

# Municipal elections 2012

*Confirmed result and background analysis of candidates and elected representatives*

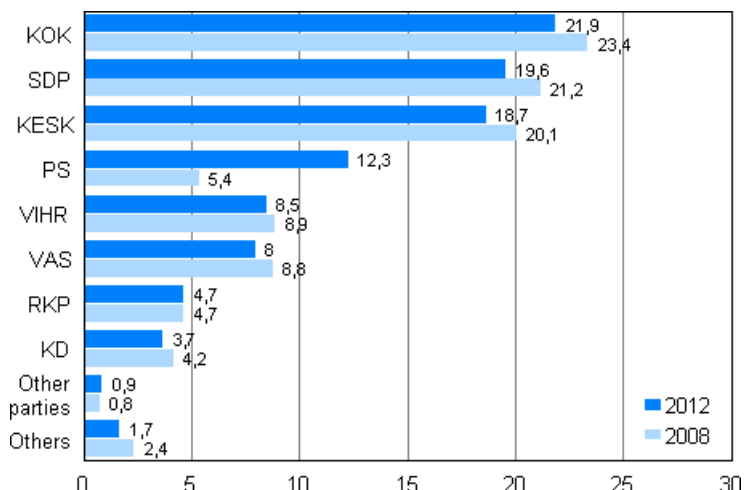
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***Confirmed result: Coalition Party retained its position as the largest political party, True Finns the biggest winners in Municipal elections 2012***

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

*The Coalition Party retained its position as the biggest political party in the country which it had assumed in the previous Municipal elections. The Coalition Party took 21.9 per cent of all votes but lost its share of votes cast by 1.6 per cent compared with the previous Municipal elections. The total number of votes cast for the Coalition Party was 545,890, which was 51,837 votes less than in the 2008 Municipal elections. The data are based on Statistics Finland's statistics on the Municipal elections 2012.*

## Support for parties in Municipal elections 2012 and 2008, %



Other parties in 2012: Communist Party of Finland (SKP), Pirate Party (Pirate Pty), Independence Party (IP), Communist Worker's Party (KTP), Change 2011, Finnish Labour Party (STP), For the Poor (KA), Liberty Party (Liberty Pty) Other parties in 2008: Communist Party of Finland (SKP), Independence Party (IP), Communist Worker's Party (KTP), Finnish Labour Party (STP), Finnish Seniors' Party (SSP), For the Poor (KA) Others in 2012 and 2008: Constituency associations

The Social Democratic Party gained the second most votes and retained its position as the second largest political party in Finland. It took 19.6 per cent of all votes cast and lost 1.7 percentage points of support. The total number of votes cast for the SDP was around 487,924, which was 53,263 down from the previous Municipal elections.

The Centre Party of Finland kept its position as the third biggest party in Finland. Support for the Centre Party was 18.7 per cent and it lost 1.4 percentage points of support when compared to the preceding elections. The Centre Party took a total of 465,167 votes, which was 47,053 votes less than in 2008.

The True Finns emerged as the biggest winners in the elections as they increased their support the most of all parties and became the fourth largest party. Support for the True Finns now stood at 12.3 per cent, which was 7.0 percentage points more than in the preceding Municipal elections. The 307,798 votes taken by the True Finns indicated an increase of as much as 170,301 votes from 2008.

The Green League gained 8.5 per cent of all votes, which was 0.4 percentage points lower than in the previous Municipal elections. The Left Alliance took 8.0 per cent of all votes cast and lost 0.8 percentage points of support compared with the previous Municipal elections.

Voting turnout was distinctly lower in these elections than in the preceding Municipal elections. The voting percentage in the whole country stood at 58.3, having been 61.2 in 2008. A total of 42.4 per cent of all voters cast their vote in advance in the Municipal elections 2012.

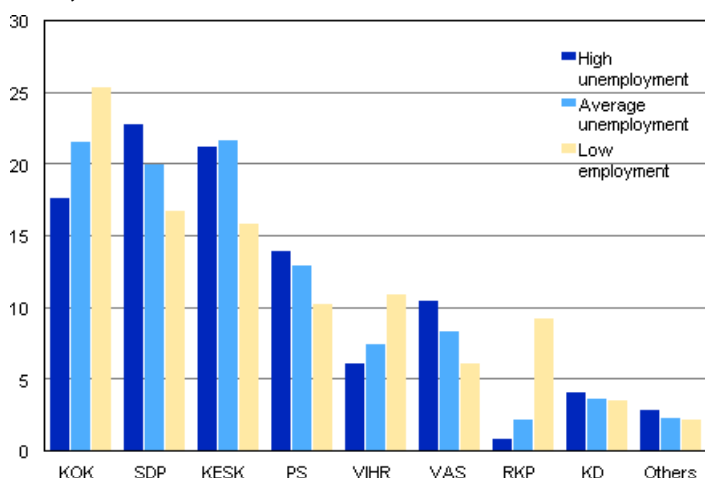
### Party analysis - True Finns the election winners

According to the result analysis made by Statistics Finland, the support for the True Finns was highest in the voting districts with high unemployment (13.9%), in agricultural areas (13.4%) and manufacturing areas (13.0%). The True Finns gained the least support in the voting districts with low unemployment (10.2%), service areas (10.8%) and high income level areas (11%). Compared with the previous Municipal elections the True Finns increased their support most in agricultural and sparsely populated areas and in those with high unemployment. Their support grew the least in the voting districts with low unemployment, services and large towns.

