactive population (%) <sup>1)</sup>	Average income <sup>2)</sup>
KESK	28.1	49.5	98.3	0.4	1.3	74.5	5.4	20.1	39,131
KOK	20.3	49.0	96.6	1.5	1.9	75.7	4.8	19.4	50,162
PS	20.8	49.8	97.5	0.7	1.8	56.9	15.0	28.1	30,420
SDP	20.0	51.4	94.4	3.6	2.0	68.9	8.0	23.2	37,866
VIHR	8.8	43.8	93.2	2.6	4.2	69.7	11.0	19.3	33,494
VAS	14.5	50.4	95.8	1.3	2.8	58.4	11.9	29.8	30,508
RKP	22.8	47.9	7.9	88.8	3.3	75.2	4.2	20.6	45,980
KD	10.2	52.2	88.6	8.0	3.5	60.2	9.3	30.5	32,929
SKP	4.1	54.1	95.5	1.8	2.7	39.8	14.9	45.2	23,587
KTP	-	61.1	100.0	-	-	12.8	7.7	79.5	19,935
LIBE	3.6	37.2	92.9	5.4	1.8	67.9	8.9	23.2	29,654
Piraattip.	-	33.8	93.4	3.6	2.9	46.7	21.2	32.1	19,432
EOP	-	34.3	100.0	-	-	60.0	20.0	20.0	19,917
Femin.p.	-	37.2	82.5	12.5	5.0	77.5	5.0	17.5	27,149
IP	2.3	50.8	100.0	-	-	45.5	25.0	29.5	24,252
Others	21.7	51.0	91.7	6.2	2.1	62.8	11.2	26.0	35,014
All candidates	19.8	49.5	92.2	5.6	2.2	68.2	8.4	23.4	38,080

1) Candidates in the inactive population are divided into students (20.1%), pensioners (71.4%), conscripts or performing community service (0.4%), and other persons in the inactive population (8.1%).

2) Income subject to state taxation

Of the candidates, 19.8 per cent are current councillors in municipal councils. Among the parliamentary parties, the Centre Party has in relative terms the most candidates that are current councillors, 28.1 per cent. Among the parliamentary parties, the Green League has in relative terms the fewest candidates that are current councillors, 8.8 per cent.

Of the candidates, 92.2 per cent are Finnish or Sami speakers, 5.6 per cent are Swedish speakers and 2.2 per cent of the candidates have some other native language. Among the parliamentary parties, the Green League (4.2%), the Christian Democrats (3.5%) and the Swedish People's Party (3.3%) have the most foreign-language speaking candidates in relative terms.

Based on the candidates' main type of activity, 68.2 per cent of all candidates in the Municipal elections are employed, 8.4 per cent are unemployed and 23.4 per cent are in the inactive population. Among the parliamentary parties, the Coalition Party (75.7%) has the most employed candidates in relative terms and the Finns Party has the least (56.9%). In relative terms, the Christian Democrats have the most candidates in the inactive population (19.3%) and the Green League has the least (19.3%).

The average income subject to state taxation of all the candidates was EUR 38,080 per year. Among the parliamentary parties, the candidates of the Coalition Party have the highest average income, EUR 50,162, and the candidates of the Finns Party have the lowest, EUR 30,420.

The national register of candidates is published on the Internet pages of the Ministry of Justice ([www.vaalit.fi/en/](http://www.vaalit.fi/en/)). More detailed data on the candidates of the Municipal elections can be found in the review: Background analysis of candidates in the Municipal elections 2017.

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# 1. Background analysis of candidates in the Municipal elections 2017

In the following review, background information of persons entitled to vote and of the candidates nominated by the parties are examined. The data on persons entitled to vote derive from the voting register established on 22 February 2017 and the data on the candidates from the candidate register set up on 9 March 2017. The background data are based on statistical data from Statistics Finland, such as population, employment and family statistics and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees.

The candidates 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 taken into consideration when comparing the candidates 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 and those entitled to vote, for example, when comparing the level of education, main type of activity, family status and socio-economic group among the candidates and persons entitled to vote.

Only the parliamentary parties are specified in the following examination. The candidates nominated by other parties and constituency associations are presented as one category "Others".

## 1.1. Summary

### **Number of candidates decreases, average age increases**

The number of candidates in the Municipal elections has been declining for a long time. Now, 33,618 candidates were nominated in the Municipal elections, which is 3,500 fewer than in 2012 and 6,100 fewer than in the 2000 elections. Only the Green League and the Christian Democrats in Finland were able to nominate more candidates than in the 2012 elections. Just like in previous years, the Centre Party of Finland has most candidates even though its number of the candidates has also declined from previous years.

The proportion of female candidates has remained at around 40 per cent already for a long time. Only the Green League has more female than male candidates. Around 58 per cent of its candidates are women. Among the parliamentary parties, the Finns Party has the least female candidates, 25 per cent.

Candidates are, on average, close on one year younger than persons entitled to vote. The average age of the candidates has, however, risen faster than that of persons entitled to vote. Since 2000, the average age of the candidates has risen by 3.6 years. Over the same period, the average age of persons entitled to vote has risen by nearly three years.

### **One-half of the candidates were also candidates in the previous elections**

Among all the candidates nominated by the parties over one-half were also candidates in the 2012 Municipal elections, primarily as candidates for the same party. Since the last elections, the Green League has renewed its list of candidates the most, 60 per cent of their candidates were not candidates in the previous Municipal elections.

Around one-fifth of the candidates are current councillors. The Centre Party has the most current councillors on its list, around 28 per cent of the party's candidates. Altogether 162 of the candidates are Members of Parliament.

The Centre Party candidates dominate in small municipalities measured by population with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants. In municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants as many as 40 per cent of all candidates were nominated by the Centre Party. In the largest municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants, the party distribution is clearly more even and no party has over 20 per cent of the candidates.

### **Persons with foreign background under-represented**

Compared with persons entitled to vote, persons with foreign background are under-represented among candidates. Persons of foreign background, that is, persons, whose both parents were born abroad, represent close on six per cent of those entitled to vote and slightly over two per cent of candidates. The highest

proportions of candidates with foreign background were nominated by the Swedish People's Party (4.2%) and the least by the Centre Party (1.2%).

Examined by native language, the result is similar. Clearly fewer candidates than persons entitled to vote speak a foreign language as their native language. There are 727 foreign-language speaking candidates. The largest group of foreign-language speaking candidates is formed by Russian speakers, 164 candidates, and the second largest by Estonian speakers, 72 candidates.

There are citizens from over 60 different countries among the candidates, even though the share of foreign citizens among all candidates is under one per cent. Four per cent of all persons entitled to vote are foreign citizens. Of the candidates, 263 persons are foreign citizens. A person can have more than one nationality. There are 462 candidates that are Finnish citizens with citizenship in another country as well. They represent 1.4 per cent of all candidates. Among all persons entitled to vote, around 1.7 per cent have dual citizenship.

### **Candidates are more highly educated and more actively in working life**

As regards education, candidates differ clearly from persons entitled to vote. Nearly 90 per cent of the candidates have completed post-comprehensive level qualifications while 73 per cent of those entitled to vote have done so. This is largely explained by the different age structure of people entitled to vote and the candidates. The educational level is highest for the Green League candidates. More than one-half of them have tertiary level qualifications, while this is so for one-third of all candidates and one fifth of all persons entitled to vote.

The difference in the age structure between the candidates and persons entitled to vote is also reflected in the difference between the labour market position of candidates and persons entitled to vote: nearly 70 per cent of candidates are employed and around one-half of those entitled to vote. Nearly 30 per cent of those entitled to vote are, in turn, retired, while this is the case for 17 per cent of candidates. The employment rate is calculated as the share of employed persons in 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.

Viewed by socio-economic group, there are more self-employed persons among the candidates than among persons entitled to vote. The share of self-employed persons among employed candidates is 16.5 per cent and 10.5 per cent among persons entitled to vote. Most self-employed persons are found among Centre Party candidates, nearly 30 per cent, of whom more than one-half are farmers and forestry entrepreneurs. Among Coalition Party candidates good one-fifth are also self-employed.

The local government sector employs candidates more than persons entitled to vote. Around 31 per cent of employed candidates work in the local government sector, while among those entitled to vote, 23 per cent work for a local authority. Wage and salary earners in the central government sector are candidates particularly in larger municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants. In them, more than ten per cent of employed candidates work in the central government sector, while 6.5 per cent of all candidates and 5.8 per cent of persons entitled to vote work for the central government sector.

### **Good one-third of candidates live in a family with children**

The candidates also differ in their family status from the persons entitled to vote: considerably more (36%) of candidates are parents of a family with children than among persons entitled to vote (23%). Less than 20 per cent of the candidates live alone, while around one-quarter of persons entitled to vote live alone. Differences in the family status are explained by the fact that the age structure of the candidates and persons entitled to vote differ from each other.

The current family status does not reveal how many of the candidates and of those entitled to vote have or have had children of their own. This can, however, be examined based on the number of children recorded in the Finnish Population Information System. Candidates have more children than average. Of the candidates, 78 per cent have children of their own, whereas the corresponding figure for persons entitled to vote is 65 per cent. The candidates have 2.0 children, on average, and persons entitled to vote have 1.5 children. The number of children is highest among Christian Democrats, 2.4 children and lowest among Green League candidates, 1.6 children.

### **Highest income level among Coalition Party candidates**

Candidates are more highly educated and a larger share of them are also working. This also partially explains that the candidates' income level is higher than that of persons entitled to vote. The median for disposable monetary income among candidates in 2015 was EUR 26,100, while that of all persons entitled to vote was EUR 5,600 lower. Disposable monetary income refers to the monetary income after taxes that consists of earned income, property income, and transfer income.

The candidates' income varies by party from EUR 31,200 in the Coalition Party to EUR 22,200 in the Finns Party. When the population entitled to vote is arranged according to income and divided into ten equal parts, the income deciles of the population entitled to vote are generated. Each of these has slightly under 440,000 persons. The highest-income decile of the population entitled to vote has at least EUR 38,000 at their disposal and the lowest income decile at most EUR 8,250 per year.

Of all candidates, 18 per cent belong to the highest income decile. Of the candidates, those representing the Coalition Party and the Swedish People's Party belong to the higher end of the income distribution. Thirty-six per cent of the male candidates and 25 per cent of the female candidates in the National Coalition Party belong to the highest income decile. Among the candidates of the Swedish People's Party, around 34 per cent of men and 19 per cent of women belong to the highest income decile.

One-tenth of all persons entitled to vote thus belong to the lowest income decile. Of the candidates, slightly fewer, around six per cent, belong to this decile. Only among female candidates nominated by constituency associations and other parties over ten per cent belong to the lowest income decile. For other parties, the shares fluctuate between 2.6 and nine per cent.

