

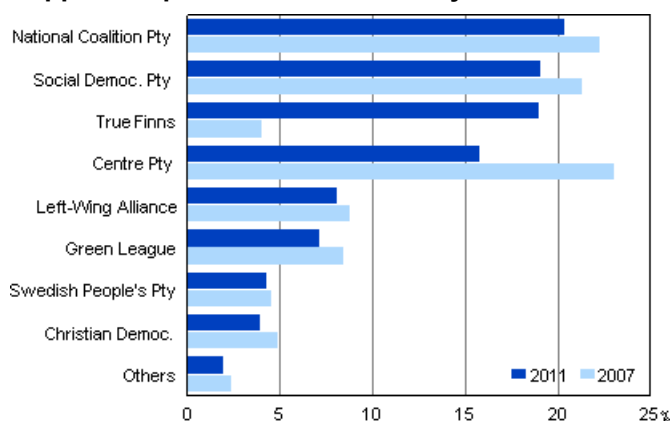
Parliamentary elections 2011, preliminary data

True Finns the biggest winner in the elections. Coalition Party the largest party in the Parliamentary elections 2011

Corrected on 27 April 2011. The correction is indicated in red.

The True Finns emerged as the winner of the elections as the other parliamentary parties lost their support compared with the previous Parliamentary elections. The True Finns increased their support by 14.9 percentage points, thus gaining 19.0 per cent of the country's votes, which raised it from the smallest parliamentary party into the third largest party in Finland. The number of votes cast for the True Finns gave it 34 additional seats in Parliament. In total, the True Finns got 39 MPs and a total of 559,000 votes in the whole country, which is over 447,000 votes more than in the Parliamentary elections 2007.

Support for parties in Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2007



The Centre Party of Finland lost most in the elections, as it dropped from the largest party to the fourth biggest party. The Centre Party gained 15.8 per cent of all the votes cast. When compared with the previous Parliamentary elections, its support went down by 7.3 percentage points. The Centre Party received 463,000 votes and 35 MPs into Parliament. The number of seats for the party fell by 16 and the number of votes by over 177,000 compared with the 2007 Parliamentary elections.

The National Coalition Party emerged as the largest party. The Coalition Party gained 44 seats and 20.4 per cent of the votes cast. The Coalition Party lost six MPs and gained 1.9 percentage points fewer votes than in the previous Parliamentary elections. In the whole country, the Coalition Party received 598,000 votes, which is around 18,000 down from 2007.

The Social Democratic Party became the second largest party in Finland. The Social Democrats gained 19.1 per cent of the votes and 42 seats, which is 2.3 percentage points and three seats down from the Parliamentary elections 2007. The Social Democrats got 561,000 votes, which is around 33,000 votes fewer than in the previous Parliamentary elections.

The Left Alliance gained 8.1 per cent of all votes cast and 14 seats. Compared with the previous Parliamentary elections, the number of votes fell by 0.7 percentage points and the number of MPs by three. The Green League gained 7.2 per cent of all votes cast and ten seats. The number of votes cast for the party decreased by 1.3 percentage points and the number of seats went down by five. The Swedish People's Party got 4.3 per cent of the votes casts, which is 0.3 percentage points down from the previous Parliamentary elections. The party retained its nine seats. The Christian Democrats gained 4.0 per cent of the votes or 0.9 percentage points down from the previous Parliamentary elections. The Christian Democrats lost one seat, thus gaining six MPs in Parliament. No new parties entered the Parliament in the 2011 Parliamentary elections.

Support for parties in Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2007

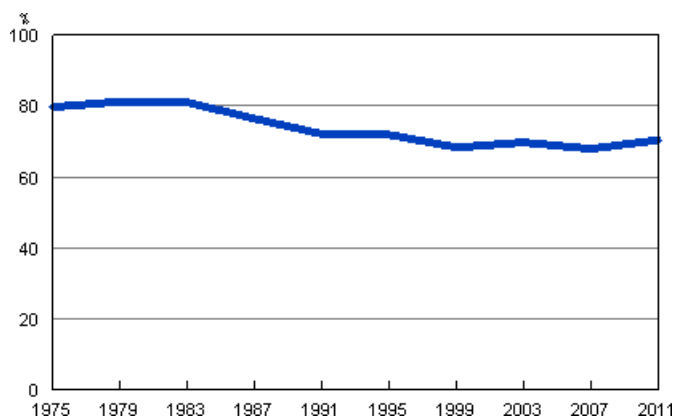
| Party | Parliamentary elections 2011 | Parliamentary elections 2007 |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| National Coalition Party KOK | 20.4 | 22.3 |
| The Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP | 19.1 | 21.4 |
| True Finns PS | 19.0 | 4.1 |
| Centre Party of Finland KESK | 15.8 | 23.1 |
| Left-Wing Alliance VAS | 8.1 | 8.8 |
| Green League VIHR | 7.2 | 8.5 |
| Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP | 4.3 | 4.6 |
| Christian Democrats KD | 4.0 | 4.9 |
| Others | 2.0 | 2.4 |

Election participation more active than in the previous Parliamentary elections

The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident in Finland was 70.4, which is 2.5 percentage points more than in the 2007 Parliamentary elections. The voting turnout rose in all constituencies, except for the constituency of Åland. The voting turnout was highest in the constituency of Helsinki, where 75.4 per cent of persons entitled to vote cast their vote. The voting turnout was also higher than average in the constituencies of Vaasa (73.2%), Uusimaa (72.9%), Pirkanmaa (71.5%) and Varsinais-Suomi (71.2%).

The total number of persons entitled to vote was 4,387,701. The number of persons entitled to vote resident in Finland was 4,159,857 and the number of persons entitled to vote resident abroad was 227,844. The voting turnout of Finnish citizens resident abroad was 10.7 per cent, which is 2.1 percentage points higher than in the previous Parliamentary elections.

Voting turnout of Finnish citizens resident in Finland in Parliamentary elections 1975 - 2011, %



Voting turnout in Parliamentary elections 1975 - 2011, %¹⁾

| Year | Voting turnout of Finnish citizens living in Finland, % | Voting turnout of Finnish citizens living in abroad % |
|------|---|---|
| 1975 | 79.7 | 7.1 |
| 1979 | 81.2 | 6.7 |
| 1983 | 81.0 | 6.7 |
| 1987 | 76.4 | 5.8 |
| 1991 | 72.1 | 5.6 |
| 1995 | 71.9 | 6.1 |
| 1999 | 68.3 | 6.5 |
| 2003 | 69.7 | 8.8 |
| 2007 | 67.8 | 8.5 |
| 2011 | 70.4 | 10.7 |

1) In 1975 the right to vote was extended to cover Finnish citizens not registered as resident in Finland.

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1. 1. Background analysis of candidates in the Parliamentary elections 2011

In the following review persons entitled to vote and background information on the persons nominated as candidates by the parties are examined against diverse statistical data. Data on those entitled to vote are based on the voting register established on 2 March 2011. The background information on the persons is based on statistical data from Statistics Finland's Population Statistics, such as statistics on employment and families. Of the persons entitled to vote only those resident in Finland are included in the review.

1.1. Candidates and persons entitled to vote by sex

The total number of candidates nominated in the Parliamentary elections is 2,315. Of these, 1,412 are men and 903 women. Of the parliamentary parties, the True Finns and the Centre Party have in relative terms the lowest proportions of women candidates (33.2% and 41.2%, respectively). Among the major parties, the True Finns are the only parliamentary party where the proportion of women lies below the average (39%). The highest proportions of women candidates are in the Green League (51.8%) and the National Coalition Party (44.8%). Only the Green League has more women than men candidates. The majority, or 51.6 per cent, of the persons entitled to vote are women.