In the analysis, the voting districts are divided into three groups of roughly equal size on the basis of industrial structure, degree of urbanisation, income level and unemployment. Therefore, a manufacturing

area refers to an area whose inhabitants work in manufacturing more than average. However, manufacturing is not necessarily the principal industry in the area. (See methodological description.)

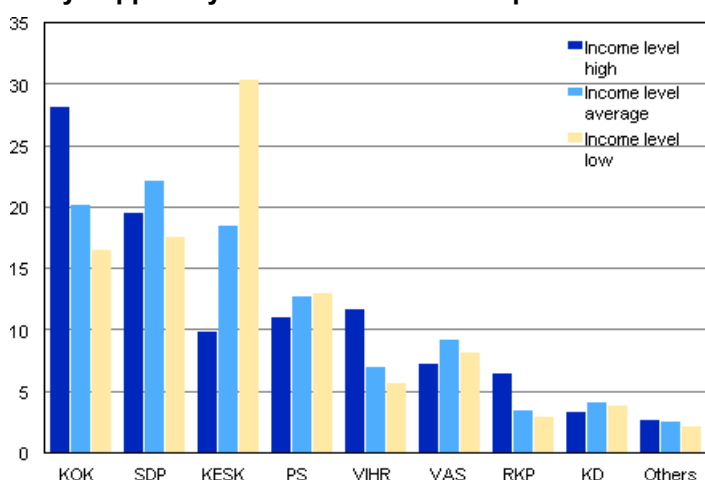
### Party support in different unemployment areas in Municipal elections 2012, %



The support for the True Finns was lowest in the districts where the Swedish People's Party conventionally receive the most support. In districts, where the support has usually been higher than average for the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Centre Party, the support for the True Finns was also higher.

The support for the SDP was highest in manufacturing areas (25.3%) and lowest in agricultural areas (15.1%). The SDP received the biggest losses in agricultural and sparsely populated areas and in areas of high unemployment. The support for the Coalition Party and the Green League was higher in voting districts where the income level is high, unemployment low and the share of pensioners small. The Left Alliance received most support (10.5%) in high unemployment areas despite losing its support most in these areas when compared with the Parliamentary elections.

### Party support by income level in Municipal elections 2012, %



The support for the Centre Party was clearly highest of all parties in voting districts of low income level, 30.3 per cent, while in high income areas its support remained at 9.8 per cent. This difference in support is explained by high support for the Centre Party in sparsely populated areas (35.2%) and agricultural areas (38.0%), where income level is lower than average for the whole country, and lower support in towns (7.1%) and in service areas (11.6%), where income level is usually higher.

The result analysis is based on an analysis by voting district and it is available as a table in Statistics Finland's PX-Web database service. The districts, whose borders have not changed since the previous elections, were chosen as the basic data set. It is, therefore, not possible to calculate the election result by summing up the percentages.

### ***Statistics Finland's election result services***

In connection with the confirmed election result, Statistics Finland releases a review on the background of Municipal election candidates and elected councillors analysing the candidates' sex distribution, age, origin, education, employment, income level and family status in comparison to persons entitled to vote.

Statistics Finland's free of charge election map service on the web contains data illustrated by maps and charts on the Municipal election. The themes include voting turnout, the party with the most votes and support for parties and change in the support and the proportion of young, female and new councillors. The data can be browsed by various area categories such as municipalities, constituencies and the largest towns by voting district.

More detailed election result data are available in Statistics Finland's PX-Web database service where users can compile customised statistical tables on the elections.

[Election map service](#)

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# ***1. Background analysis of candidates and elected councillors in Municipal elections 2012***

In the following review, persons entitled to vote and background information on the candidates nominated by the parties and constituency associations and those elected to municipal councils are examined against diverse statistical data. The data on persons entitled to vote derive from the voting register established on 12 September 2012 and the data on the candidates from the candidate register set up on 27 September 2012. The background data are based on statistical data from Statistics Finland's Population Statistics Department, such as population, employment and family statistics and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees.

The candidates and elected councillors are also examined by party in the analysis. The parties with the highest numbers of candidates are given in the tables and figures separately. The group "Others" includes candidates from the Pirate Party, Independence Party, Communist Workers Party, Change 2011, Finnish Labour Party, Liberty Party, For the Poor and constituency associations.

The candidates differ in their age and sexual structure 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.

## ***1.1. Candidates, elected councillors and persons entitled to vote by sex***

### **Majority of candidates and elected councillors are men**

A total of 37,125 candidates were nominated for the Municipal elections. This is 1,384 fewer candidates than in 2008. Nearly all parties have a lower number of candidates than in the previous Municipal elections. Only the True Finns and the Green League were able to nominate more candidates than in the 2008 elections. In the 2008 elections, the True Finns had 1,840 candidates, now in the 2012 elections 4,394 candidates. The Centre Party of Finland has the highest number of candidates, 8,401, although the total number of candidates fell most in that party. (Table 1.)