## **1.2. Candidates and persons entitled to vote by sex**

### **Green League and the Christian Democrats increased their number of candidates**

A total of 33,618 candidates were nominated for the Municipal elections. This is 3,506 fewer candidates than in 2012. Nearly all parties have a lower number of candidates than in the previous Municipal elections. Only the Green League and the Christian Democrats were able to nominate more candidates than in the 2012 elections. In the 2012 elections, the Green League had 2,299 candidates, now in the 2017 elections three hundred more, that is, 2,600 candidates. The Christian Democrats increased their number of candidates by around one hundred. The number of candidates decreased most in the National Coalition Party both in terms of number and in relative terms. As in previous years, the Centre Party of Finland (7,461) had the most candidates, even though its number of candidates is also lower than in the previous election. (Table 1)



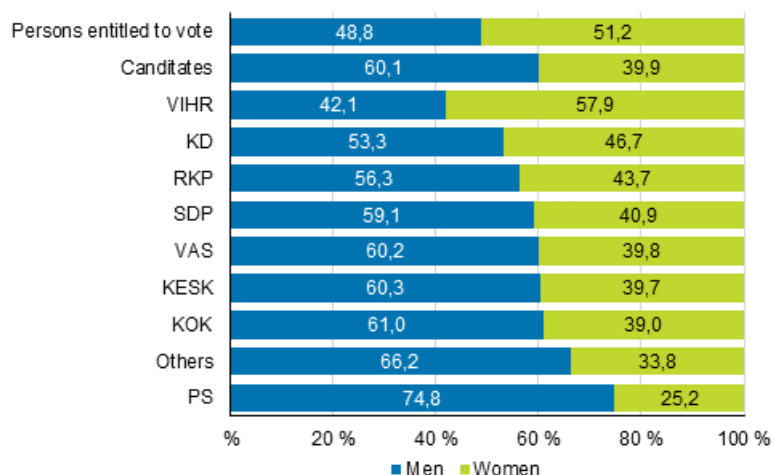
**Table 1. Number of candidates by party in Municipal elections 2008, 2012 and 2017**

Party	Number of candidates			Change from the previous elections, %	
	2008	2012	2017	2012	2017
Candidates total	38,509	37,124	33,618	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>-9.4</b>
Centre Party of Finland KESK	9,977	8,401	7,461	<b>-15.8</b>	<b>-11.2</b>
National Coalition Party KOK	7,628	6,874	5,739	<b>-9.9</b>	<b>-16.5</b>
Finns Party PS	1,840	4,394	3,831	<b>138.8</b>	<b>-12.8</b>
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	7,702	6,986	6,132	<b>-9.3</b>	<b>-12.2</b>
Green League VIHR	2,192	2,299	2,600	<b>4.9</b>	<b>13.1</b>
Left Alliance VAS	4,112	3,506	3,203	<b>-14.7</b>	<b>-8.6</b>
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	1,407	1,350	1,324	<b>-4.1</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	1,921	1,870	1,971	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Others	1,730	1,444	1,357	<b>-16.5</b>	<b>-6.0</b>

**Women's share of the candidates remains at 40 per cent**

Women make up 39.9 per cent of the candidates. The majority, or 51.2 per cent, of the persons entitled to vote are women. The proportion of female candidates rose by one percentage point from the 2012 Municipal elections. Only the Green League has more female than male candidates. Of its candidates, 57.9 per cent are women. Christian Democrats had the second most female candidates, where the share of women was 46.7 per cent and the Swedish People's Party had the third most, 43.7 per cent. The share of female candidates is around 40 per cent in the Social Democratic Party, the Left Alliance, the Centre Party, and the National Coalition Party. The Finns Party has the least female candidates, 25 per cent of candidates. (Figure 1)

**Figure 1. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by sex in Municipal elections 2017, %**



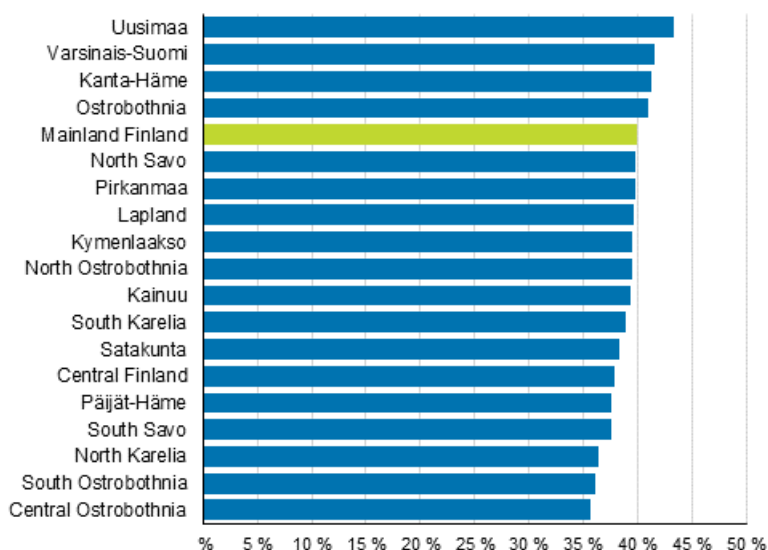
Women’s share of all candidates has remained at around 40 per cent throughout the 2000s. Among most parties, the share of female candidates has remained more or less on the same level. Only the Green League and the Left Alliance have clearly increased their share of female candidates in recent years. In the Green League, the share of female candidates has increased by seven percentage points from 2000 and in the Left Alliance by 5.6 percentage points. (Table 2)

**Table 2. Women's proportion of persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) in Municipal elections 2000 to 2017, %**

Party	2000	2004	2008	2012	2017
Persons entitled to vote	51.8	51.6	51.5	51.4	51.2
Candidates	38.2	39.9	40.4	38.8	39.9
Centre Party of Finland KESK	38.2	39.7	40.3	39.8	39.7
National Coalition Party KOK	39.1	40.4	40.3	39.1	39.0
Finns Party PS	28.8	26.3	25.7	23.3	25.2
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	37.7	39.2	40.8	40.4	40.9
Green League VIHR	50.7	52.9	56.8	56.8	57.9
Left Alliance VAS	34.2	36.1	36.6	37.9	39.8
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	39.9	43.5	42.9	43.5	43.7
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	46.9	47.2	48.2	45.3	46.7
Others	32.0	34.6	33.6	32.8	33.8

The percentage of female candidates is highest in the region of Uusimaa (43.4%) and lowest in Central Ostrobothnia (35.7%). In addition to Uusimaa, only the regions of Varsinais-Suomi, Kanta-Häme and Ostrobothnia have more female candidates than average. (Figure 2)

**Figure 2. Women’s share of candidates by region in Municipal elections 2017, %**

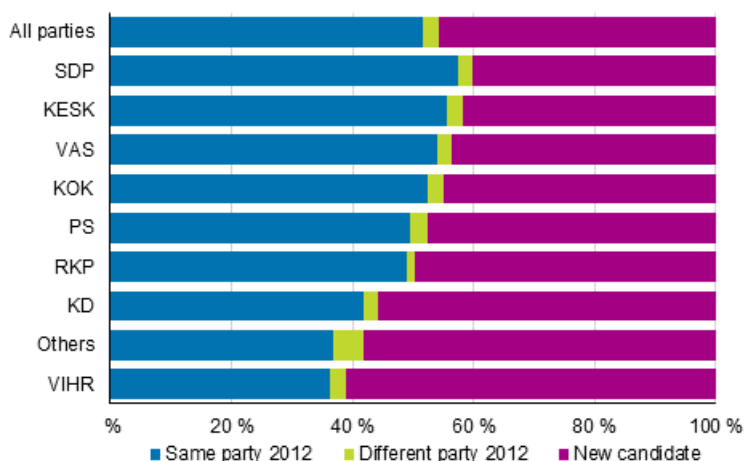


**More than one-half were also candidates in the 2012 Municipal elections**

Of all the candidates nominated by the parties, over one-half of the candidates were also candidates in the 2012 Municipal elections. Of all candidates, 2.6 per cent were candidates for some other party in the previous elections and around 46 per cent of the candidates were new candidates. The Green League has the most new candidates, among whose candidates 60 per cent are new. Among the candidates of the Social Democratic Party, nearly 60 per cent were also nominated in the previous elections either as candidates for the Social Democratic Party or for some other party. In both elections, close on three per cent of candidates has changed parties. (Figure 3)

Around one-fifth of all the candidates are current councillors. The Centre Party has most current councillors on its list, around 28 per cent of the party's candidates and the Green League has the least, close on nine per cent. Altogether 162 of the candidates are Members of Parliament.

**Figure 3. Share of candidates nominated in the 2012 election and new candidates by party in the Municipal elections 2017, %**



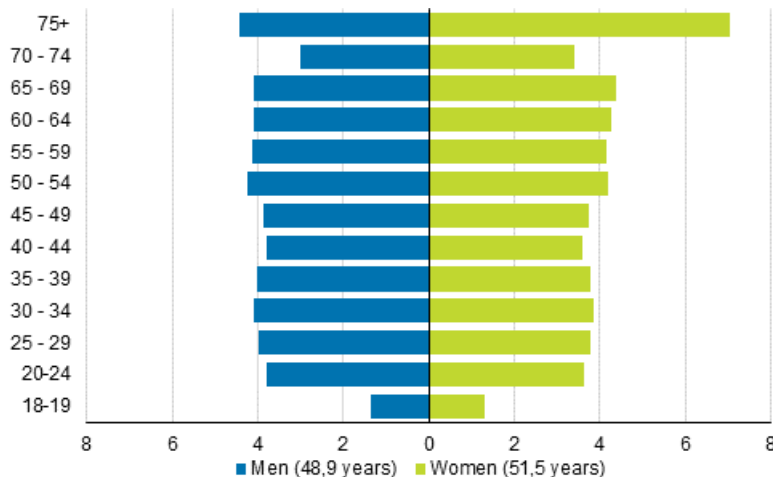
### 1.3. Age structure

#### Candidates grow older year by year

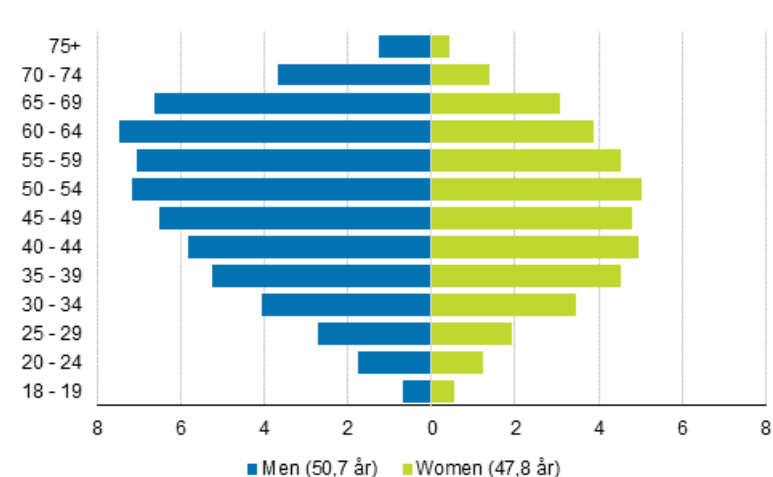
The average age of the candidates is now almost one year higher than in the previous elections and around 3.6 years older than the candidates in 2000. Female candidates are around three years younger than male candidates. The average age of male candidates is now 50.7 years and that of female candidates 47.8. Female candidates are, on average, four years younger than women entitled to vote, whereas male candidates two years older than men entitled to vote. The average age of persons entitled to vote has risen by close on one year since the previous elections and by nearly three years from 2000. On the day of the election, the average age of persons entitled to vote is now 48.9 for men and 51.5 for women. (Table 3)

The sex and age structure of candidates is very different from that of persons entitled to vote (Figures 4 and 5). The age pyramid of neither group is no longer a pyramid as the name indicates: the age structure of persons entitled to vote rather resembles a tower and that of candidates a one sided gyroscope, from which the missing of the youngest and oldest age groups as well as the dominance of men are visible. Most male candidates represent the age group of those aged 50 to 64 and most female candidates the age group of those aged 40 to 54.