Figure 1. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by sex and party in Parliamentary elections 2011

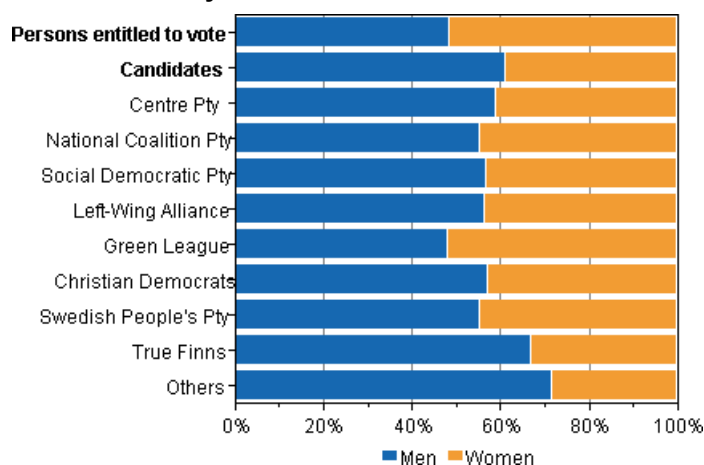


Table 1. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by sex and party in Parliamentary elections 2011

| | Men | Women |
|---|------|-------|
| Persons entitled to vote | 48.4 | 51.6 |
| Candidates | 61.0 | 39.0 |
| Centre Party of Finland KESK | 58.8 | 41.2 |
| National Coalition Party KOK | 55.2 | 44.8 |
| The Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP | 56.7 | 43.3 |
| Left-Wing Alliance LEFT | 56.4 | 43.6 |
| Green League GREENS | 48.2 | 51.8 |
| Christian Democrats in Finland KD | 57.1 | 42.9 |
| Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP | 55.4 | 44.6 |
| True Finns PS | 66.8 | 33.2 |
| Others | 71.5 | 28.5 |

Figure 2. Women's proportion of persons entitled to vote and candidates by constituency in Parliamentary elections 2011

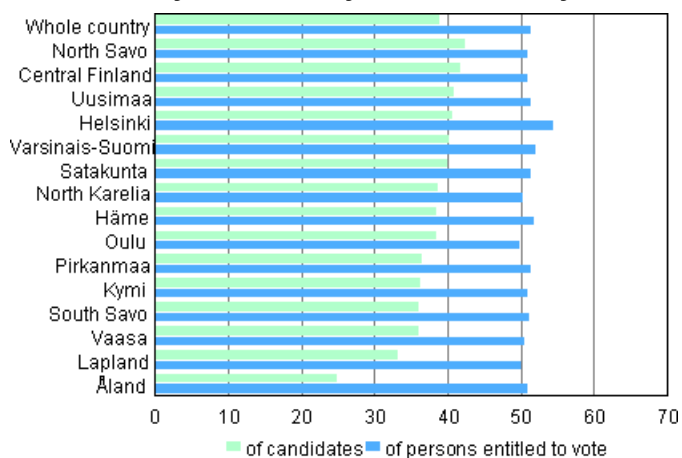


Table 2. Women's proportion of persons entitled to vote and candidates by constituency in Parliamentary elections 2011

| Constituency | Proportion of women of candidates | Proportion of women of persons entitled to vote |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Whole country | 39.0 | 51.6 |
| North Savo | 42.4 | 51.1 |
| Central Finland | 41.8 | 51.0 |
| Uusimaa | 40.9 | 51.5 |
| Helsinki | 40.8 | 54.5 |
| Varsinais-Suomi | 40.3 | 52.2 |
| Satakunta | 40.2 | 51.4 |
| North Karelia | 38.9 | 50.5 |
| Häme | 38.6 | 51.9 |
| Oulu | 38.5 | 50.0 |
| Pirkanmaa | 36.7 | 51.6 |
| Kymi | 36.4 | 51.0 |
| South Savo | 36.2 | 51.3 |
| Vaasa | 36.1 | 50.7 |
| Lapland | 33.3 | 50.1 |
| Åland | 25.0 | 51.1 |

The lowest proportions of women candidates are in the constituencies of Åland (25.0%) and Lapland (33.3%). The proportions of women candidates are highest in the constituency of North Savo (42.4%). The proportions of women candidates are also higher than the average for the whole country in the constituencies of Central Finland, Uusimaa, Helsinki, Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta.

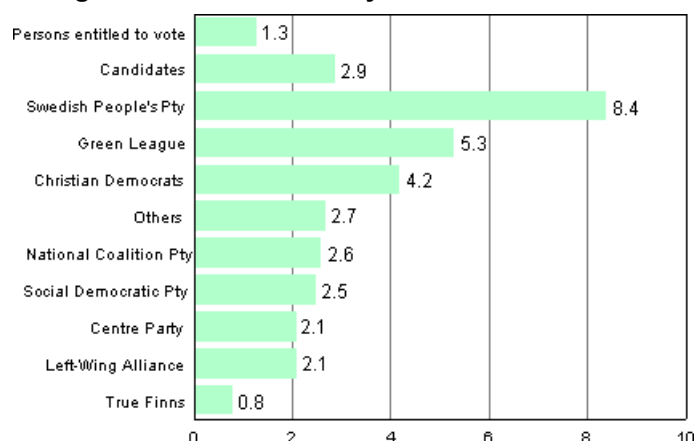
The majority of persons entitled to vote are women in all constituencies. The strongest majority is in the constituency of Helsinki, where 54.5 per cent of the persons entitled to vote but only 40.8 per cent of the candidates are women.

The difference between the population structure and the candidate structure, or the under-representation of women, is greatest in the constituency of Åland, where 25 per cent of the candidates, but 51 per cent of the persons entitled to vote, are women. In the constituency of Lapland the proportion of female candidates is 33.3 per cent and 50.1 per cent of persons entitled to vote are women. The difference is smallest in the constituency of North Savo, 8.7 percentage points.

1.2. Foreign background

Around three per cent of the candidates have a foreign background. In all, 1.3 per cent of the persons entitled to vote have a foreign background. Persons whose mother tongue is not Finnish, Swedish or Sami are regarded as having a foreign background. The highest proportions of candidates with a foreign background were nominated by the Swedish People's Party (8.4%) and the Green League (5.3%). The True Finns have the lowest proportion of foreign-language speakers as candidates (0.8%).

Figure 3. Persons entitled to vote and candidates with a foreign background in Parliamentary elections 2011



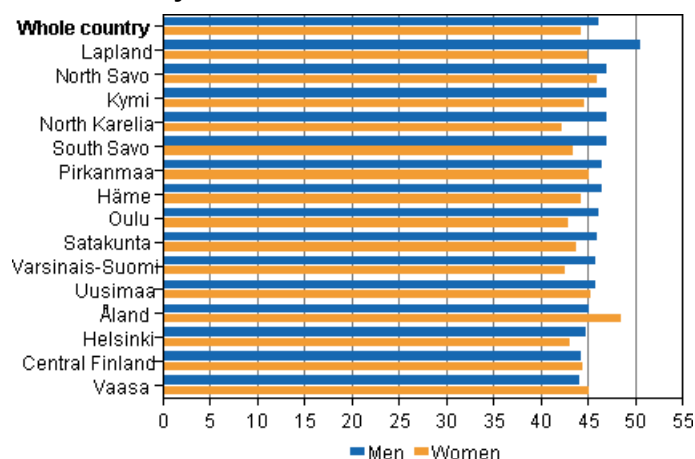
1.3. Average age

The average age of men candidates has fallen by about two years from the previous Parliamentary elections. In contrast, women candidates are now six months older, on average, than in the previous Parliamentary elections. The average age of men candidates is now 46.2 years and that of women candidates 44.3 years. Women candidates are, on average, about two years younger than men candidates are.

Table 3. Average age of candidates by sex and constituency in Parliamentary elections 2011

| Constituency | Men | Women |
|-----------------|------|-------|
| Whole country | 46.2 | 44.3 |
| Lapland | 50.7 | 45.1 |
| North Savo | 47.1 | 46.1 |
| Kymi | 47.1 | 44.7 |
| North Karelia | 47.1 | 42.3 |
| South Savo | 47.0 | 43.5 |
| Pirkanmaa | 46.6 | 45.2 |
| Häme | 46.5 | 44.4 |
| Oulu | 46.3 | 43.0 |
| Satakunta | 46.1 | 43.9 |
| Varsinais-Suomi | 45.9 | 42.6 |
| Uusimaa | 45.8 | 45.3 |
| Åland | 45.2 | 48.5 |
| Helsinki | 44.9 | 43.2 |
| Central Finland | 44.3 | 44.5 |
| Vaasa | 44.2 | 45.2 |

Figure 4. Average age of candidates by sex and constituency in Parliamentary elections 2011



The average age of men entitled to vote is 48.1 years and that of women 50.9 years. Men candidates are a couple of years younger than men entitled to vote, but women candidates are nearly seven years younger than women entitled to vote.