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

Party	2012	2008	change, number	change, %
Candidates total	37,125	38,509	<b>-1,384</b>	<b>-3.6</b>
True Finns PS	4,394	1,840	<b>2,554</b>	<b>138.8</b>
Green League GREENS	2,299	2,192	<b>107</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	1,870	1,921	<b>-51</b>	<b>-2.7</b>
Swedish People's Pty in Finland RKP	1,350	1,407	<b>-51</b>	<b>-4.1</b>
Finnish Social Democratic Pty SDP	6,987	7,702	<b>-715</b>	<b>-9.3</b>
National Coalition Pty KOK	6,874	7,628	<b>-754</b>	<b>-9.9</b>
Left Alliance LEFT	3,506	4,112	<b>-606</b>	<b>-14.7</b>
Centre Pty of Finland CENT	8,401	9,977	<b>-1,576</b>	<b>-15.8</b>
Communist Pty of Finland SKP	304	362	<b>-58</b>	<b>-16.0</b>
Others	1,140	1,368	<b>-228</b>	<b>-16.7</b>

A total of 9,674 councillors were elected to the municipal councils. Compared with 2008, the number was 738 lower. The number of elected councillors fell because of municipal mergers that had taken place between the elections. With the exception of the True Finns and the Communist Party of Finland, the number of elected councillors went down in all parties. The number of councillors elected from the Communist Party of Finland remained unchanged, at nine councillors. The True Finns nearly tripled their number of councillors from the previous elections, gaining 752 additional seats in municipal councils. (Table 2.)

The Left Alliance lost in relative terms the most council seats: the figure was down by around 25 per cent from the previous elections (193 councillors).

Over one half of the elected councillors (57%) were old councillors. In all, 162 of the elected were Members of Parliament.

**Table 2. Number of elected councillors by party in Municipal elections 2012 and 2008**

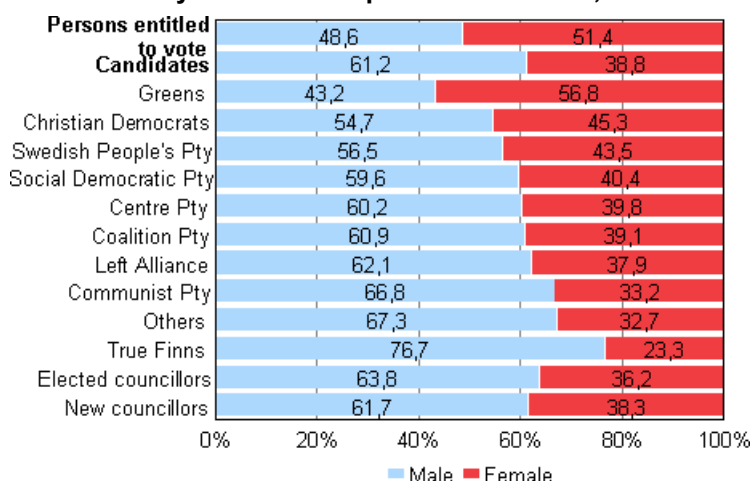
Party	2012	2008	change, number	change, %
Elected councillors, total	9,674	10,412	<b>-738</b>	<b>-7.1</b>
True Finns PS	1,195	443	<b>752</b>	<b>169.8</b>
Green League GREENS	323	370	<b>-47</b>	<b>-12.7</b>
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	300	351	<b>-51</b>	<b>-14.5</b>
Swedish People's Pty in Finland RKP	480	511	<b>-31</b>	<b>-6.1</b>
Finnish Social Democratic Pty SDP	1,729	2,066	<b>-337</b>	<b>-16.3</b>
National Coalition Pty KOK	1,735	2,020	<b>-285</b>	<b>-14.1</b>
Left Alliance LEFT	640	833	<b>-193</b>	<b>-23.2</b>
Centre Pty of Finland CENT	3,077	3,518	<b>-441</b>	<b>-12.5</b>
Communist Pty of Finland SKP	9	9	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Others	186	291	<b>-105</b>	<b>-36.1</b>

Women make up 38.8 per cent of the candidates. The majority, or 51.4 per cent, of the persons entitled to vote are women. The proportion of female candidates fell by 1.6 percentage points from the 2008 Municipal elections. Only the Green League has more female than male candidates (56.8 per cent). The Christian Democrats have the second highest number of female candidates, as their proportion of women is 45.3 per cent. The proportion of women is around 40 per cent in the Coalition Party, the Centre Party and the Social Democratic Party. The percentage of female candidates is lowest among the True Finns, only 23 per cent, and in the Communist Party of Finland, 33 per cent. (Figure 1.)