**Figure 4. Age distributions and average age of persons entitled to vote by sex in Municipal elections 2017, %**



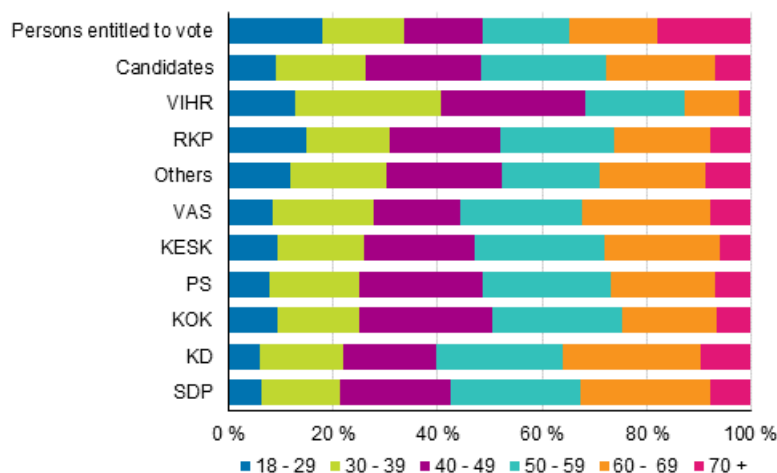
**Figure 5. Age distributions and average age of candidates by sex in Municipal elections 2017, %**



Examined by party, the Christian Democrats has the oldest candidates: Nearly 40 per cent of their candidates are aged 60 or over and the average age is 52.2 years. The Green League has the youngest candidates.

Almost 45 per cent of them are aged under 40, and the average age of the candidates is 43.8 years. Around 29 per cent of all candidates are aged under 40 and around 31 per cent are aged 60 or over. (Figure 6, Table 3)

**Figure 6. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by age group in Municipal elections 2017, %**



**Table 3. Average age of candidates by party in Municipal elections 2017**

	Candidates		
	Total	Men	Women
Persons entitled to vote	50.3	48.9	51.5
Candidates	49.5	50.7	47.8
Centre Party of Finland KESK	49.5	50.9	47.5
National Coalition Party KOK	49.0	49.8	47.6
Finns Party PS	49.8	50.4	47.9
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	51.4	52.7	49.7
Green League VIHR	43.8	44.6	43.1
Left Alliance VAS	50.4	51.9	48.2
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	47.9	49.2	46.2
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	52.2	52.4	51.9
Others	48.9	49.7	47.2

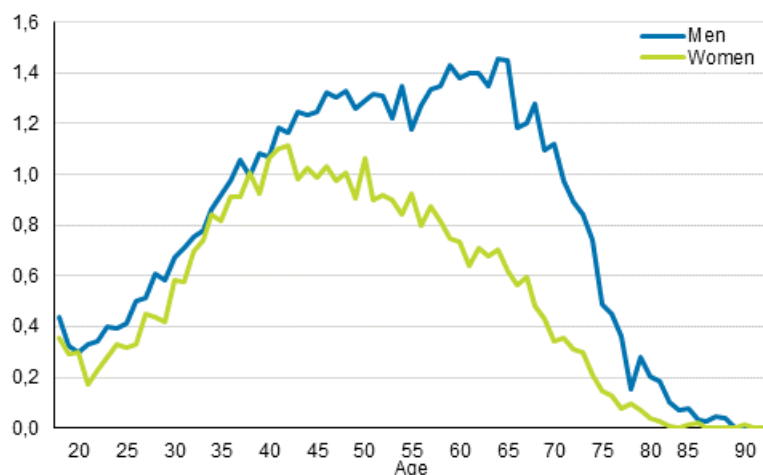
**Women’s enthusiasm to stand as candidates decreases after the age of 40**

Altogether 0.9 per cent of men and 0.6 per cent of women are nominated as candidates. In all age groups, fewer women are nominated than men. The share of candidates of the age group raises sharply for women

to about the age of 40 and for men to the age of 50. At about the age of 40 women's participation rate is only slightly lower than men's but the difference grows after that. While women's participation rate makes a downturn after the age of 40, men's participation rate only drops at the age of 70 to the same level as for 40-year-old men.

The proportion of male candidates per age group is at its highest in ages 58 to 64, when around 1.4 to 1.5 per cent of each 1-year age group are candidates. Among women, most stand as candidates between the ages 40 to 50, 0.9 to 1.1 per cent of the age group. (Figure 7)

**Figure 7. Share of candidates in the age group by sex in Municipal elections 2017, %**



### **In small municipalities, Centre Party candidates in the municipalities**

The Centre Party candidates dominate in small municipalities measured by population with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants. In municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants as much as 40 per cent of all candidates were nominated by the Centre Party. In municipalities of this size category, the Social Democratic Party and the National Coalition Party have nominated the second and third most candidates. In large municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants the proportion of the Centre Party is slightly over ten per cent of all candidates. (Table 4)

In larger municipalities no party reaches as large a share of the candidates as the Centre Party does in small municipalities. In municipalities with 20,000 to 99,999 inhabitants, the Social Democratic Party's share of candidates is good one-fifth and the National Coalition Party's close on one-fifth.

In the largest municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants the party distribution of candidates is considerably more even: the Coalition Party and the Social Democratic Party have nominated the most candidates, that is, both parties have a proportion of 15.5 per cent. Large cities also have more than average candidates from the Green League, the Left Alliance and the Communist Party of Finland. The share of the Finns Party candidates does not vary much by the size of the municipality.

**Table 4. Party distribution of candidates by size of municipality in Municipal elections 2017, %**

Party	Total	Size category of municipality (population at the end of 2016)					
		- 4,999	5,000 - 9,999	10,000 - 19,999	20,000 - 49,999	50,000 - 99,999	100,000+
Candidates	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Centre Party of Finland KESK	22.2	40.0	28.5	23.0	15.4	15.5	10.5
National Coalition Party KOK	17.1	15.0	16.1	17.9	18.6	20.0	15.5
Finns Party PS	11.4	13.3	10.0	12.3	11.0	10.2	11.6
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	18.2	14.2	17.6	19.1	21.8	21.8	15.5
Green League VIHR	7.7	2.4	4.1	5.7	9.9	10.7	13.9
Left Alliance VAS	9.5	6.0	9.2	8.1	11.5	8.8	12.7
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	3.9	1.3	5.8	5.5	2.6	3.5	4.7
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	5.9	3.6	4.8	6.1	6.2	6.7	7.9
Others	4.0	4.4	3.8	2.2	2.9	2.9	7.6

## 1.4. Foreign background

### Good two per cent of candidates are foreign-language speakers

The language distribution among the candidates mirrors, by and large, the language distribution of the population in the regions. The proportion of Swedish-speaking candidates (5.6%) slightly exceeds their proportion of persons entitled to vote (4.7%). Swedish-speaking people are more active in the region of Uusimaa, where their proportion of the candidates is 13.4 per cent and that of the persons entitled to vote is 8.0 per cent.

In all, 5.7 per cent of all persons entitled to vote speak another language than Finland's national languages. Considerably fewer of the candidates, just 2.2 per cent are foreign-language speakers. The share of foreign-language speakers among candidates has, however, grown slightly from the 2012 elections when the share of foreign-language speaking candidates of all candidates was 1.8 per cent.

Among all candidates, the under-representation of foreign-language speakers is 3.5 percentage points. This means that there are fewer foreign-language speaking candidates than foreign-language speaking persons entitled to vote. The under-representation is highest in areas where the population share of foreign-language speakers is largest, i.e. in Uusimaa - especially in the Greater Helsinki region - and in Varsinais-Suomi. In Uusimaa, the share of foreign-language speakers is 7.1 and in Varsinais-Suomi 3.7 percentage points lower than among persons entitled to vote. (Table 5)

Of national language speakers, there are more Sami speakers as candidates than average. Of Sami speakers entitled to vote, 2.5 per cent stand as candidates. Of all persons entitled to vote, on average, 0.8 per cent are candidates. (Table 6)

**Table 5. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by native language by region in Municipal elections 2017, %**

Region	Persons entitled to vote			Candidates		
	Finnish/Sami	Swedish	Other language	Finnish/Sami	Swedish	Other language
MAINLAND FINLAND	89.6	4.7	5.7	92.2	5.6	2.2
Uusimaa	81.1	8.0	10.9	82.8	13.4	3.8
- Greater Helsinki region	80.9	5.6	13.5	82.9	11.6	5.5
Varsinais-Suomi	88.7	5.7	5.7	91.1	6.9	2.0
Satakunta	96.9	0.3	2.7	98.5	0.3	1.2
Kanta-Häme	96.3	0.4	3.4	98.7	0.4	0.9
Pirkanmaa	95.7	0.4	4.0	98.1	0.3	1.6
Päijät-Häme	95.6	0.3	4.1	98.3	0.2	1.5
Kymenlaakso	94.2	0.8	5.0	95.7	1.3	3.0
South Karelia	94.8	0.2	5.0	96.7	0.0	3.3
Etelä Savo	97.3	0.2	2.6	98.0	0.0	2.0
Pohjois Savo	97.5	0.1	2.4	97.9	0.3	1.8
North Karelia	96.8	0.1	3.1	97.9	0.2	1.9
Central Finland	97.1	0.2	2.7	98.1	0.0	1.9
South Ostrobothnia	97.7	0.3	1.9	98.1	0.3	1.6
Ostrobothnia	45.5	49.5	5.1	44.4	51.7	3.9
Central Ostrobothnia	88.5	9.2	2.3	89.9	8.6	1.5
North Ostrobothnia	97.6	0.2	2.2	98.5	0.4	1.1
Kainuu	97.7	0.1	2.2	97.9	0.2	1.9
Lapland	97.6	0.2	2.2	98.4	0.2	1.4