The youngest women candidates were nominated in North Karelia (42.3 years) and Varsinais-Suomi (42.6 years). The youngest men candidates were nominated in the constituencies of Vaasa (44.2 years), Central Finland (44.3 years) and Helsinki (44.9 years). The oldest women candidates were nominated in Åland (48.5 years) and North Savo (46.1 years). Men candidates are oldest in Lapland (50.7 years). The largest age difference between men and women candidates is in Lapland, i.e. 5.6 years and the smallest in Central Finland and Uusimaa, where it is under one year.

Figure 5. Age structure of persons entitled to vote and candidates in Parliamentary elections 2011

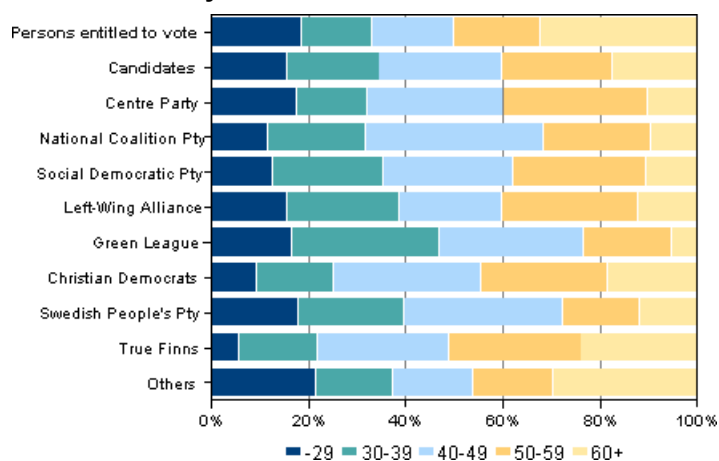


Table 4. Age structure of persons entitled to vote and candidates in Parliamentary elections 2011

| | -29 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50-59 | 60+ |
|---|------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Persons entitled to vote | 18.5 | 14.7 | 16.7 | 17.8 | 32.3 |
| Candidates | 15.5 | 19.1 | 25.3 | 22.7 | 17.4 |
| Centre Party of Finland KESK | 17.6 | 14.6 | 27.9 | 29.6 | 10.3 |
| National Coalition Party KOK | 11.6 | 20.3 | 36.6 | 22.0 | 9.5 |
| The Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP | 12.6 | 22.7 | 26.9 | 27.3 | 10.5 |
| Left-Wing Alliance LEFT | 15.7 | 22.9 | 21.2 | 28.0 | 12.3 |
| Green League GREENS | 16.7 | 30.3 | 29.8 | 18.0 | 5.3 |
| Christian Democrats in Finland KD | 9.4 | 15.7 | 30.4 | 26.2 | 18.3 |
| Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP | 18.1 | 21.7 | 32.5 | 15.7 | 12.0 |
| True Finns PS | 5.9 | 16.0 | 26.9 | 27.3 | 23.9 |
| Others | 21.7 | 15.6 | 16.5 | 16.7 | 29.6 |

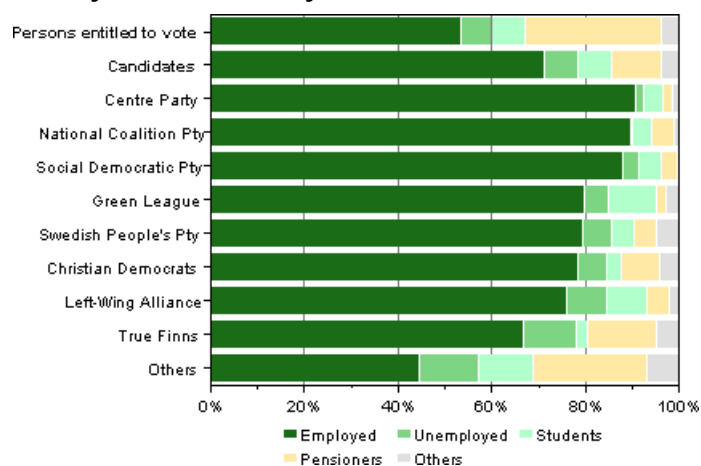
The Green League has the highest proportion, nearly one half, of the candidates younger than 40 years of age. The proportion of candidates younger than 40 years of age is higher than their proportion of the persons entitled to vote also in the Swedish People's Party, the Left Alliance and the Social Democratic Party. The lowest proportions of young candidates were nominated by the True Finns and the Christian Democrats. The Coalition Party has the highest proportion of candidates aged 40 to 49.

The True Finns (51.3%) and the Christian Democrats (44.5%) have the highest proportion of candidates aged over 50, the True Finns even more than among the persons entitled to vote (50.1%). In the Green League and the Swedish People's Party fewer than 30 per cent of the candidates are over the age of 50.

1.4. Employment

At the end of 2009, just over one half, or 53.4 per cent of all persons entitled to vote were employed, 6.7 per cent unemployed, 7.2 per cent students, and 28.8 per cent pensioners. Around 90 per cent of the candidates of the three major parties, the Centre Party, the Coalition Party and the Social Democratic Party, were employed, while in the True Finns the proportion of employed was 66.8 per cent. The Social Democrats, the Coalition Party and the Centre Party have virtually no unemployed candidates. In contrast, 11.3 per cent of the True Finns have been unemployed at the end of 2009. Around 71 per cent of all candidates were employed and about seven per cent were unemployed at the end of 2009.

Figure 6. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by main type of activity in Parliamentary elections 2011



In the major parties only six to nine per cent of the candidates are students or pensioners. The proportion of student candidates is highest in the Green League (10.1%) and the Left Alliance (8.5%). The proportion of pensioner candidates is highest among the True Finns (14.7%) and the Christian Democrats (7.9%).

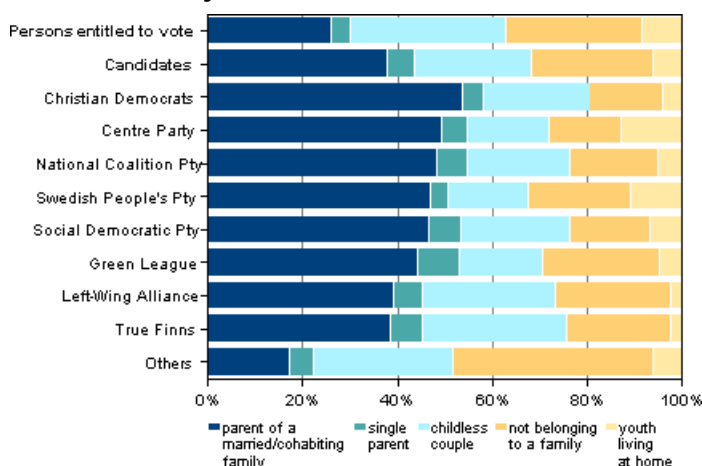
Table 5. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by main type of activity in Parliamentary elections 2011

| | Employed | Unemployed | Students | Pensioners | Others |
|---|----------|------------|----------|------------|--------|
| Persons entitled to vote | 53.4 | 6.7 | 7.2 | 28.8 | 3.8 |
| Candidates | 71.4 | 7.3 | 7.1 | 10.7 | 3.6 |
| Centre Party of Finland KESK | 91.0 | 1.7 | 3.9 | 2.1 | 1.3 |
| National Coalition Party KOK | 89.7 | 0.4 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 0.9 |
| The Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP | 88.2 | 3.4 | 4.6 | 3.4 | 0.4 |
| Green League GREENS | 79.8 | 5.3 | 10.1 | 2.2 | 2.6 |
| Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP | 79.5 | 6.0 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 |
| Christian Democrats in Finland KD | 78.5 | 6.3 | 3.1 | 7.9 | 4.2 |
| Left-Wing Alliance LEFT | 76.3 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 4.7 | 2.1 |
| True Finns PS | 66.8 | 11.3 | 2.5 | 14.7 | 4.6 |
| Others | 44.8 | 12.4 | 11.8 | 24.2 | 6.8 |

1.5. Family status

Of all persons entitled to vote nearly one quarter are parents of a family with children, or the family had at least one underage child. Nearly three per cent of them are single parents. In addition, around six per cent are parents with only children aged over 18 living at home. Around 33 per cent are childless couples, close on 30 per cent live alone without a family and around eight per cent of persons entitled to vote are young adults living at home.

Figure 7. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by family status in Parliamentary elections 2011



The candidates also differ in their family status from persons entitled to vote: considerably more of them are parents of a family with children and childless couples than is the case among persons entitled to vote. This is of course explained by that the age structure of candidates is younger than among persons entitled to vote. For a major part 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.