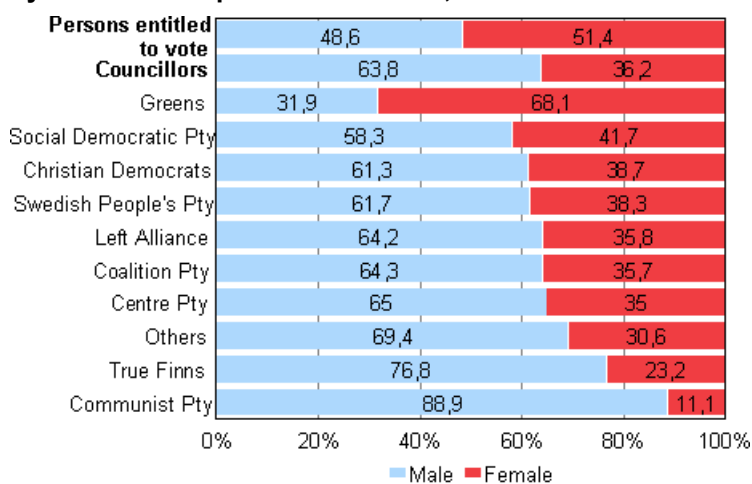
The percentage of female candidates is highest in the region of Uusimaa, at 41.9 per cent, and lowest in South Ostrobothnia, at 36.0 per cent.

The proportion of women of the elected councillors is slightly smaller than their proportion of all candidates, namely 36.2 per cent. The proportion of women is a few percentage points higher among new elected councillors. A distinct majority of the elected Greens are women, 68.1 per cent. Women account for 23.2 per cent of the elected True Finns and 11.1 per cent of the elected Communist Party of Finland councillors are women. (Figure 2.)

**Figure 1. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by sex in Municipal elections 2012, %**



**Figure 2. Persons entitled to vote and elected councillors (by party) by sex in Municipal elections 2012, %**



### 1.2. Candidates, elected councillors and persons entitled to vote by age group and average age of the candidates and councillors by party

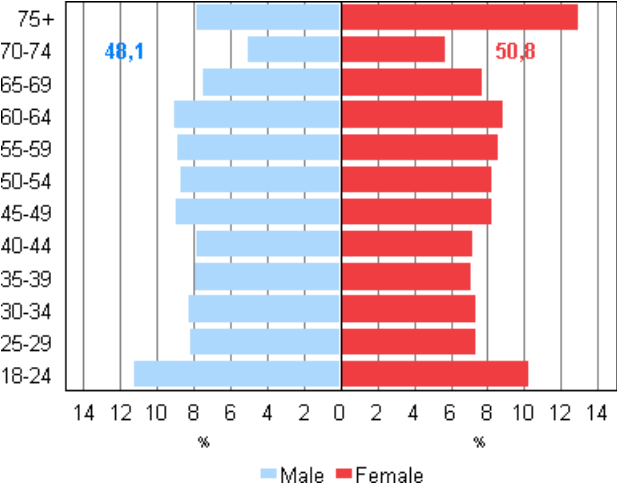
The average age of the candidates is now around one year higher than in the previous elections. The average age of male candidates is now 49.8 years and that of female candidates 47.0 years. Female candidates are, on average, nearly four years younger than female voters, whereas male candidates are more or less of the same age as male voters. The average age of persons entitled to vote has risen by nearly one year since the previous Municipal elections. On the day of the election the average age of persons entitled to vote is now 48.1 for men and 50.8 for women.

The elected councillors are slightly older than the candidates are. The average age of elected male councillors is 51.5 years and that of female councillors 47.3 years. The average age has risen by nearly one year from the previous elections. New councillors are, on average, four years younger: the average age of new male councillors is 47.6 years and that of female councillors is 44.1 years.

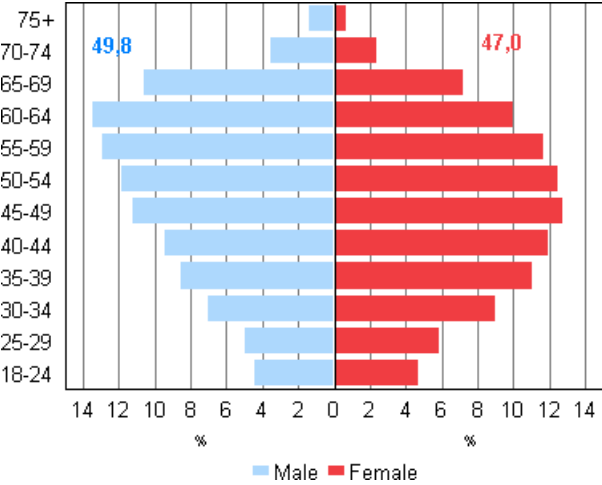
The age structure of the candidates is very different from that of persons entitled to vote (Figures 3 and 4.). The age pyramid of neither group is no longer a pyramid as the name indicates: the age group of persons entitled to vote rather resembles a tower and that of candidates an onion, from which it can be seen that both the youngest and oldest age groups are missing. Most male candidates represent the age group of those aged 55 to 64 and most female candidates the age group of those aged 44 to 54.