Foreign-language speakers are considerably less often candidates. Of the candidates, 727 are foreign-language speakers. It is 0.3 per cent of the foreign-language speakers entitled to vote. The largest foreign-language speaking group among candidates is Russian speakers, 164 candidates, and the second largest is Estonian speakers, 72 candidates. (Table 6)

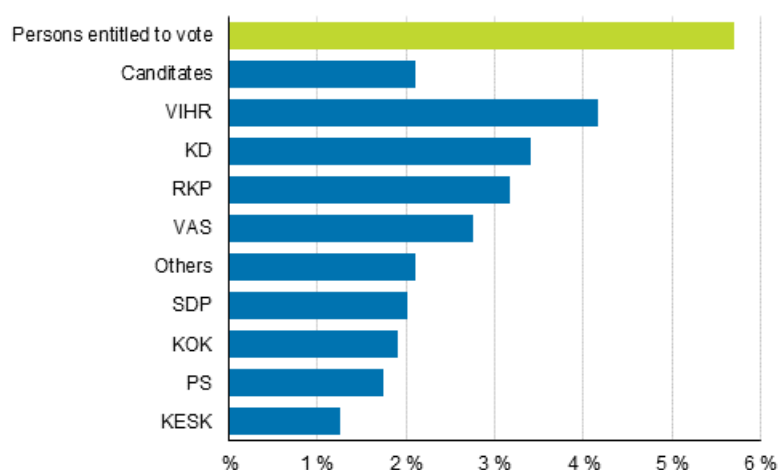
The Green League has the most foreign-language speaking candidates, 4.2 per cent of candidates and Christian Democrats has the second most, 3.4 per cent. The Centre Party has the lowest share of foreign-language speaking candidates, 1.3 per cent. (Figure 8)



**Table 6. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by native language, largest language groups specified, in Municipal elections 2017, %**

Language	Persons entitled to vote	Candidates	
		Quantity	% of persons entitled to vote
<b>All languages in total</b>	4,390,971	33,607	0.8
Finnish	3,930,811	30,965	0.8
Swedish	208,424	1,877	0.9
Sami	1,458	36	2.5
<b>Foreign-language speakers in total.</b>	250,278	727	0.3
Russian	57,531	164	0.3
Estonian	39,122	72	0.2
Arabic	10,489	44	0.4
English	14,058	40	0.3
Kurdish	8,057	40	0.5
Turkish	5,380	39	0.7
Somali	10,199	31	0.3
Persian	6,267	22	0.4
Spanish	5,969	21	0.4
German	5,425	21	0.4
Bosnian	1,476	16	1.1
Albanian	3,228	14	0.4
French	6,013	12	0.2
Hungarian	2,383	12	0.5
Dutch	1,442	12	0.8
Portuguese	1,907	11	0.6

**Figure 8. Foreign-language speakers' share of persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) in Municipal elections 2017, %**



### Candidates of foreign background still relatively rare

The foreign background of the population can also be examined by the person's origin. Of the persons entitled to vote, 94.1 and of candidates 97.8 per cent are of Finnish background, that is persons of whose parents at least one was born in Finland. Thus, close on six per cent of persons entitled to vote and good two per cent of candidates are of foreign background. The share of persons with foreign background among persons entitled to vote has grown more than among candidates since 2008. (Table 7)

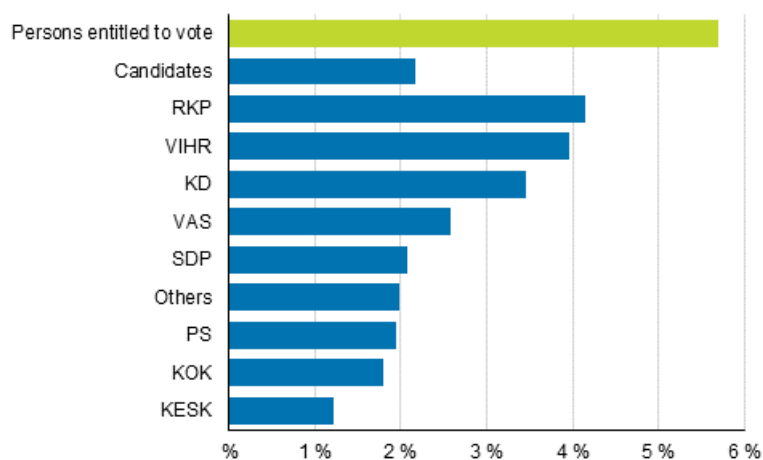
Second generation immigrants, or those who were themselves born in Finland, but whose parents were born abroad, are still fairly few among both persons entitled to vote (0.2 %) and candidates (0.1 %). First generation immigrants (the person and parents both born abroad) are clearly under-represented among the candidates. Of all persons entitled to vote, 5.7 per cent belong to this group, while this is so for only 2.2 per cent of the candidates.

**Table 7. Share of persons with foreign background (persons whose parents were born abroad) among candidates in Municipal elections 2017, %**

	Persons entitled to vote		Candidates	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
<b>2008</b>				
Total	4,196,522	100.0	38,505	100.0
Persons with Finnish background	4,061,481	96.8	37,929	98.5
Parents born abroad, person in Finland	3,212	0.1	30	0.1
Parents born abroad, person born abroad	131,829	3.1	546	1.4
<b>2012</b>				
Total	4,303,061	100.0	37,124	100.0
Persons with Finnish background	4,111,553	95.6	36,402	98.1
Parents born abroad, person in Finland	5,086	0.1	31	0.1
Parents born abroad, person born abroad	186,422	4.3	691	1.9
<b>2017</b>				
Total	4,394,748	100.0	33,618	100.0
Persons with Finnish background	4,135,837	94.1	32,862	97.8
Parents born abroad, person in Finland	9,512	0.2	23	0.1
Parents born abroad, person born abroad	249,399	5.7	733	2.2

Examined by party, the number of candidates with foreign background is highest in the Swedish People's Party, 4.2 per cent of the candidates, and lowest in the Centre Party (1.2 %) and the Coalition Party (1.8 %). The Green League, the Christian Democrats, the Communist Party, and the Left Alliance also have more than average candidates with foreign background. (Figure 9)

**Figure 9. Proportion of persons with foreign background (persons whose both parents were born abroad) by party in Municipal elections 2017, %**



## Number of candidates with dual citizenship 462

There are citizens from over 60 different countries among the candidates even though the share of foreign citizens among all candidates is under one per cent. Four per cent of all persons entitled to vote are foreign citizens. Of the candidates, 263 persons are foreign citizens. The biggest nationality group is Estonian with 50 candidates, the second largest are Swedish with 30 and Russian with 28 candidates.

There are 462 candidates that are Finnish citizens with citizenship in another country as well. They represent 1.4 per cent of all candidates. Of all persons entitled to vote, there are nearly 75,000 persons with dual citizenship or 1.7 per cent. Among the candidates the most common second citizenship is Russian, 105 persons and Swedish, 58 persons.

**Table 8. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by nationality in Municipal elections 2017**

Nationality	Persons entitled to vote		Candidates	
	1st nationality	2nd nationality	1st nationality	2nd nationality
All nationalities	4,391,009	74,733	33,618	462
Finnish citizens	4,217,752	..	33,355	..
Foreign citizens	173,257	74,733	263	462
Russian	22,637	22,266	28	105
Swedish	6,293	4,309	30	58
Turkish	3,383	2,254	..	37
Iranian	2,101	3,100	..	25
Estonian	40,290	3,260	50	19
German	3,763	1,595	..	17
Afghan	2,262	1,885	..	10
Dutch	1,249	303	10	..

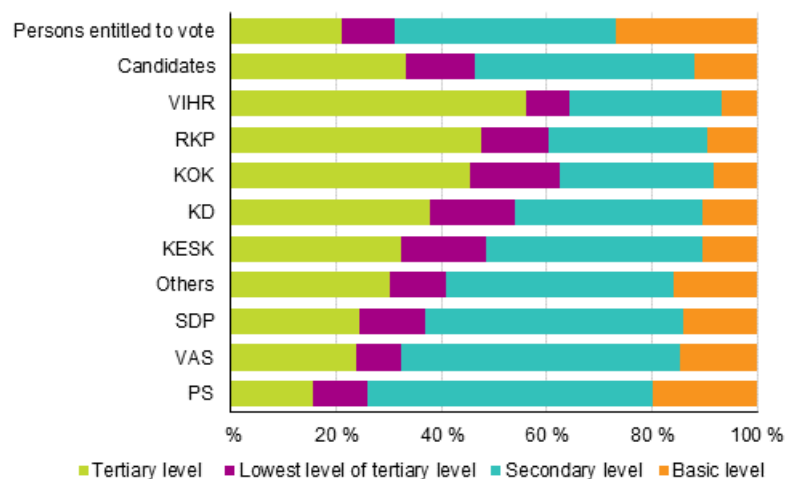
## 1.5. Educational level

### Green League candidates have the highest level of education

As regards education, candidates differ clearly from persons entitled to vote. Nearly 90 per cent of the candidates have completed post-comprehensive level qualifications while 73 per cent of those entitled to vote have done so. This is partially explained by the fact that there are very few representatives of the oldest age groups among the candidates whose educational level is usually lower than for younger persons. Of persons entitled to vote, 31 per cent have at least lowest level tertiary education and of the candidates this is so for 46 per cent. (Figure 10)

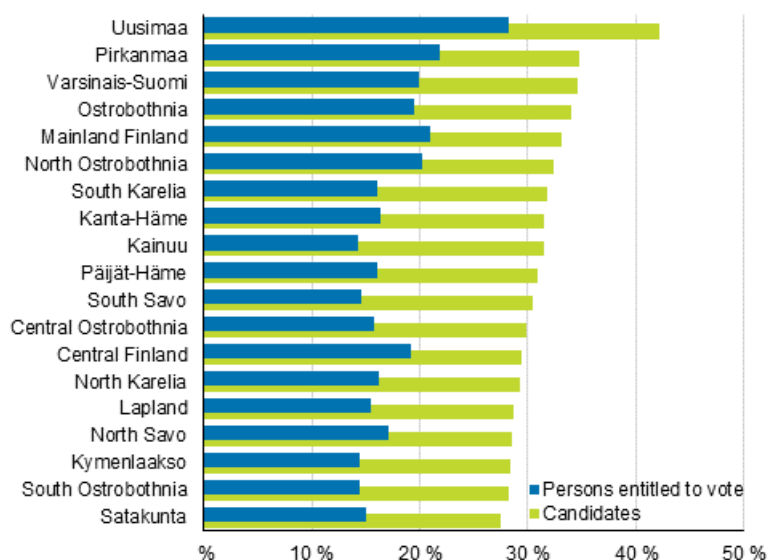
The educational level is highest for the Green League candidates. More than one-half of them have tertiary level qualifications, while this is so for one-third of all candidates and around one fifth of all persons entitled to vote. Swedish People's Party, Coalition Party and Christian Democrat candidates also have more tertiary level qualifications than average for the candidates.