The True Finns, the Left Alliance and the Swedish People's Party have the lowest proportion of parents of families with children (37% to 42%), while in other major parties their proportion is 47 to 50 per cent. The proportions of young people living at home are highest among the candidates of the Centre Party (12.9%) and the Swedish People's Party (10.8%). The Green League and the Left Alliance have most candidates without a family, usually living alone, that is, nearly one quarter of all candidates.

Of all persons entitled to vote, 44.3 per cent are married and 14.5 per cent are cohabiting. In all, 48.5 per cent of the candidates are married and 13.9 per cent are cohabiting.

Christian Democrat candidates differ most from the voters in that 74.9 per cent of them are married. The Green League and the Left Alliance have the lowest proportions of married persons (43.0% and 47.9%, respectively) but their proportion of cohabiting couples is highest, about 19 per cent.

Table 6. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by family status in Parliamentary elections 2011

| | Parent of a married/ cohabiting family | Single parent | Childless couple | Not belonging to a family | Youth living at home |
|--|---|---------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Persons entitled to vote | 26.2 | 4.1 | 32.7 | 28.7 | 8.3 |
| Candidates | 37.8 | 5.9 | 24.5 | 25.8 | 5.9 |
| Christian Democrats in Finland KD | 53.9 | 4.2 | 22.5 | 15.2 | 4.2 |
| Centre Party of Finland KESK | 49.4 | 5.6 | 17.2 | 15.0 | 12.9 |
| National Coalition Party KOK | 48.3 | 6.5 | 21.6 | 18.5 | 5.2 |
| Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP | 47.0 | 3.6 | 16.9 | 21.7 | 10.8 |
| The Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP | 46.6 | 6.7 | 23.1 | 16.8 | 6.7 |
| Green League GREENS | 44.3 | 8.8 | 17.5 | 24.6 | 4.8 |
| Left-Wing Alliance LEFT | 39.4 | 5.9 | 28.0 | 24.2 | 2.5 |
| True Finns PS | 38.7 | 6.7 | 30.3 | 21.8 | 2.5 |
| Others | 17.3 | 5.0 | 29.6 | 42.1 | 6.0 |

1.6. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by number of children in 2011

Although the majority of persons entitled to vote and many candidates are not at the moment going through the everyday life of a family with children, it does not mean that they did not have experiences of it. Nearly 35 per cent of persons entitled to vote have never had children of their own, while about 31 per cent of the candidates are completely childless. The proportion of candidates without children is higher than average in parties with a large proportion of young candidates, such as the Green League and the Swedish People's Party. The Christian Democrats have the lowest proportion of candidates without children, only around 20 per cent.

Figure 8. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by number of biological children in Parliamentary elections 2011

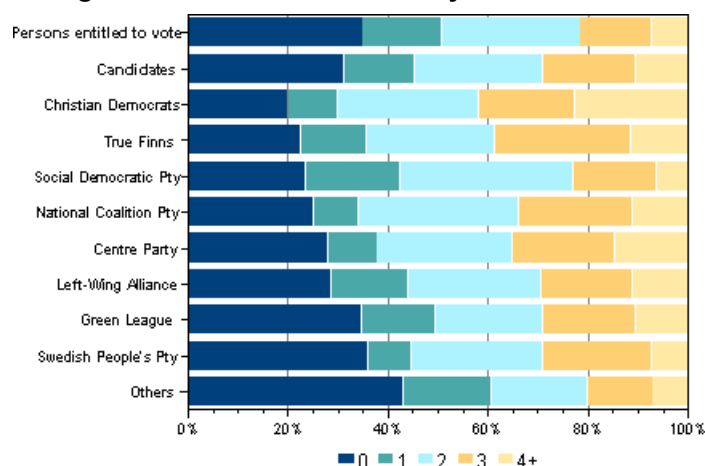


Table 7. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by number of biological children in Parliamentary elections 2011

| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4+ |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Persons entitled to vote | 34.9 | 15.8 | 27.8 | 14.1 | 7.4 |
| Candidates | 31.2 | 14.2 | 25.5 | 18.5 | 10.6 |
| Christian Democrats in Finland KD | 19.9 | 9.9 | 28.3 | 19.4 | 22.5 |
| True Finns PS | 22.7 | 13.0 | 25.6 | 27.3 | 11.3 |
| The Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP | 23.5 | 18.9 | 34.5 | 16.8 | 6.3 |
| National Coalition Party KOK | 25.0 | 9.1 | 31.9 | 22.8 | 11.2 |
| Centre Party of Finland KESK | 27.9 | 9.9 | 27.0 | 20.6 | 14.6 |
| Left-Wing Alliance LEFT | 28.8 | 15.3 | 26.7 | 18.2 | 11.0 |
| Green League GREENS | 34.6 | 14.9 | 21.5 | 18.4 | 10.5 |
| Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP | 36.1 | 8.4 | 26.5 | 21.7 | 7.2 |
| Others | 43.1 | 17.6 | 19.2 | 13.1 | 7.1 |

1.7. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by educational level in 2011

Highly educated people are seeking entry to the Parliament. The educational level of the candidates of almost all parties is higher than that of the average population. Of the total population, 30.8 per cent rely on basic level education, but this is the case only for 11.9 per cent of the candidates. Of the candidates nominated by the major parties even fewer rely on basic level education: around five per cent for the Centre Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Coalition Party, slightly over six per cent for the Green League and the Social Democrats and nearly seven per cent for the Christian Democrats. Around 14 per cent of the True Finns candidates and about ten per cent of the Left Alliance candidates have basic level education only. More than one half of the candidates are educated to the tertiary level, but only about 29 per cent of those entitled to vote have attained that level. The candidates of the National Coalition Party have the highest level of education, as over 74 per cent of them have tertiary level education. The Left Alliance (39.3%) and the True Finns (43.6%) have the lowest proportion of candidates with tertiary level education.

Figure 9. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by educational level in Parliamentary elections 2011

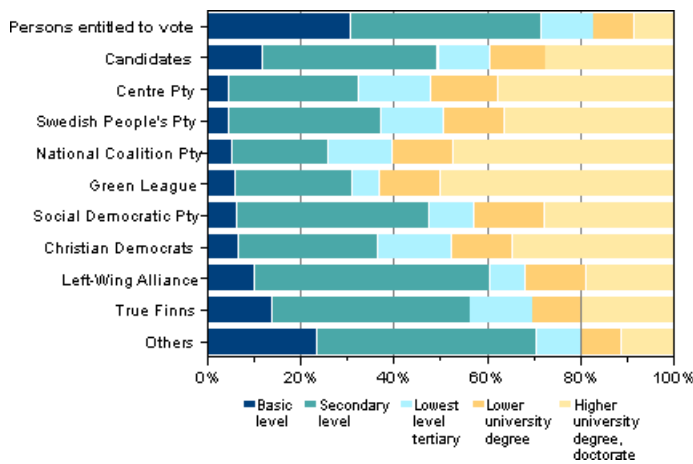


Table 8. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by educational level in Parliamentary elections 2011

| | Basic level | Secondary level | Lowest level tertiary | Lower university degree | Higher university degree, doctorate |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Persons entitled to vote | 30.8 | 40.7 | 11.3 | 8.8 | 8.4 |
| Candidates | 11.9 | 37.6 | 11.1 | 11.9 | 27.5 |
| Centre Party of Finland KESK | 4.7 | 27.9 | 15.5 | 14.2 | 37.8 |
| Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP | 4.8 | 32.5 | 13.3 | 13.3 | 36.1 |
| National Coalition Party KOK | 5.2 | 20.7 | 13.8 | 12.9 | 47.4 |
| Green League GREENS | 6.1 | 25.0 | 5.7 | 13.2 | 50.0 |
| The Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP | 6.3 | 41.2 | 9.7 | 15.1 | 27.7 |
| Christian Democrats in Finland KD | 6.8 | 29.8 | 15.7 | 13.1 | 34.6 |
| Left-Wing Alliance LEFT | 10.2 | 50.4 | 7.6 | 13.1 | 18.6 |
| True Finns PS | 13.9 | 42.4 | 13.4 | 10.5 | 19.7 |
| Others | 23.6 | 47.0 | 9.6 | 8.5 | 11.3 |

1.8. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by income subject to state tax in Parliamentary elections 2011

Income is the one variable that marks the greatest difference between candidates and voters. The median of the candidates' income subject to state tax is EUR 32,042, that of all persons entitled to vote EUR 21,561 and that of employed persons in 2009 EUR 29,897. Thus, the candidates' income compared with all persons entitled to vote is 1.5 times higher. Compared with working persons entitled to vote, candidates' income is around seven per cent higher. The median income of candidates in 2007 was EUR 30,116, which is 63 per cent higher than the income of persons entitled to vote.