The age of the elected councillors is more focused on the middlemost age groups than that of the candidates: for men the age groups 55 to 64 and for women the age groups 45 to 54. Of the candidates, 17.8 per cent are aged under 35, while this is so for 12.7 per cent of the elected councillors. The proportion of those aged 64 or over is smaller among the elected councillors than among the candidates. (Figure 5.)

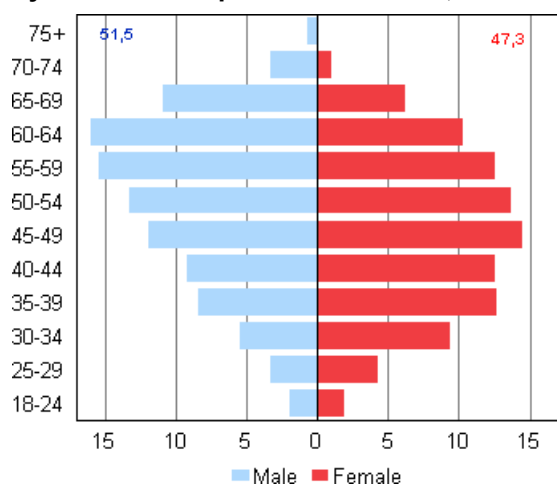
**Figure 3. Age distributions and average age of persons entitled to vote by sex in Municipal elections 2012, %**



**Figure 4. Age distributions and average age of candidates by sex in Municipal elections 2012, %**



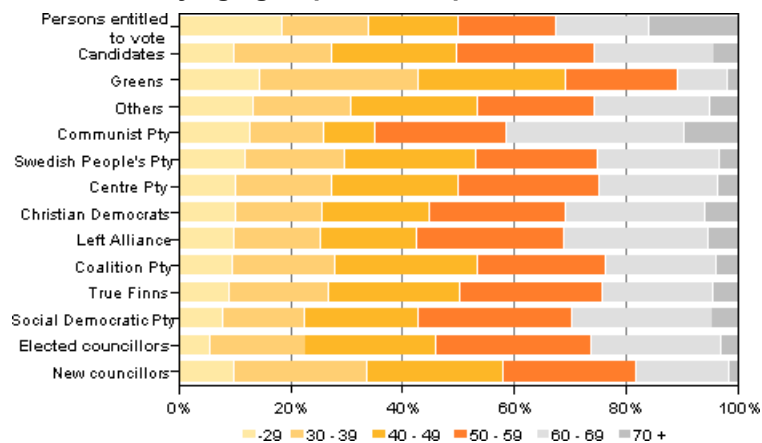
**Figure 5. Age distributions and average age of elected councillors by sex in Municipal elections 2012, %**



Examined by party, the Communist Party has the oldest candidates: over 40 per cent of their candidates are aged 60 or over and the average age is 52.4 years. In turn, the Green League candidates are the youngest. Over 40 per cent of the Green League candidates are aged 40 or under, and the average age of the candidates is 43.1 years. Around 27 per cent of the candidates of all parties are aged 40 or under and around 26 per cent are aged 60 or over. The differences in the ages of candidates by party are fairly small: the average age of female candidates from all parties is a few years lower than that of male candidates, with the exception of the Green League and the Christian Democrats.

Of the elected councillors, those from the Communist Party of Finland are the oldest, 57.3 years, on average and the Green League councillors at 43.7 are the youngest.

**Figure 6. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by age group in Municipal elections 2012, %**



**Table 3. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by age group in Municipal elections 2012, %**

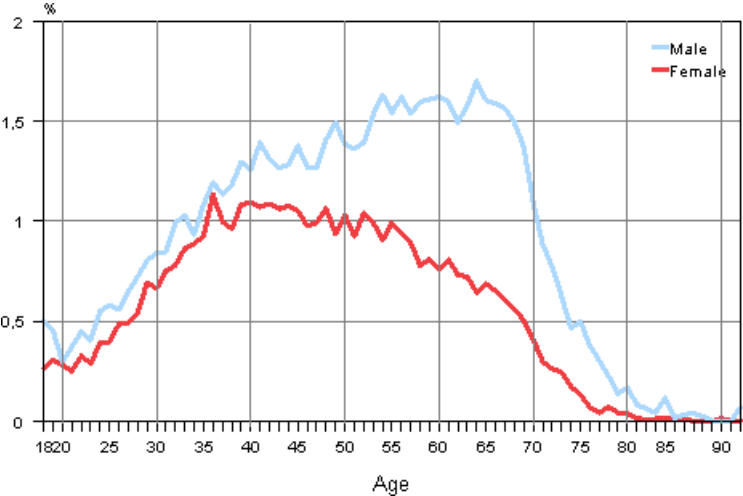
	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+
Persons entitled to vote	18.6	15.4	17.3	18.4	16.6	16.0
Candidates	10.0	17.4	22.3	24.6	21.4	4.3
Green League GREENS	14.7	28.3	26.2	20.0	8.9	1.9
Others	13.3	17.5	22.6	20.9	20.5	5.1
Communist Pty of Finland SKP	12.8	13.2	9.4	23.4	31.9	9.5
Swedish People's Pty in Finland RKP	12.1	17.5	23.6	21.8	21.6	3.4
Centre Pty of Finland CENT	10.2	17.1	22.8	25.1	21.2	3.6
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	10.2	15.5	19.3	24.2	25.0	5.9
Left Alliance LEFT	10.1	15.4	17.1	26.3	25.8	5.3
National Coalition Pty KOK	9.6	18.5	25.5	22.8	19.6	4.0
True Finns PS	9.1	17.8	23.5	25.4	19.6	4.5
Finnish Social Democratic Pty SDP	7.9	14.7	20.3	27.4	25.1	4.6
Councillors	5.7	17.0	23.3	27.8	23.2	3.0
Councillors, new	10.1	23.7	24.4	23.6	16.6	1.7