**Figure 10. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by educational level in Municipal elections 2017, %**



The educational level of the candidates reflects the differences in the educational structure of different areas. In the region of Uusimaa, the proportion of highly educated is higher than in the rest of the country both among the persons entitled to vote and the candidates (Figure 11). In Uusimaa, over 40 per cent of candidates have tertiary level qualifications. In other regions, the share of candidates with tertiary level qualifications is below 35 per cent.

**Figure 11. Proportion of persons with tertiary level qualifications among persons entitled to vote and candidates by region in Municipal elections 2017, %**



## 1.6. Labour market position

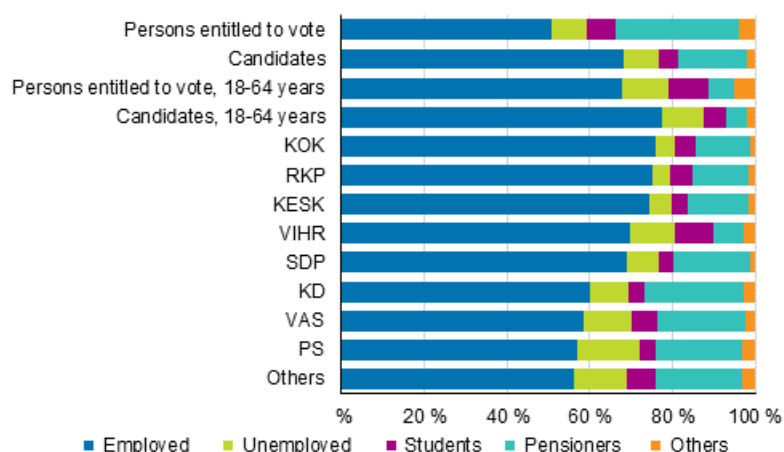
### Almost one-fifth of candidates are pensioners

Sixty-eight per cent of the candidates are employed, and the proportion of unemployed persons is the same as among persons entitled to vote, slightly over eight per cent. In turn, there are clearly fewer pensioners among the candidates, only close on 17 per cent. When looking at working-age population (aged 18 to 64), 78 per cent of the candidates are employed, while the proportion of employed persons is ten percentage points lower among all persons entitled to vote. Distinctly more of the persons entitled to vote of this age are students and other inactive population than among the candidates. (Figure 12)

Around one-half of persons entitled to vote, are working, eight per cent are unemployed and close on 30 per cent are pensioners. Seven per cent of persons entitled to vote are studying and around four per cent are otherwise in the inactive population.

The number of employed persons is highest among the Coalition Party, Swedish People's Party and Centre Party candidates, of whom around 75 per cent are working. In these parties unemployment is rarer than average. The Green League has most students, as nine per cent of their candidates are students. The Christian Democrats, Left Alliance and Finns Party have the most retired candidates, as over one-fifth of their candidates are pensioners.

**Figure 12. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by main type of activity in Municipal elections 2017, %**

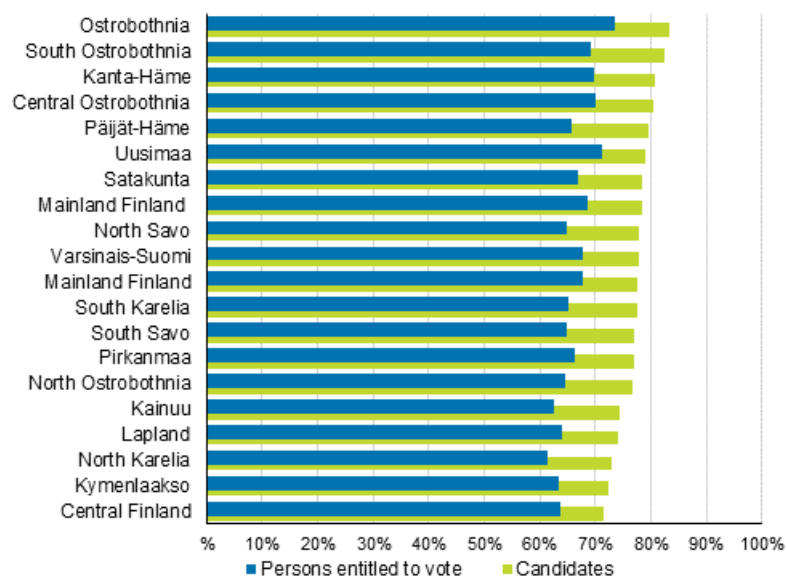


### Candidates' employment rate 78 per cent

The employment rate is calculated as the ratio of employed persons aged 18 to 64 to the population of the same age. Of all candidates aged 18 to 64, altogether 78 per cent are employed. The employment rate of persons entitled to vote is ten percentage points lower. The employment rates of the candidates resemble the general employment rates in the regions. Where the employment rate of the total population is high, the employment rate of the candidates is also at a high level there. Ostrobothnia has the highest employment rate of total population, 73.5 per cent, and there over 83 per cent of the candidates are working. Correspondingly in North Karelia where the general employment rate is lowest in the country, the employment rate of candidates is also lower than the average. (Figure 13, Table 9)

The employment rates of the candidates are closest to those entitled to vote in Uusimaa and Central Finland, where the employment rate of the candidates is 7.8 percentage points higher than that of persons entitled to vote. The difference between employment rates is largest in Päijät-Häme, that is, 13.6 percentage points. There the employment rate of the candidates is 79.5 per cent and that of persons entitled to vote 65.8 per cent.

**Figure 13. Employment rate of persons entitled to vote and candidates (aged 18 to 64) by region in Municipal elections 2017, %**



**Table 9. Employment rate of persons entitled to vote and candidates (aged 18 to 64) by region in Municipal elections 2017, %**

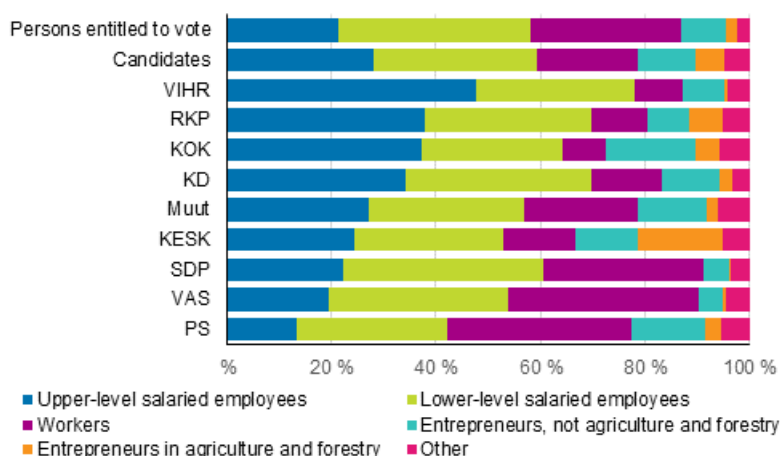
Region	Both sexes		Men		Women	
	Persons entitled to vote	Candidates	Persons entitled to vote	Candidates	Persons entitled to vote	Candidates
<b>Mainland Finland</b>	67.8	77.6	66.2	76.8	69.3	78.7
Uusimaa	71.3	79.1	70.3	79.6	72.3	78.4
Varsinais-Suomi	67.8	77.8	66.1	76.3	69.4	79.7
Satakunta	66.9	78.6	65.3	77.5	68.7	80.2
Kanta-Häme	69.8	80.9	68.6	79.2	71.0	83.1
Pirkanmaa	66.4	77.0	64.9	76.4	68.1	77.8
Päijät-Häme	65.8	79.5	64.6	78.3	67.1	81.3
Kymenlaakso	63.5	72.4	61.3	72.7	65.8	71.9
South Karelia	65.1	77.5	62.9	76.9	67.5	78.4
Etelä Savo	64.8	77.1	62.0	77.7	67.8	76.3
Pohjois Savo	64.8	77.8	62.6	77.1	67.1	78.7
North Karelia	61.4	73.0	58.7	69.8	64.3	78.2
Central Finland	63.8	71.5	62.4	71.0	65.1	72.3
South Ostrobothnia	69.1	82.5	67.6	81.8	70.6	83.7
Ostrobothnia	73.5	83.2	72.3	82.0	74.8	84.8
Central Ostrobothnia	70.2	80.3	69.8	80.5	70.5	80.0
North Ostrobothnia	64.5	76.7	63.4	74.9	65.6	79.2
Kainuu	62.6	74.3	58.9	73.9	66.7	74.8
Lapland	63.9	74.3	61.0	72.4	67.0	76.9

### The Centre Party and Coalition Party have the most self-employed candidates

Of all employed candidates nearly 30 per cent and of employed persons entitled to vote around 20 per cent are upper-level employees. Most salaried employees, nearly one-half of employed candidates, are found in the Green League. Also in the Swedish People’s Party and the Coalition Party, nearly 40 per cent of candidates are upper-level employees. The number of salaried employees is lowest among the candidates of the Finns Party (13.5%) and the Left Alliance (19.6%). (Figure 14)

Of all employed candidates, 16.4 per cent are self-employed and of all persons entitled to vote 10.5 per cent. The most self-employed persons are found among Centre Party candidates (28.4%) of whom more than one-half are farmers and forestry entrepreneurs. Among the Coalition Party candidates good one-fifth are also self-employed, however, focusing more on other self-employed persons than farmers and forestry entrepreneurs. The proportion of workers is highest among the Finns Party and Left Alliance candidates, good one-third, and among the Social Democrats, about 31 per cent.

**Figure 14. Employed persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by socio-economic position in the Municipal elections 2017, %**

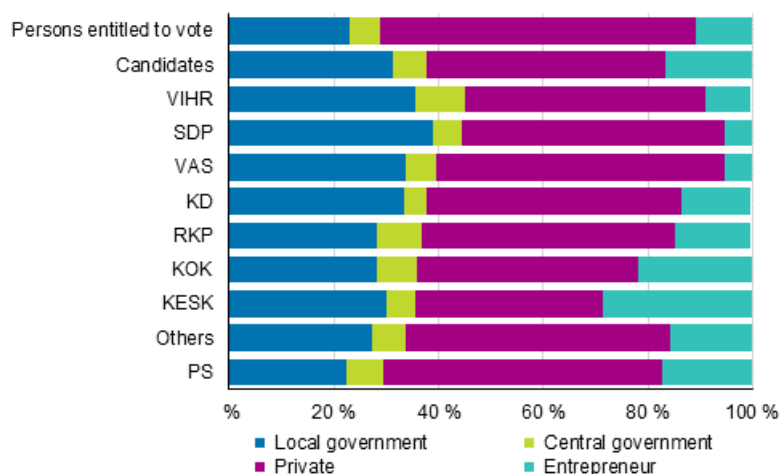


### Public sector employs candidates more than persons entitled to vote

Of the candidates 78 per cent are employed. Around 46 per cent of them are private sector wage and salary earners, 16 per cent are self-employed, 6.5 per cent work for central government and 31 per cent for local government. Employer type varies significantly by party. The share of private sector wage and salary earners is highest among the Left Alliance, Finns Party and Social Democratic Party candidates, of whom more than one-half work in the private sector. The lowest proportion of private sector wage and salary earners is found among the Centre Party candidates (36%).