The Coalition Party candidates have the biggest income difference with persons entitled to vote, as their income is around 2.5 times higher than among voters. The income of candidates in the Centre Party, the Social Democrats and the Swedish People's Party is also at least double that of those entitled to vote. Among the parliamentary parties, the Left Alliance and the True Finns are closest to the electorate, but even their income is around 50 per cent higher than among persons entitled to vote. Only for candidates of small parties, the income is below the level of the voters.

Figure 10. Persons to vote and candidates by median income subject to state tax (in euro) in Parliamentary elections in 2011 and 2007

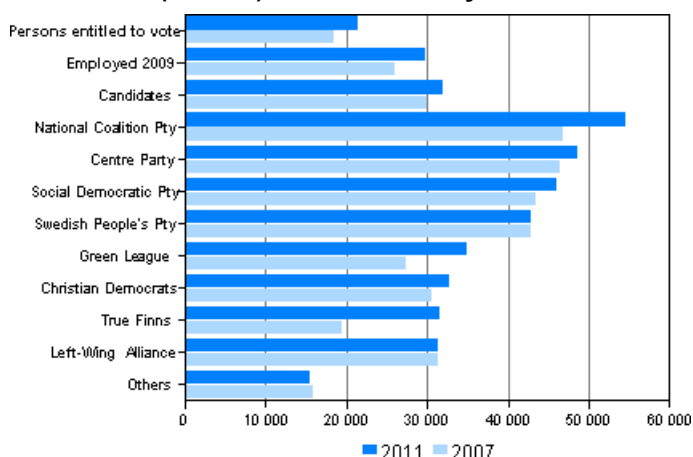


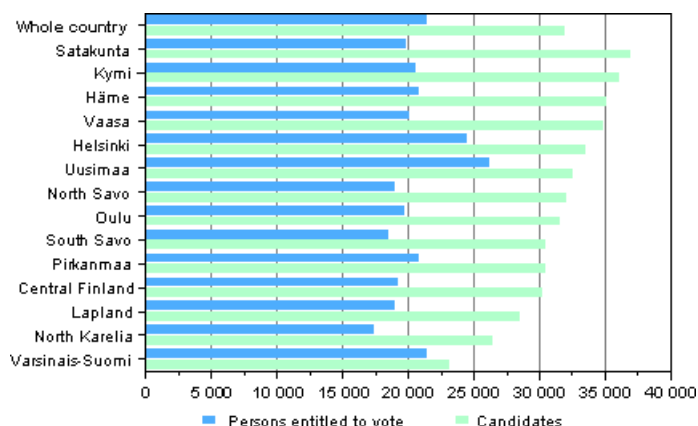
Table 9. Persons to vote and candidates by median income subject to state tax (in euro) in Parliamentary elections 2011 and 2007

| | 2011 | 2007 |
|---|--------|--------|
| Persons entitled to vote | 21,561 | 18,528 |
| Employed | 29,897 | 26,105 |
| Candidates | 32,042 | 30,116 |
| National Coalition Party KOK | 54,569 | 46,895 |
| Centre Party of Finland KESK | 48,722 | 46,561 |
| The Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP | 46,225 | 43,542 |
| Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP | 43,026 | 43,020 |
| Green League GREENS | 35,118 | 27,461 |
| Christian Democrats in Finland KD | 32,850 | 30,757 |
| True Finns PS | 31,645 | 19,518 |
| Left-Wing Alliance LEFT | 31,480 | 31,535 |
| Others | 15,646 | 15,917 |

During the present parliamentary period the nominal income of all persons entitled to vote increased by 16.4 per cent, that of working persons by 14.5 per cent and that of candidates by 6.4 per cent. Income rose

most for the candidates of the True Finns, by over 60 per cent, although the median income among them is still the lowest of all parliamentary parties. Among the Greens, the income went up by 27.1 per cent and among the Coalition Party by 16.4 per cent. In other parties, the change in median income is smaller than among all persons entitled to vote. The median income of Left Alliance and small party candidates even decreased from the previous elections.

Figure 11. Median income subject to state tax (in euro) of persons entitled to vote and candidates by constituency in Parliamentary elections 2011 ¹



¹ Åland is excluded from the examination due to the small number of observations.

Table 10. Median income subject to state tax (in euro) of persons entitled to vote and candidates by constituency in Parliamentary elections 2011 ¹⁾

| Constituency | Persons entitled to vote | Candidates |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Whole country | 21,561 | 32,042 |
| Satakunta | 19,950 | 36,997 |
| Kymi | 20,669 | 36,167 |
| Häme | 20,958 | 35,166 |
| Vaasa | 20,148 | 34,902 |
| Helsinki | 24,547 | 33,641 |
| Uusimaa | 26,270 | 32,635 |
| North Savo | 19,042 | 32,091 |
| Oulu | 19,858 | 31,694 |
| South Savo | 18,547 | 30,564 |
| Pirkanmaa | 20,892 | 30,504 |
| Central Finland | 19,268 | 30,360 |
| Lapland | 19,127 | 28,542 |
| North Karelia | 17,520 | 26,527 |
| Varsinais-Suomi | 21,524 | 23,215 |

1) Åland is excluded from the examination due to the small number of observations.

The income level of those entitled to vote is the highest in the constituencies of Uusimaa and Helsinki. The candidates with the highest income come from Satakunta, Kymi and Häme. The income of the candidates and persons entitled to vote is closest to each other in the constituency of Varsinais-Suomi, where the candidates' median income was only EUR 1,700 higher than that of persons entitled to vote. The difference is biggest in Satakunta, where it is around EUR 17,000. Except for Varsinais-Suomi, Helsinki, Uusimaa, Pirkanmaa and Lapland the candidates' median income is at least 50 per cent higher than in the electorate of the area. Voters have the lowest income in North Karelia and South Savo, where

the voters' median income remained under EUR 19,000. The candidates with the lowest income, EUR 23,000, come from the constituency of Varsinais-Suomi.

1.9. Income brackets

In the following, comparisons are made on the division of candidates into income quintiles that are formed on the basis of the income subject to state tax of persons entitled to vote. In the division into income quintiles the income brackets are determined so that there is an equal number of persons in each quintile, i.e. 20 per cent of the persons entitled to vote. For the sake of comparison, employed persons in 2009 are also examined in the same income brackets.

The lowest quintile among persons entitled to vote earned in 2009 under EUR 9,708 and the highest quintile over EUR 36,333. Seven per cent of employed persons and 16 per cent of the candidates belong to the lowest quintile. Correspondingly, one third of employed persons and nearly 43 per cent of the candidates belong to the highest income quintile. Of the Coalition Party candidates 75 per cent and nearly two thirds of the Centre Party and SDP candidates belong to the highest income bracket. The proportion of low-income candidates in the parliamentary parties is highest for the Swedish People's Party, the Green League and the Left Alliance. Their low-income earning is explained by the candidates' younger than average age structure and larger student background than among others.

The income structure of small parties' candidates resembles the average income structure of voters more closely than that of the major parties' candidates. As many as nearly one third of the candidates of small parties belong to the lowest income bracket and only 14 per cent to the highest income bracket.