**Table 4. Average age of candidates and elected councillors by party in Municipal elections 2012**

	Total		Men		Women	
Persons entitled to vote	49.5		48.1		50.8	
<i>Party</i>	Candidates	Councillors	Candidates	Councillors	Candidates	Councillors
Total	48.7	50.0	49.8	51.5	47.0	47.3
National Coalition Pty KOK	48.1	49.3	49.1	50.6	46.5	47.0
Finnish Social Democratic Pty SDP	50.6	52.0	51.8	53.9	48.7	49.2
True Finns PS	48.6	49.1	49.0	50.1	47.1	45.7
Centre Pty of Finland CENT	48.5	49.3	49.8	50.7	46.6	46.8
Green League GREENS	43.1	43.7	43.4	45.6	42.8	42.8
Left Alliance LEFT	50.3	52.6	51.6	54.9	48.2	48.6
Swedish People's Pty in Finland RKP	47.9	49.9	49.5	51.6	45.7	47.1
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	50.0	52.6	50.0	53.8	50.0	50.8
Communist Pty of Finland SKP	52.4	57.3	53.2	57.0	50.8	60.0
Others	47.6	51.1	47.6	51.8	47.7	49.5

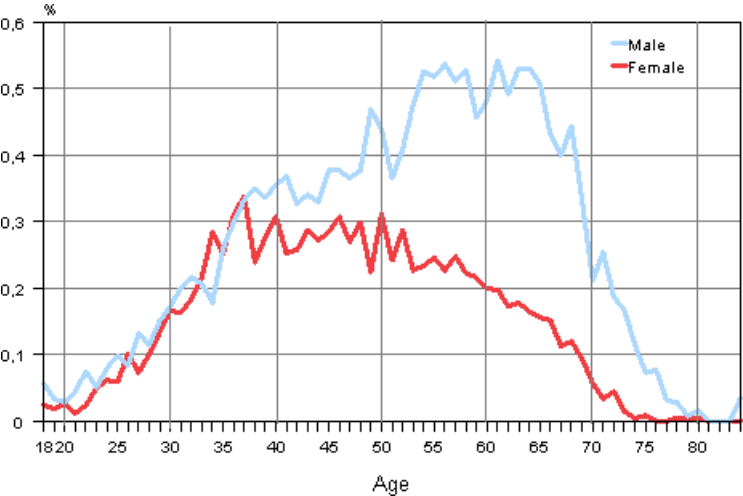
Altogether 1.5 per cent of men and 0.7 per cent of women were nominated as candidates. In all age groups fewer women were nominated than men. The participation rate as candidates rises sharply for both sexes until the age of 35, after which the proportion of female candidates per age group remains at around 1.1 per cent and turns downwards slightly after the age of 50. In turn, men's participation rate still grows until the age of 53. The proportion of male candidates per age group is at its highest in ages 53 to 67, when around 1.5 to 1.7 per cent of each 1-year age group are candidates (Figure 7).

**Figure 7. Proportion of candidates in age group in Municipal elections 2012, %**



For the elected councillors the proportions by 1-year age group are around 0.5 per cent at their highest. The shape of the curve is in its general outline very similar to that of the candidates. For those aged under 35 the proportion of the elected men and women in the age group are on the same level - in the candidates women's proportion of the age group is lower than that of men. (Figure 8.)

**Figure 8. Proportion of councillors in age group in Municipal elections 2012, %**





**Table 5. Party distribution of candidates by size of municipality in Municipal elections 2012, %**

	Tot.	Size category of municipality						
		- 1,999	2,000 - 4,999	5,000 - 9,999	10,000 - 19,999	20,000 - 49,999	50,000 - 99,999	100,000+
Candidates tot.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
National Coalition Pty KOK	18.5	19.0	15.7	17.4	20.1	20.0	22.3	15.9
Finnish Social Democratic Pty SDP	18.8	12.6	14.9	18.1	20.5	22.3	21.8	15.9
True Finns PS	11.8	13.3	13.8	11.0	12.6	10.7	10.8	12.2
Centre Pty of Finland CENT	22.6	39.1	39.1	29.1	23.1	14.8	16.4	10.9
Green League GREENS	6.2	1.5	1.6	2.9	4.3	8.1	8.5	13.3
Left Alliance LEFT	9.4	6.4	6.4	9.8	7.9	11.0	8.7	12.5
Swedish People's Pty in Finland RKP	3.6	1.9	1.6	5.2	4.6	3.0	1.9	4.9
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	5.0	3.1	4.2	3.6	5.1	5.8	6.2	5.9
Communist Pty of Finland SKP	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.1	0.3	3.0
Others	3.1	3.0	2.5	2.8	1.6	3.1	3.2	5.5