Thirty per cent of the Centre Party candidates are entrepreneurs, the majority of whom work in agriculture. The Social Democratic Party has the least self-employed persons (5.2%). The public sector employs the most Green League candidates: 36 per cent of the candidates receive their pay from local government and 9.4 per cent from central government. The next highest proportion of public sector employees is found among the Social Democrats, of whom 39 per cent are employed by local and 5.5 per cent by central government. The share of public sector candidates is lowest for the Finns Party of whom fewer than 30 per cent work in the public sector. (Figure 15)

**Figure 15. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by employer sector in Municipal elections 2017, %**



The public sector employs candidates most in the largest municipalities with over 50,000 inhabitants. In these municipalities, around 40 per cent of the candidates or even more work in the local or central government sector. In these municipalities, especially the share of those working in the central government sector is higher than in smaller municipalities. In small municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants, the share of self-employed persons among employed candidates is nearly one-quarter. (Table 10)

**Table 10. Candidates by employer sector and size of municipality in Municipal elections 2017, %**

Size category of municipality	Total	Public sector			Private sector	Self-employed persons
		Total	Local government	Central government		
<b>Persons entitled to vote</b>						
Total	100.0	28.9	23.1	5.8	60.4	10.5
-1,999	100.0	30.1	26.9	3.2	46.7	22.8
2,000-4,999	100.0	29.8	26.7	3.2	49.2	20.7
5,000-9,999	100.0	29.4	25.5	3.9	54.2	16.2
10,000-19,999	100.0	28.5	24.7	3.8	57.9	13.5
20,000-49,999	100.0	27.9	23.4	4.5	61.6	10.3
50,000-99,999	100.0	32.5	26.3	6.2	57.9	9.5
100,000+	100.0	27.9	20.3	7.7	64.6	7.5
<b>Candidates</b>						
Total	100.0	37.8	31.3	6.5	45.6	16.4
-1,999	100.0	37.8	33.8	4.0	35.6	26.6
2,000-4,999	100.0	35.6	31.1	4.4	39.7	24.6
5,000-9,999	100.0	35.5	30.7	4.8	43.0	21.4
10,000-19,999	100.0	37.6	32.7	4.9	44.5	17.9
20,000-49,999	100.0	37.2	30.9	6.3	49.7	13.0
50,000-99,999	100.0	43.1	34.8	8.3	45.0	11.8
100,000+	100.0	39.7	28.6	11.1	51.7	8.4

## 1.7. Family status

### Good one-third of candidates are parents of a family with children

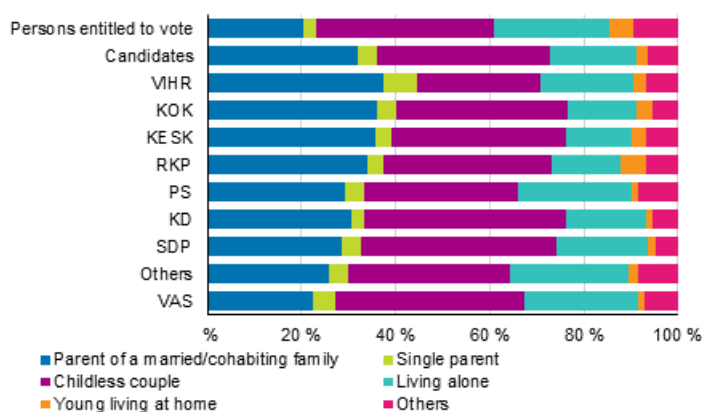
The candidates also differ in their family status from the persons entitled to vote: considerably more (36%) of the candidates are parents of a family with children than among persons entitled to vote (23%) and fewer candidates live alone (18%) than among persons entitled to vote (25%). Fewer of the candidates



are young people living at home. Differences in the family status are explained by the fact that the age structure of the candidates and persons entitled to vote differs from each other. Both the bottom and top ends of the age range are missing among the candidates. 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. (Figure 16, Table 11)

The Green League has the most candidates that are parents of a family with children, close on 45 per cent. Among the Coalition Party and Centre Party candidates, nearly 40 per cent are parents of a family with children, The Left Alliance has the least candidates that still have children aged under 18 living at home. The Swedish People’s Party has the most young people aged under 25 still living at home (5.4%) and the Finns Party has the most persons living alone (24%) among their candidates.

**Figure 16. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by family type in Municipal elections 2017, %**



**Table 11. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by family status in Municipal elections 2017, %**

Party	All total	Families with children (aged under 18)		Childless couple	Living alone	Youth living at home	Other
		Parent of a married/cohabiting family	Single-supporter household				
<b>Persons entitled to vote</b>	100.0	20.4	2.7	37.7	24.6	5.3	9.3
<b>Candidates</b>	100.0	31.8	4.1	37.0	18.3	2.4	6.4
Centre Party of Finland KESK	100.0	35.8	3.3	37.2	14.0	2.9	6.8
National Coalition Party KOK	100.0	36.0	4.0	36.6	14.5	3.3	5.5
Finns Party PS	100.0	29.2	4.3	32.5	24.4	1.4	8.3
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	100.0	28.4	4.2	41.7	19.3	1.6	4.8
Green League VIHR	100.0	37.3	7.3	26.3	19.7	28	6.7
Left Alliance VAS	100.0	22.4	4.6	40.4	24.3	1.1	7.2
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	100.0	34.1	3.2	35.9	14.7	5.4	6.8
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	100.0	30.4	2.8	42.9	17.0	1.5	5.4
Others	100.0	25.8	4.1	34.5	24.9	2.0	8.6

## 1.8. Number of children

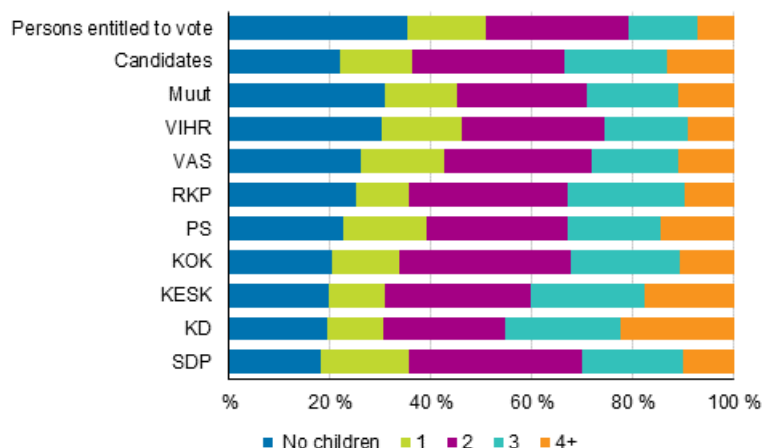
### Candidates have more children than average

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 more children than average. Of the candidates, 78 per cent have children of their own, whereas the corresponding figure for persons entitled to vote is 65 per cent. Children are the most numerous among the Christian Democrats, of whom 22 per cent have at least four children, and among the Centre Party candidates, of whom 17 per cent have four or more children. Large families are rarer for the Green League candidates (Figure 17).

In all, 35 per cent of the persons entitled to vote and 22 per cent of the candidates have never had children of their own. The proportion of childless candidates varies from 18 per cent for the Social Democrats to 30 per cent for the Green League.

**Figure 17. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by number of children in Municipal elections 2017, %**



On average, the candidates have two children. All persons entitled to vote have an average of 1.5 children. The number of children is highest among the Christian Democrat candidates, i.e. 2.4 children and lowest among the Green League candidates, 1.6 children. Men entitled to vote have slightly fewer children than women, but there are not much of a difference between sexes among the candidates. (Table 12)

**Table 12. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by number of children (on average) in Municipal elections 2017**

Party	Total	Males	Females
Persons entitled to vote	1.5	1.4	1.6
Candidates	2.0	2.0	2.0
Centre Party of Finland KESK	2.3	2.4	2.3
National Coalition Party KOK	2.0	2.0	1.9
Finns Party PS	1.9	1.9	2.1
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	1.9	1.9	2.0
Green League VIHR	1.6	1.5	1.7
Left Alliance VAS	1.8	1.7	1.8
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	1.9	1.8	1.9
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	2.4	2.4	2.3
Others	1.7	1.7	1.8

## 1.9. Income level

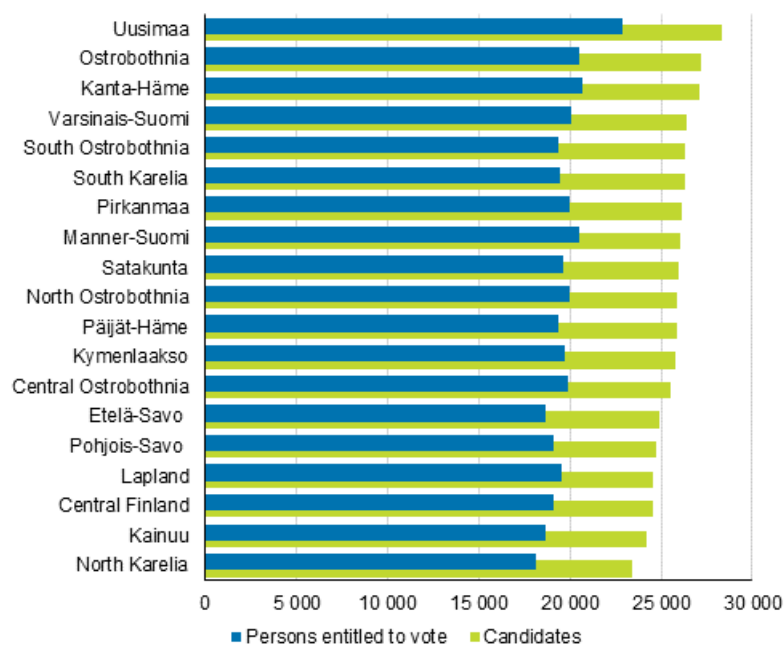
### Candidates' income level higher than that of persons entitled to vote

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 2015. 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 partly explains why their income level is also higher than that of persons entitled to vote. The median disposable income of persons entitled to vote was EUR 20,500 in 2015, while that of candidates was EUR 26,100. The candidates' disposable income is, on average, 27 per cent higher than of persons entitled to vote. Disposable income is highest in Uusimaa both for persons entitled to vote (EUR 22,900 per year) and for candidates (EUR 28,300 per year). (Figure 18, Table 13)

The income differential between the candidates and persons entitled to vote is largest in South Ostrobothnia, South Karelia and Ostrobothnia, where the median income of the candidates is over EUR 6,500 higher than that of persons entitled to vote. The income differential is smallest in Lapland, North Karelia, Uusimaa and Central Finland, under EUR 5,500.