Figure 12. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by income subject to state tax (in euro) in Parliamentary elections 2011

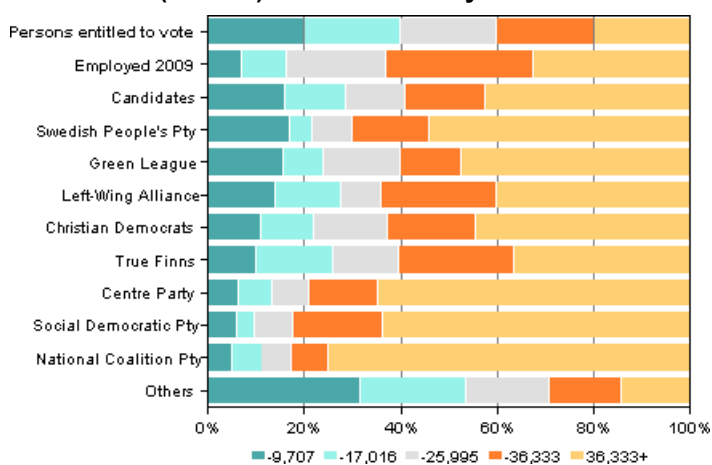


Table 11. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by income subject to state tax (in euro) in Parliamentary elections 2011

| | -9,707 | -17,016 | -25,995 | -36,333 | 36,333+ |
|---|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Persons entitled to vote | 20.0 | 20.0 | 20.0 | 20.0 | 20.0 |
| Empolyed 2009 | 7.0 | 9.5 | 20.6 | 30.3 | 32.6 |
| Candidates | 16.0 | 12.6 | 12.4 | 16.4 | 42.6 |
| Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP | 16.9 | 4.8 | 8.4 | 15.7 | 54.2 |
| Green League GREENS | 15.8 | 8.3 | 15.8 | 12.7 | 47.4 |
| Left-Wing Alliance LEFT | 14.0 | 13.6 | 8.5 | 23.7 | 40.3 |
| Christian Democrats in Finland KD | 11.0 | 11.0 | 15.2 | 18.3 | 44.5 |
| True Finns PS | 10.1 | 16.0 | 13.4 | 23.9 | 36.6 |
| Centre Party of Finland KESK | 6.4 | 6.9 | 7.7 | 14.2 | 64.8 |
| The Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP | 5.9 | 3.8 | 8.0 | 18.5 | 63.9 |
| National Coalition Party KOK | 5.2 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 7.8 | 75.0 |
| Others | 31.6 | 21.9 | 17.5 | 14.9 | 14.2 |

2. Municipal mergers in Parliamentary elections 1983-2011

Municipal mergers in Parliamentary elections 1983 - 2011 (1.1.2011, total 152)

| Abolished municipality | | Name of new or expanding municipality | | Date |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 08 | Kymi constituency | 08 | Kymi constituency | |
| | 539 Nuijamaa | | 405 Lappeenranta | 1.1.1989 |
| 02 | Uusimaa constituency | 02 | Uusimaa constituency | |
| | 842 Tenhola | | 835 Tammisaari | 1.1.1993 |
| 03 | Turku etel. constituency | 03 | Turku etel. constituency | |
| | 209 Kalanti | | 895 Uusikaupunki | 1.1.1993 |
| 04 | Turku pohj. constituency | 04 | Turku pohj. constituency | |
| | 685 Rauman mlk | | 684 Rauma | 1.1.1993 |
| 13 | Central Finland constituency | 13 | Central Finland constituency | |
| | 787 Säynätsalo | | 179 Jyväskylä | 1.1.1993 |
| | 274 Konginkangas | | 992 Äänekoski | 1.1.1993 |
| 02 | Uusimaa constituency | 02 | Uusimaa constituency | |
| | 427 Lohja | | 444 Lohja | 1.1.1997 |
| | 428 Lohjan kunta | | 444 Lohja | 1.1.1997 |
| | 612 Porvoo | | 638 Porvoo | 1.1.1997 |
| | 613 Porvoon mlk | | 638 Porvoo | 1.1.1997 |
| 06 | Häme constituency | 06 | Häme constituency | |
| | 088 Heinola | | 111 Heinola | 1.1.1997 |
| | 089 Heinolan mlk | | 111 Heinola | 1.1.1997 |
| 09 | Etelä-Savo constituency | 09 | Etelä-Savo constituency | |
| | 014 Anttola | | 491 Mikkeli | 1.1.2001 |
| | 492 Mikkelin mlk | | 491 Mikkeli | 1.1.2001 |
| 13 | Central Finland constituency | 13 | Central Finland constituency | |
| | 299 Kuorevesi | | 182 Jämsä | 1.1.2001 |
| 14 | Oulu constituency | 14 | Oulu constituency | |
| | 841 Temmes | | 859 Tyrnävä | 1.1.2001 |
| 08 | Kymi constituency | 08 | Kymi constituency | |
| | 917 Vehkalahti | | 075 Hamina | 1.1.2003 |
| 14 | Oulu constituency | 14 | Oulu constituency | |
| | 582 Pattijoki | | 678 Raahe | 1.1.2003 |
| 09 | Etelä-Savo constituency | 09 | Etelä-Savo constituency | |
| | 184 Jäppilä | | 640 Pieksänmaa | 1.1.2004 |
| | 594 Pieksämäen mlk | | 640 Pieksänmaa | 1.1.2004 |
| | 937 Virtasalmi | | 640 Pieksänmaa | 1.1.2004 |
| 03 | Varsinais-Suomi constituency | 03 | Varsinais-Suomi constituency | |
| | 431 Loimaan kunta | | 430 Loimaa | 1.1.2005 |
| | 219 Karinainen | | 636 Pöytyä | 1.1.2005 |
| 04 | Satakunta constituency | 04 | Satakunta constituency | |
| | 293 Kullaa | | 886 Ulvila | 1.1.2005 |
| 07 | Pirkanmaa constituency | 07 | Pirkanmaa constituency | |
| | 730 Sahalahti | | 211 Kangasala | 1.1.2005 |
| 08 | Kymi constituency | 08 | Kymi constituency | |
| | 728 Saari | | 580 Parikkala | 1.1.2005 |
| | 891 Uukuniemi | | 580 Parikkala | 1.1.2005 |
| 10 | Pohjois-Savo constituency | 10 | Pohjois-Savo constituency | |
| | 919 Vehmersalmi | | 297 Kuopio | 1.1.2005 |
| | 212 Kangaslampi | | 915 Varkaus | 1.1.2005 |
| 11 | North Karelia constituency | 11 | North Karelia constituency | |

| Abolished municipality | | Name of new or expanding municipality | | Date | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| | 251 | Kiihtelysvaara | 167 | Joensuu | 1.1.2005 |
| | 856 | Tuupovaara | 167 | Joensuu | 1.1.2005 |
| | 943 | Värtsilä | 848 | Tohmajärvi | 1.1.2005 |
| 12 | Vaasa constituency | | 12 | Vaasa constituency | |
| | 589 | Peräseinäjoki | 743 | Seinäjoki | 1.1.2005 |
| 15 | Lapland constituency | | 15 | Lapland constituency | |
| | 699 | Rovaniemen mlk | 698 | Rovaniemi | 1.1.2006 |
| 03 | Varsinais-Suomi constituency | | 03 | Varsinais-Suomi constituency | |
| | 490 | Mietoinen | 503 | Mynämäki | 1.1.2007 |
| 04 | Satakunta constituency | | 04 | Satakunta constituency | |
| | 266 | Kodisjoki | 684 | Rauma | 1.1.2007 |
| 07 | Pirkanmaa constituency | | 07 | Pirkanmaa constituency | |
| | 864 | Toijala | 020 | Akaa | 1.1.2007 |
| | 928 | Viiala | 020 | Akaa | 1.1.2007 |
| | 439 | Luopioinen | 635 | Pälkäne | 1.1.2007 |
| | 772 | Suodenniemi | 912 | Vammala | 1.1.2007 |
| | 932 | Viljakkala | 980 | Ylöjärvi | 1.1.2007 |
| 07 | Pirkanmaa constituency | | 13 | Central Finland constituency | |
| | 443 | Längelmäki | 182 | Jämsä | 1.1.2007 |
| 09 | Etelä-Savo constituency | | 09 | Etelä-Savo constituency | |
| | 085 | Haukivuori | 491 | Mikkeli | 1.1.2007 |
| | 640 | Pieksänmaa | 593 | Pieksämäki | 1.1.2007 |
| 12 | Vaasa constituency | | 12 | Vaasa constituency | |
| | 479 | Maksamaa | 945 | Vöyri-Maksamaa | 1.1.2007 |
| | 944 | Vöyri | 945 | Vöyri-Maksamaa | 1.1.2007 |
| 13 | Central Finland constituency | | 13 | Central Finland constituency | |
| | 770 | Sumiainen | 992 | Äänekoski | 1.1.2007 |
| | 774 | Suolahti | 992 | Äänekoski | 1.1.2007 |
| 14 | Oulu constituency | | 14 | Oulu constituency | |
| | 292 | Kuivaniemi | 139 | Ii | 1.1.2007 |
| | 940 | Vuolijoki | 205 | Kajaani | 1.1.2007 |
| | 708 | Ruukki | 748 | Siikajoki | 1.1.2007 |
| 13 | Central Finland constituency | | 13 | Central Finland constituency | |
| | 415 | Leivonmäki | 172 | Joutsa | 1.1.2008 |
| 02 | Uusimaa constituency | | 02 | Uusimaa constituency | |
| | 737 | Sammatti | 444 | Lohja | 1.1.2009 |
| | 220 | Karjaa | 710 | Raasepori | 1.1.2009 |
| | 606 | Pohja | 710 | Raasepori | 1.1.2009 |
| | 835 | Tammisaari | 710 | Raasepori | 1.1.2009 |
| 03 | Varsinais-Suomi constituency | | 03 | Varsinais-Suomi constituency | |
| | 602 | Piikkiö | 202 | Kaarina | 1.1.2009 |
| | 040 | Dragsfjärd | 322 | Kemiönsaari | 1.1.2009 |
| | 243 | Kemiö | 322 | Kemiönsaari | 1.1.2009 |
| | 923 | Västanfjärd | 322 | Kemiönsaari | 1.1.2009 |
| | 006 | Alastaro | 430 | Loimaa | 1.1.2009 |
| | 482 | Mellilä | 430 | Loimaa | 1.1.2009 |
| | 101 | Houtskari | 445 | Länsi-Turunmaa | 1.1.2009 |
| | 150 | Iniö | 445 | Länsi-Turunmaa | 1.1.2009 |
| | 279 | Korpoo | 445 | Länsi-Turunmaa | 1.1.2009 |