In small municipalities the Centre Party has the highest number of candidates. The Centre Party candidates dominate municipalities with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants: in municipalities with fewer than 4,000 inhabitants nearly 40 per cent of all candidates were nominated by the Centre Party. In municipalities with 5,000 to 9,999 inhabitants, the proportion of the Centre Party is 29 per cent and in municipalities with 10,000 to 19,999 inhabitants it is 23 per cent of the 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 5.)

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, around one fifth of all candidates are from both the Coalition Party and the Social Democratic Party. In the largest municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants the 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 16 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 True Finn candidates does not vary much by size of municipality.

### 1.3. Few candidates of foreign origin – and even fewer elected councillors

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 (5.3%) slightly exceeds their proportion of persons entitled to vote (4.9%). Swedish-speaking people are more active in the region of Uusimaa, where their proportion of the candidates is 14 per cent and that of the persons entitled to vote is 8.5 per cent. In the Greater Helsinki region the share of Swedish-speaking population in candidates is below their share of the population, however (5.9 per cent of the candidates and 11.5 per cent of persons entitled to vote). (Table 6.)

**Table 6. Persons entitled to vote, candidates and councillors by native language by region in Municipal elections 2012, %**

Region	Persons entitled to vote			Candidates			Councillors		
	Finnish/ Sami	Swedish	Other	Finnish/ Sami	Swedish	Other	Finnish/ Sami	Swedish	Other
MAINLAND FINLAND	91.0	4.9	4.1	92.8	5.3	1.8	93.1	6.4	0.4
Uusimaa	83.4	8.5	8.0	82.7	14.1	3.3	79.8	19.4	0.9
- Greater Helsinki region	84.0	5.9	10.1	83.1	11.5	5.5	83.2	14.1	2.7
Varsinais-Suomi	90.1	5.7	4.2	92.6	5.9	1.5	92.9	6.4	0.7
Satakunta	97.9	0.3	1.7	98.9	0.0	1.0	99.6	0.2	0.2
Kanta-Häme	97.4	0.4	2.3	98.7	0.3	1.0	99.5	0.3	0.3
Pirkanmaa	96.6	0.3	3.1	98.3	0.3	1.4	99.4	0.2	0.4
Päijät-Häme	96.5	0.3	3.2	97.8	0.2	2.0	99.2	0.0	0.8
Kymen- laakso	95.4	0.8	3.8	95.9	1.6	2.4	97.2	2.8	0.0
South Karelia	96.2	0.2	3.6	98.3	0.1	1.6	100.0	0.0	0.0
Etelä Savo	98.0	0.2	1.9	98.2	0.3	1.5	99.3	0.3	0.5
Pohjois Savo	98.3	0.1	1.6	97.9	0.2	1.9	99.5	0.3	0.2
North Karelia	97.6	0.1	2.3	97.5	0.2	2.3	98.8	0.5	0.7
Central Finland	97.8	0.2	2.1	98.5	0.2	1.3	99.5	0.0	0.5
South Ostrobothnia	98.4	0.3	1.3	98.9	0.2	0.9	99.8	0.0	0.2
Ostrobothnia	46.4	50.2	3.6	47.6	49.1	3.4	33.5	65.8	0.6
Central Ostrobothnia	88.9	9.5	1.6	91.1	7.6	1.3	95.0	5.0	0.0
North Ostrobothnia	98.3	0.2	1.6	98.5	0.4	1.1	99.4	0.1	0.5
Kainuu	98.2	0.1	1.7	98.0	0.3	1.8	99.6	0.0	0.4
Lapland	98.2	0.2	1.6	98.8	0.1	1.1	99.7	0.2	0.2

In all, 4.1 per cent of all persons entitled to vote speak another language than Finland's national languages. Considerably fewer of the candidates, just 1.8 per cent are foreign-language speakers. In nearly all regions the share of foreign-language speakers in all candidates is lower than their share of the population. Only in Pohjois-Savo, North Karelia and Kainuu the ratio of foreign-language speaking candidates is equal to or higher than that of persons entitled to vote. In the 2008 elections foreign-language speaking candidates made up 1.4 per cent of all candidates.

Of national language speakers, Sami speakers were nominated as candidates more than average. Of Sami speakers entitled to vote, 2.6 per cent were nominated in the Municipal elections. On average, 0.9 per cent of the persons entitled to vote are candidates. (Table 7.)