**Figure 18. Median disposable income (EUR per year) of persons entitled to vote and candidates by region in Municipal elections 2017**



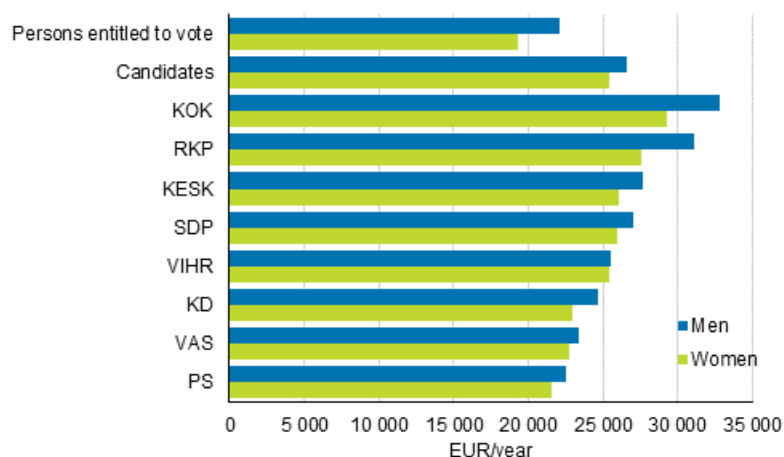
**Table 13. Median disposable income (EUR per year) of persons entitled to vote and candidates by region in Municipal elections 2017, %**

Region	Persons entitled to vote			Candidates		
	Both sexes	Men	Women	Both sexes	Men	Women
<b>Mainland Finland</b>						
Uusimaa	20,503	22,131	19,293	26,076	26,586	25,450
Varsinais-Suomi	22,916	26,636	21,631	28,296	29,134	27,020
Satakunta	20,061	21,634	18,913	26,420	26,719	26,080
Kanta-Häme	19,605	21,541	18,114	25,987	27,058	24,781
Pirkanmaa	20,680	22,507	19,274	27,081	27,036	27,280
Päijät-Häme	19,951	21,736	18,686	26,151	26,846	25,416
Kymenlaakso	19,363	21,159	18,144	25,886	26,588	25,062
South Karelia	19,741	21,861	18,155	25,794	26,730	24,607
Etelä Savo	19,490	21,524	18,009	26,291	28,001	24,248
Pohjois Savo	18,649	19,698	17,757	24,926	25,411	24,222
North Karelia	19,082	20,279	18,119	24,755	25,067	24,265
Central Finland	18,162	19,052	17,468	23,424	23,465	23,142
South Ostrobothnia	19,071	20,633	17,919	24,521	24,972	23,655
Ostrobothnia	19,352	20,737	18,268	26,330	26,610	26,092
Central Ostrobothnia	20,507	22,662	18,794	27,192	28,217	26,154
North Ostrobothnia	19,878	22,036	18,232	25,529	25,673	25,505
Kainuu	19,954	21,455	18,794	25,887	26,164	25,525
Lapland	18,693	19,606	17,874	24,241	24,553	23,713
	19,510	20,538	18,717	24,536	24,816	24,091

### **Candidates from the National Coalition Party have the highest income**

The candidates' income varies by party from EUR 31,200 in the Coalition Party to EUR 22,000 in the Finns Party. The median income of candidates from the Swedish People's Party is EUR 29,500, EUR 26,900 for the Centre Party and EUR 26 600 for the Social Democratic Party. Compared with persons entitled to vote, the candidates of the Coalition Party have over EUR 10,000 more at their disposal per year. The candidates for the Finns Party are closest to persons entitled to vote in terms of their income level. Their annual disposable income is EUR 1,700 higher than that of persons entitled to vote. (Figure 19, Table 14)

**Figure 19. Median disposable income (EUR) of persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) in Municipal elections 2017**



**Table 14. Median disposable income (EUR per year) of persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) in Municipal elections 2017**

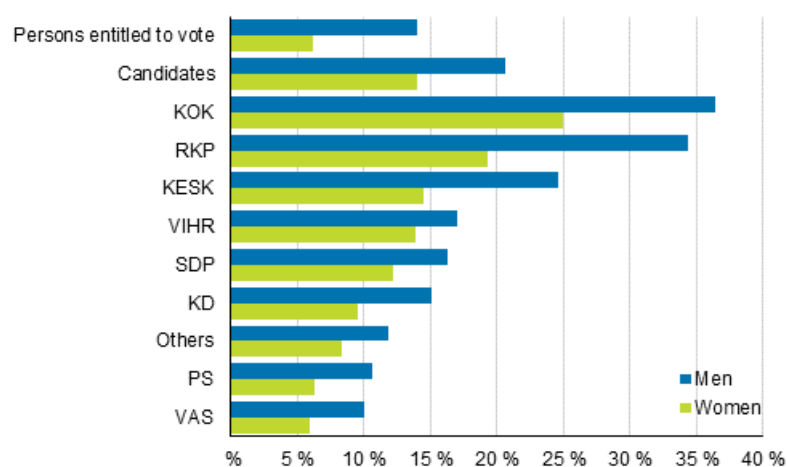
Party	Median income (EUR/year)		
	Total	Men	Women
<b>Persons entitled to vote</b>	20,503	22,131	19,293
<b>Candidates</b>	26,076	26,586	25,450
Centre Party of Finland KESK	26,932	27,687	26,089
National Coalition Party KOK	31,190	32,789	29,328
Finns Party PS	22,225	22,534	21,550
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	26,552	26,974	25,943
Green League VIHR	25,478	25,557	25,450
Left Alliance VAS	23,102	23,410	22,750
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	29,483	31,130	27,585
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	23,610	24,668	23,002
Others	22,199	21,399	22,956

When the population entitled to vote is arranged according to income and divided into ten equal parts, the income deciles of the population entitled to vote are generated. Each of these has slightly under 440,000 persons. The highest income decile of the population entitled to vote has at least EUR 38,000 at their disposal and the lowest income decile at most EUR 8,250.

Of all candidates, 18 per cent belong to the highest income decile. Of the candidates, those representing the National Coalition Party and the Swedish People's Party in Finland belong to the higher end of the income distribution. Thirty-six per cent of the male candidates and 25 per cent of female candidates in the National Coalition Party belong to the highest income decile. Among the candidates of the Swedish People's Party, around 28 per cent of men and 19 per cent of women belong to the highest income decile. (Figure 20)

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, the Coalition Party and the Centre Party candidates. In these parties, there are over ten percentage points more men in the highest income decile than women. The difference is smallest among Green League candidates where around three percentage points more men than women belong to the highest income decile.

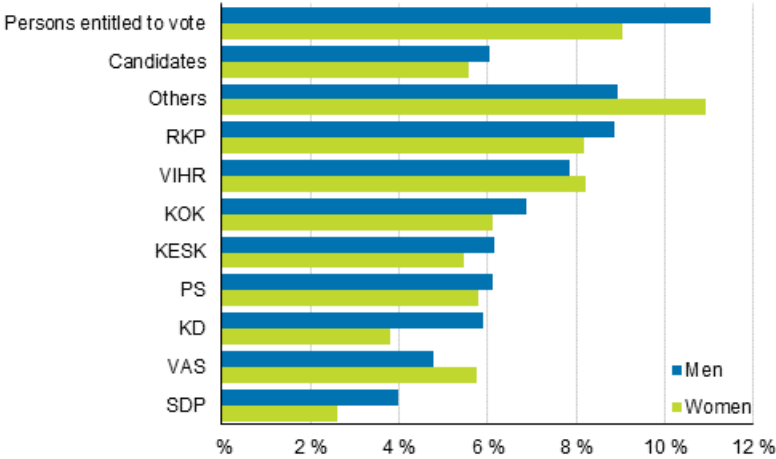
**Figure 20. Proportion of persons belonging to the highest income decile by party in Municipal elections 2017, %**



Around six per cent of candidates belong to the lowest income decile. Of the candidates of parties outside the Parliament and constituency associations, close on ten per cent belong to the lowest- income decile, and of the Swedish People's Party candidates, 8.9 per cent of men and 8.2 per cent of women. The Social Democrats have the least candidates belonging to the lowest income decile, only 2.6 per cent of female candidates and four per cent of male candidates. (Figure 21)

The share of men is also higher in the lowest income decile than that of women both among persons entitled to vote and candidates. Only among the Left Alliance and Green League candidates, more female candidates belong to the lowest income decile than male candidates. However, the difference between sexes is not as large as in the shares of those belonging to the highest income decile.

**Figure 21. Proportion of persons belonging to the lowest income decile by party in Municipal elections 2017, %**





# Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Number of candidates by constituency and party in the Municipal elections 2017**

Party	KESK	KOK	PS	SDP	VIHR	VAS	RKP	KD	SKP	KTP	LIBE	Piraattip.	EOP	Femin.p.	IP	Others	Total
Helsinki	87	127	127	127	127	127	83	127	53	7	16	31	4	24	7	10	1,084
Uusimaa	494	874	532	939	654	427	559	287	42	19	12	19	-	10	8	110	4,986
Varsinais-Suomi	660	751	309	580	306	306	149	132	19	1	1	12	6	4	14	61	3,311
Satakunta	424	338	235	415	90	227	-	75	3	3	-	3	-	-	2	2	1,817
Häme	478	594	244	537	221	206	-	171	12	4	-	5	-	1	1	109	2,583
Pirkanmaa	456	619	343	626	324	335	1	174	39	-	6	20	3	1	-	94	3,041
Southeast Finland	766	557	365	652	221	148	9	186	1	3	13	8	-	-	2	138	3,069
Savo-Karelia	900	442	438	652	132	312	-	243	13	2	-	4	1	-	3	38	3,180
Vaasa	940	517	428	587	122	167	506	332	3	-	-	4	-	-	6	81	3,693
Central Finland	564	310	257	404	141	190	2	129	22	-	4	15	-	-	1	32	2,071
Oulu	1,187	387	411	374	208	444	10	84	5	-	4	11	-	-	-	39	3,164
Lapland	505	223	142	239	54	314	5	31	9	-	-	5	1	-	-	91	1,619
Total	7,461	5,739	3,831	6,132	2,600	3,203	1,324	1,971	221	39	56	137	15	40	44	805	33,618