| Abolished municipality | | Name of new or expanding municipality | | Date |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 533 | Nauvo | 445 | Länsi-Turunmaa | 1.1.2009 |
| 573 | Parainen | 445 | Länsi-Turunmaa | 1.1.2009 |
| 017 | Askainen | 481 | Masku | 1.1.2009 |
| 419 | Lemu | 481 | Masku | 1.1.2009 |
| 485 | Merimasku | 529 | Naantali | 1.1.2009 |
| 705 | Rymättylä | 529 | Naantali | 1.1.2009 |
| 920 | Velkua | 529 | Naantali | 1.1.2009 |
| 636 | Pöytyä | 636 | Pöytyä | 1.1.2009 |
| 979 | Yläne | 636 | Pöytyä | 1.1.2009 |
| 906 | Vahto | 704 | Rusko | 1.1.2009 |
| 073 | Halikko | 734 | Salo | 1.1.2009 |
| 252 | Kiikala | 734 | Salo | 1.1.2009 |
| 259 | Kisko | 734 | Salo | 1.1.2009 |
| 308 | Kuusjoki | 734 | Salo | 1.1.2009 |
| 501 | Muurla | 734 | Salo | 1.1.2009 |
| 586 | Perniö | 734 | Salo | 1.1.2009 |
| 587 | Pertteli | 734 | Salo | 1.1.2009 |
| 734 | Salo | 734 | Salo | 1.1.2009 |
| 776 | Suomusjärvi | 734 | Salo | 1.1.2009 |
| 784 | Särkisalo | 734 | Salo | 1.1.2009 |
| 04 | Satakunta constituency | 04 | Satakunta constituency | |
| 262 | Kiukainen | 050 | Eura | 1.1.2009 |
| 913 | Vampula | 102 | Huittinen | 1.1.2009 |
| 406 | Lappi | 684 | Rauma | 1.1.2009 |
| 06 | Häme constituency | 06 | Häme constituency | |
| 083 | Hauho | 109 | Hämeenlinna | 1.1.2009 |
| 210 | Kalvola | 109 | Hämeenlinna | 1.1.2009 |
| 401 | Lammi | 109 | Hämeenlinna | 1.1.2009 |
| 692 | Renko | 109 | Hämeenlinna | 1.1.2009 |
| 855 | Tuulos | 109 | Hämeenlinna | 1.1.2009 |
| 07 | Pirkanmaa constituency | 07 | Pirkanmaa constituency | |
| 506 | Mänttä | 508 | Mänttä-Vilppula | 1.1.2009 |
| 933 | Vilppula | 508 | Mänttä-Vilppula | 1.1.2009 |
| 493 | Mouhijärvi | 790 | Sastamala | 1.1.2009 |
| 912 | Vammala | 790 | Sastamala | 1.1.2009 |
| 988 | Äetsä | 790 | Sastamala | 1.1.2009 |
| 303 | Kuru | 980 | Ylöjärvi | 1.1.2009 |
| 08 | Kymi constituency | 08 | Kymi constituency | |
| 044 | Elimäki | 286 | Kouvola | 1.1.2009 |
| 163 | Jaala | 286 | Kouvola | 1.1.2009 |
| 286 | Kouvola | 286 | Kouvola | 1.1.2009 |
| 306 | Kuusankoski | 286 | Kouvola | 1.1.2009 |
| 754 | Anjalankoski | 286 | Kouvola | 1.1.2009 |
| 909 | Valkeala | 286 | Kouvola | 1.1.2009 |
| 173 | Joutseno | 405 | Lappeenranta | 1.1.2009 |
| 09 | Etelä-Savo constituency | 09 | Etelä-Savo constituency | |
| 741 | Savonranta | 740 | Savonlinna | 1.1.2009 |
| 11 | North Karelia constituency | 11 | North Karelia constituency | |
| 045 | Eno | 167 | Joensuu | 1.1.2009 |

| Abolished municipality | | Name of new or expanding municipality | | Date | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| | 632 | Pyhäselkä | 167 | Joensuu | 1.1.2009 |
| 12 | Vaasa constituency | | 12 | Vaasa constituency | |
| | 414 | Lehtimäki | 005 | Alajärvi | 1.1.2009 |
| | 004 | Alahärmä | 233 | Kauhava | 1.1.2009 |
| | 233 | Kauhava | 233 | Kauhava | 1.1.2009 |
| | 281 | Kortesjärvi | 233 | Kauhava | 1.1.2009 |
| | 971 | Ylihärmä | 233 | Kauhava | 1.1.2009 |
| | 315 | Kälviä | 272 | Kokkola | 1.1.2009 |
| | 429 | Lohtaja | 272 | Kokkola | 1.1.2009 |
| | 885 | Ullava | 272 | Kokkola | 1.1.2009 |
| | 175 | Jurva | 301 | Kurikka | 1.1.2009 |
| | 544 | Nurmo | 743 | Seinäjoki | 1.1.2009 |
| | 743 | Seinäjoki | 743 | Seinäjoki | 1.1.2009 |
| | 975 | Ylistaro | 743 | Seinäjoki | 1.1.2009 |
| 13 | Central Finland constituency | | 13 | Central Finland constituency | |
| | 179 | Jyväskylä | 179 | Jyväskylä | 1.1.2009 |
| | 180 | Jyväskylän mlk | 179 | Jyväskylä | 1.1.2009 |
| | 277 | Korpilahti | 179 | Jyväskylä | 1.1.2009 |
| | 182 | Jämsä | 182 | Jämsä | 1.1.2009 |
| | 183 | Jämsänkoski | 182 | Jämsä | 1.1.2009 |
| | 633 | Pylkönmäki | 729 | Saarijärvi | 1.1.2009 |
| 14 | Oulu constituency | | 14 | Oulu constituency | |
| | 973 | Ylikiminki | 564 | Oulu | 1.1.2009 |
| | 247 | Kestilä | 791 | Siikalatva | 1.1.2009 |
| | 603 | Piippola | 791 | Siikalatva | 1.1.2009 |
| | 617 | Pulkkila | 791 | Siikalatva | 1.1.2009 |
| | 682 | Rantsila | 791 | Siikalatva | 1.1.2009 |
| 02 | Uusimaa constituency | | 02 | Uusimaa constituency | |
| | 424 | Liljendal | 434 | Loviisa | 1.1.2010 |
| | 434 | Loviisa | 434 | Loviisa | 1.1.2010 |
| | 585 | Pernaja | 434 | Loviisa | 1.1.2010 |
| | 701 | Ruotsinpyhtää | 434 | Loviisa | 1.1.2010 |
| 04 | Satakunta constituency | | 04 | Satakunta constituency | |
| | 537 | Noormarkku | 609 | Pori | 1.1.2010 |
| | 609 | Pori | 609 | Pori | 1.1.2010 |
| 08 | Kymi constituency | | 08 | Kymi constituency | |
| | 405 | Lappeenranta | 405 | Lappeenranta | 1.1.2010 |
| | 978 | Ylämaa | 405 | Lappeenranta | 1.1.2010 |
| 14 | Oulu constituency | | 14 | Oulu constituency | |
| | 208 | Kalajoki | 208 | Kalajoki | 1.1.2010 |
| 12 | Vaasa constituency | | 14 | Oulu constituency | |
| | 095 | Himanka | 208 | Kalajoki | 1.1.2010 |
| 06 | Häme constituency | | 06 | Häme constituency | |
| | 015 | Artjärvi | 560 | Orimattila | 1.1.2011 |
| | 560 | Orimattila | 560 | Orimattila | 1.1.2011 |
| 07 | Pirkanmaa constituency | | 07 | Pirkanmaa constituency | |
| | 020 | Akaa | 020 | Akaa | 1.1.2011 |
| | 310 | Kylmäkoski | 020 | Akaa | 1.1.2011 |
| | 211 | Kangasala | 211 | Kangasala | 1.1.2011 |