**Appendix table 2. Candidates by sex and age group by party in the Municipal elections 2017**

Party	Total		18-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65+	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
All candidates	60.1	39.9	57.6	42.4	55.7	44.3	53.9	46.1	58.2	41.8	63.3	36.7	70.1	29.9
KESK	60.3	39.7	58.6	41.4	54.2	45.8	51.1	48.9	58.0	42.0	65.9	34.1	71.3	28.7
KOK	61.0	39.0	63.0	37.0	55.9	44.1	56.1	43.9	60.3	39.7	62.0	38.0	70.9	29.1
PS	74.8	25.2	73.7	26.3	71.0	29.0	71.0	29.0	73.0	27.0	77.6	22.4	81.5	18.5
SDP	59.1	40.9	55.0	45.0	53.4	46.6	54.5	45.5	54.8	45.2	61.7	38.3	68.8	31.2
VIHR	42.1	57.9	39.7	60.3	43.7	56.3	38.0	62.0	40.4	59.6	47.5	52.5	53.9	46.1
VAS	60.2	39.8	54.9	45.1	54.2	45.8	52.0	48.0	60.4	39.6	62.6	37.4	70.0	30.0
RKP	56.3	43.7	51.5	48.5	53.5	46.5	51.5	48.5	54.2	45.8	56.5	43.5	69.2	30.8
KD	53.3	46.7	64.0	36.0	53.8	46.2	50.3	49.7	50.8	49.2	53.9	46.1	56.1	43.9
SKP	65.2	34.8	50.0	50.0	54.3	45.7	65.6	34.4	81.8	18.2	56.6	43.4	72.0	28.0
KTP	82.1	17.9	100.0	0.0	33.3	66.7	100.0	0.0	66.7	33.3	83.3	16.7	87.0	13.0
LIBE	76.8	23.2	85.7	14.3	76.2	23.8	85.7	14.3	66.7	33.3	66.7	33.3	50.0	50.0
Piraattip.	84.7	15.3	66.7	33.3	84.5	15.5	94.7	5.3	78.6	21.4	50.0	50.0	-	-
EOP	40.0	60.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	66.7	100.0	0.0	33.3	66.7	-	-	-	-
Femin.p.	10.0	90.0	0.0	100.0	13.3	86.7	7.7	92.3	16.7	83.3	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
IP	88.6	11.4	-	-	100.0	0.0	78.6	21.4	100.0	0.0	80.0	20.0	100.0	0.0
Others	63.9	36.1	51.9	48.1	66.2	33.8	56.2	43.8	61.0	39.0	66.2	33.8	75.9	24.1

# Municipal elections, quality description

## 1. Relevance of statistical information

### 1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

Statistics Finland produces official statistics on 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, on those who voted in advance, and as separate services the election map service and the StatFin service (database tables / most detailed regional level is voting district).

### 1.2 Essential concepts

#### *General information*

Councillors to municipal councils are elected in the municipal elections. At the beginning of 2017, the number of municipalities is 295 in Mainland Finland and 16 in Åland.

*The municipal elections are held in accordance with the division of municipalities that came into effect at the beginning of the election year (2017) (the voting district division came into effect on 31 October 2016). \*If municipal elections are held in the year preceding a change in municipal division entering into force, they must be held in accordance with the new municipal division in the municipalities to which the change applies.*

The municipal council decides how many councillors are elected in each municipality (Local Government Act 410/2015, Section 16). The number of inhabitants is determined based on the data in the Population Information System at the end of 30 November preceding the election year.

The amendment of the Election Act (563/2015) entered into force on 1 June 2015 when the name of the elections was changed in Finnish to kuntavaalit, the time for holding the elections was changed (in 2012, the fourth Sunday in October every four years). Municipal elections are held every four years on the third Sunday of April (9 April 2017). If the third Sunday falls on Easter Sunday or the Sunday after it, the election day moves to the Sunday preceding Easter Sunday (Election Act 563/2015, Section 144). In the municipalities of the autonomous territory of the Åland Islands, elections ([www.val.ax](http://www.val.ax)) are also arranged every four years, but at a different time than those in Mainland Finland, next time in October 2019 ([www.val.ax](http://www.val.ax)).

Elections are held in accordance with the Election Act in force, (Election Act in force <http://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/1998/en19980714>), more details on the Ministry of Justice's web pages [www.vaalit.fi](http://www.vaalit.fi) (=> Legislation) and [www.finlex.fi](http://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 410/2015.

#### *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). In Finland, so called d'Hondt method is applied as the calculation method for proportional 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 secret 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. However, an assistant can be used in the actual voting situation under certain conditions.
- **Voting must take place in front of election authorities.** The purpose of this is to ensure overall reliability of the elections, the voter's right to express his or her free will and to ensure the secrecy of the ballot. The selection of election authorities and their actions in their duties are set in the Election Act.
- 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:

Every person that has reached the age of 18 no later than on the day of the election is entitled to vote provided that they are

1. Citizens of Finland or another Member State of the European Union or Iceland and Norway, whose municipality of residence is the municipality in question on the 51st day before election day; or
2. Citizens of other countries, whose municipality of residence 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; or
3. Persons employed by the EU or an international organisation in Finland and family members of such persons whose municipality of residence is the municipality in question on the 51st day before the election day assuming that their data have upon their request been registered in the Finnish Population Information System and that they have notified the local register office of their willingness to exercise the right to vote in the municipal election in writing no later than on the 52nd day before the election day.

#### *Voting register*

The Population Register Centre compiles a 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 22 February 2017 based on the information included in the Population Information System on 17 February 2017.

The voting register is publicly available at the local register offices (maistraatti) from 41 days before the election day onwards (i.e. from 27 February 2017). In addition, everyone in the register is sent a notice of his or her right to vote (notification card) not later than 24 days before the election day (16 March 2017). 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 (24 March 2017) 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 28 March 2017 at noon.

#### *Voting*

Persons with a right to vote can vote either 1) during advance voting, or 2) on the election Sunday (9 April 2017).

Advance votes in Finland (29 March to 4 April 2017) are cast in general advance polling stations, in institutions and at voters' homes under certain conditions. General advance polling stations in Finland are offices, post offices and other locations specified by municipalities. Advance votes abroad (29 March to 1 April 2017) are cast at Finnish embassies and their trade missions and on 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. Anyone entitled to vote in municipal elections can cast their vote at embassies regardless of which country or municipality the person lives in. Thus, for example, persons entitled to vote that are on holiday or working on a posting abroad can cast their vote at 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 (29 March 2017) and ends abroad on the 8th day (1 April 2017) and in Finland on the 5th day (4 April 2017) 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 cast 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 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 representatives 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 have not been declared legally incompetent.

Section 72 of the Local Government Act prescribes the restrictions to eligibility.

As a rule, eligibility is determined in the same schedule as the person's voting municipality, 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 2017 Municipal elections by Friday 17 February 2017). 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 2017 Municipal election by Wednesday 8 March 2017), 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. 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. In a municipality where the population at the end of November in the year preceding the election year is at most 1,500, a constituency association can be established by at least three people who are entitled to vote. If the municipality's population is 1,501 to 2,000, a minimum of five people who are entitled to vote can establish a constituency association.

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.

Parties and constituency associations must deliver their list of candidates (candidate application) to the central election committee of the municipality 40 days before the elections (by 28 February 2017 by 4 pm at the latest). By the same deadline, notifications of electoral alliances and of joint electoral lists must also be delivered to the central election committee.

The central election committee of the municipality checks the lists of candidates and in particular that the candidates are eligible and confirms the nomination of candidates on the 31st day prior to the day of the election (9 March 2017).

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 (data at the end of 30 November preceding the election year).

*Local Government Act 410/2015, Section 16*

*“Unless the local council makes a decision about the number of local councillors, the number of local councillors elected shall be the minimum laid down by law. A local council decision about a larger number than the minimum, or a change to a previous decision, must be notified to the Ministry of Justice by the end of the year preceding the election year. A local council decision on the number of local councillors may be put into effect before it has attained legal force. However, action to put the decision into effect is not permitted if an administrative court forbids this.”*

According to Section 16 of the Local Government Act (410/2015), a minimum number of councillors has to be elected, however, as follows:

### **Number of councillors according to the population of the municipality**

Population	Minimum number of councillors
at most 5,000	13
5,001 - 20,000	27
20,001 - 50,000	43
50,001 - 100,000	51
100,001 - 250,000	59
250,001 - 500,000	67
over 500,000	79

#### *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 appendix table of the statistical release (the home page for Municipal elections).

Municipalities are placed into constituencies according to the constituency division in force. At the beginning of 2017, 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).

*The municipal elections are held in accordance with the division of municipalities that came into effect at the beginning of the election year (2017) (the voting district division came into effect on 31 October 2016). \*If municipal elections are held in the year preceding a change in municipal division entering into force, they must be held in accordance with the new municipal division in the municipalities to which the change applies. 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 2016 and the population of the municipality in 2015. 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 2017 by the following registered parties (15/16):*

- 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 Worker's Party (Finland) – For Peace and Socialism (KTP)
- Liberal Party – Freedom for Choice (LIBE)
- Pirate Party of Finland (Piraattip.)
- Animal Justice Party of Finland (EOP)
- Feminist Party (Femin.p.)
- Independence Party (IP)

### *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). 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-00-580-16).

## **2. Methodological description of the 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 candidates and elected councillors**

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 22 February 2017 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 councillors with regard to certain variables. The background data usually relate to the years 2014 to 2016. 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 2015.

### *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 2015.

### *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
- –
- Child 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 children living at home. The group "Other" includes persons without a family living together with others (for example, a lone 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 2015.

#### *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 2015.

#### *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 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 2015.

#### *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 2015.*

#### *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 remains on both sides of the middle income receiver. Median income is not as sensitive to extreme observations as mean income.

#### *Dual citizenship*

A person may be a citizen of more than one country (see Nationality Act, 359/2003 and Nationality Decree, 699/1985). Persons with both Finnish and foreign citizenship will be entered in the statistics as Finnish nationals. If a foreign national living in Finland has several nationalities, that person will be entered in the register and statistics as a national of the country on whose passport he or she arrived in the country. Nationality is determined by the country of issue of passport. A person may have several nationalities or no nationality at all. Possession of an alien's passport is also accepted as a nationality.

### *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.

## **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 first data, or preliminary statistics are published as soon as possible on the Internet, in the StatFin service and on the statistics pages on Municipal elections. Election data by municipality and voting district (starting from 2004) and the numbers of votes gained by candidates and elected representatives 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. 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 municipal elections are published in the election map service.

The chargeable ALTIKA regional database contains results on municipal elections starting from 1976.

## **6. Comparability of statistics**

The municipal division of the election year is used in the statistics. If municipal elections are held in the year preceding a change in municipal division entering into force, they must be held in accordance with the new municipal division in the municipalities to which the change applies. The 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 the 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](http://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.

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Source: Municipal Elections 2017, nomination of candidates and background analysis of candidates,  
Statistics Finland