| Abolished municipality | | Name of new or expanding municipality | | | Date | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|------------|----------|
| | 289 | Kuhmalhti | | 211 | Kangasala | 1.1.2011 |
| 10 | Pohjois-Savo constituency | | 10 | Pohjois-Savo constituency | | |
| | 227 | Karttula | | 297 | Kuopio | 1.1.2011 |
| | 297 | Kuopio | | 297 | Kuopio | 1.1.2011 |
| | 916 | Varpaisjärvi | | 402 | Lapinlahti | 1.1.2011 |
| | 402 | Lapinlahti | | 402 | Lapinlahti | 1.1.2011 |
| 12 | Vaasa constituency | | 12 | Vaasa constituency | | |
| | 559 | Oravainen | | 946 | Vöyri | 1.1.2011 |
| | 945 | Vöyri-Maksamaa | | 946 | Vöyri | 1.1.2011 |

Parliamentary elections, quality description

1. Relevance of statistical information

1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

Statistics Finland produces official statistics from Parliamentary elections containing key data on the following:

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

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

1.2 Essential concepts

Holding of elections

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

Legislation

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

The main principles of holding elections

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

- **The elections are direct.** Electors (those entitled to vote) vote direct for the person they want to be elected.
- **The elections are proportional.** In proportional elections each party or other group gains seats in relation to the votes cast for it compared with the votes cast for other groups (not in presidential elections).
- **The elections are secret.** Secrecy of the ballot means that neither the election authorities nor anyone else get to know for whom voters have cast their votes or whether they have returned an empty ballot.
- **The right to vote is universal and equal.** Universal franchise means that the right to vote only depends on requirements which citizens usually fulfil. Equal franchise means that every person entitled to vote has an equal right to influence the election results. In general elections everybody has one vote.
- **Voting is personal.** The right to vote may not be used through an agent.
- **Voting must take place in front of election authorities.**
- **The Finnish election system is a combination of voting for individuals and parties,** where a vote goes to both a party and a person (not in presidential elections).

Right to vote and eligibility

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

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

Eligibility

Everyone with the right to vote and who is not under guardianship can be a candidate in Parliamentary elections. However, a person holding military office cannot be elected as a representative. In addition, certain high officials, such as the Chancellor of Justice of the Government and the members of the Supreme Court may not serve as representatives. Consequently, they may not stand as candidates in elections either unless they resign from office.

Nomination of candidates

A party entered in the register of political parties has the right to nominate 14 candidates in each constituency or, if the number of Parliamentary seats for a constituency exceeds 14, at most as many candidates as there are seats. In addition to parties, a voters' association founded by at least 100 enfranchised persons in one constituency has the right to nominate a candidate in Parliamentary elections. One person may stand as a candidate in a single election only for one party or voters' association and in only one constituency. In the constituency of Åland, a voters' association founded by at least 30 enfranchised persons has the right to nominate a candidate in Parliamentary elections and another person as the candidate's substitute.

Voting percentage = proportion of voters of enfranchised persons

Statistics on general elections include four different voting percentages:

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

Valid and invalid ballots taken into account in the advance voting

As a rule, counting of advance votes starts at 15:00 hours on the actual election Sunday. The count may be brought forward in large electoral districts; the earliest possible starting time being 12:00 noon. The objective is to finish the counting of advance votes by 20:00 hours, from which time onwards preliminary data may be released.

Constituencies

For the purpose of Parliamentary elections, the country is divided into 15 constituencies based on regions. In Parliamentary elections, the seats in Parliament are allocated to the constituencies according to a Government decision. The number of seats in Parliament will change for two constituencies (electoral districts) in the Parliamentary elections of 17 April 2011. The constituency of Uusimaa gains one seat and the constituency of North Savo loses one seat. According to law, one representative is elected from the constituency of Åland and the remaining 199 seats are allocated proportionally to the other constituencies according to the size of their population of Finnish citizens resident in Finland in the Population Information System on 31 October 2010. On 11 November 2010, the Government issued a decree on the allocation of seats in Parliament among constituencies. Seats in the Parliamentary elections 2011 are proportionally divided as following:

- Helsinki constituency 21
- Uusimaa constituency 35
- Varsinais-Suomi constituency 17
- Satakunta constituency 9
- Häme constituency 14
- Pirkanmaa constituency 18
- Kymi constituency 12
- South Savo constituency 6
- North Savo constituency 9
- North Karelia constituency 6
- Vaasa constituency 17
- Central Finland constituency 10
- Oulu constituency 18
- Lapland constituency 7
- Åland constituency 1

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 in the Classifications section of the Internet home page of the statistics.

Municipalities are placed into constituencies according to the constituency division in force. The valid statistical grouping of municipalities is used in the statistics (Statistics Finland, Municipalities and Regional Divisions Based on Municipalities). 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 every five years in connection with population censuses and on the data thus obtained about the population living in urban settlements.

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

Classifications used

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

The names of constituencies in the Parliamentary elections 2011 are:

1. Helsinki constituency
2. Uusimaa constituency
3. Varsinais-Suomi constituency
4. Satakunta constituency
5. Åland constituency
6. Häme constituency
7. Pirkanmaa constituency
8. Kymi constituency
9. South Savo constituency
10. North Savo constituency
11. North Karelia constituency
12. Vaasa constituency
13. Central Finland constituency
14. Oulu constituency
15. Lapland constituency

Candidates have been nominated in the Parliamentary elections 2011 by the following registered parties:

- The Finnish Social Democratic Party (SDP)
- Centre Party of Finland (KESK)
- National Coalition Party (KOK)
- Swedish People's Party in Finland (RKP)
- Christian Democrats in Finland (KD)
- Green League (GREENS)
- Left - Wing Alliance (LEFT)
- True Finns (PS)
- Communist Party of Finland (SKP)
- Finnish Seniors Party (SSP)
- Communist Worker's Party (Finland) – For Peace and Socialism (KTP)
- Finnish Labour Party (STP)
- Independence Party (IP)
- For the Poor (KA)
- Pirate Party of Finland
- Change 2011
- Liberty Party – Future of Finland

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 Statistics department as the producer of election statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-1469-00).

2. Methodological description of survey

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

1. Basic data, including data on constituencies, municipalities, and voting districts and election authorities;
2. Data on polling stations (polling station register), including 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 on the 46th day prior to the election day. The voting register includes personal data on each person entitled to vote (name, personal identity code, constituency, municipality of domicile and polling station) included in the Population Information System on the 51st day prior to the election day. The voting register gains legal force at 12:00 noon on the 12th day 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. Statistics and information service 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 person entitled to vote, candidates and elected MPs

The analysis is based on the national candidate register (Ministry of Justice) and on the results of the preliminary calculation as well as on Statistics Finland's employment statistics data.

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

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

4. Timeliness and accuracy of data

The confirmed data always differ somewhat from the figures of the preliminary statistics. The 'preliminary results' after the election night serve users before the confirmed result is obtained.

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

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

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

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

The chargeable ALTIKA regional database contains results on Parliamentary elections starting from 1983.

6. Comparability of statistics

The municipal classification of the election year is used in the statistics. The new statistical grouping of municipalities (urban, semi-urban and rural) was introduced starting from the year 1999. Prior to that, municipalities were grouped as follows: towns and other municipalities. Changes in constituencies and municipalities between elections have been taken into account in statistics which contain comparative data with the previous elections.

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

7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity and documentation

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

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

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

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Source: Parliamentary Elections 2011, preliminary data, Statistics Finland