The nomination of foreign-language speakers as candidates is much rarer. On average, 0.4 per cent of foreign-language speakers entitled to vote are candidates in the Municipal elections. A total of 680

foreign-language speakers were nominated as candidates. It is 0.4 per cent of the foreign-language speakers entitled to vote. The largest group of foreign-language speaking candidates is formed by Russians, 172 candidates, and the second largest by Estonians, 66 candidates.

From 2008, the number of foreign-language speaking candidates has risen by 141. In 2008, foreign-language speaking candidates had the same share of foreign-language speakers entitled to vote as in the 2012 elections.

The number of elected councillors speaking other than national languages (Finnish, Swedish, Sami) was 43. They accounted for 0.4 per cent of the elected councillors. It was 0.1 percentage points more than in the 2008 elections. The number of Swedish-speakers is 622 and that of Sami-speakers 16.

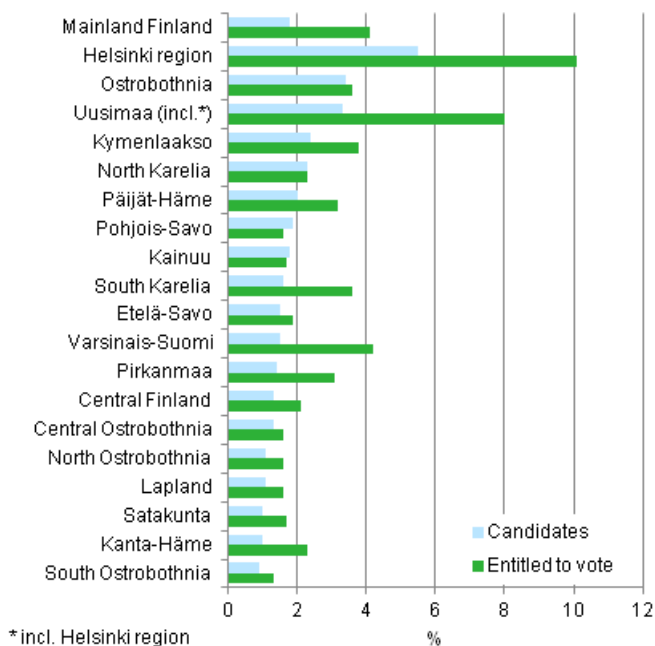
In Uusimaa, especially in municipalities in Greater Helsinki, the number of elected foreign-language speakers was highest. In some regions no foreign-language speaking candidates were elected.

**Table 7. Persons entitled to vote, candidates and councillors by native language, largest language groups specified, in Municipal elections 2012, %**

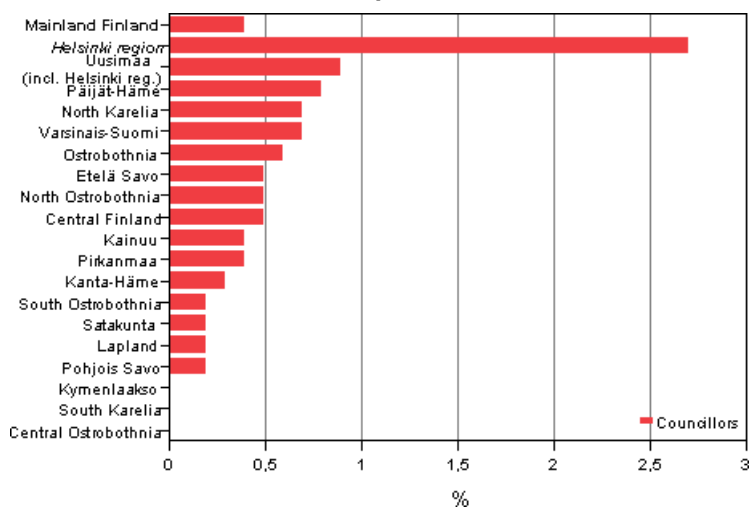
Language	Persons entitled to vote	Candidates	%	Councillors
<b>Languages tot.</b>	4,307,884	37,125	0.9	9,674
Finnish	3,918,154	34,428	0.9	8,993
Swedish	209,984	1,980	0.9	622
Sami	1,419	37	2.6	16
<b>Foreign-language speakers tot.</b>	178,327	680	0.4	43
Russian	44,832	172	0.4	..
Estonian	26,584	66	0.2	..
English	10,607	34	0.3	..
Somali	7,221	29	0.4	..
Arabic	7,183	42	0.6	..
Kurdish	5,715	34	0.6	..
German	4,790	20	0.4	..
Albanian	4,574	18	0.4	..
Turkish	4,264	38	0.9	..
Spanish	3,972	28	0.7	..
Persian	3,648	16	0.4	..
French	2,470	10	0.4	..
Hungarian	1,749	11	0.6	..
Serbo-Croat	1,187	10	0.8	..

The deficit of foreign persons among all candidates is 2.3 percentage points. In Uusimaa it is 4.7 and in Varsinais-Suomi 2.7 percentage points. The number of candidates of foreign background is thus smaller than their share of the population. The two exceptions are PohjoisNorth Savo and Kainuu, where the number of candidates of foreign background slightly exceeds their share of the population. The deficit 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. (Figure 9.)

**Figure 9. Share of foreign-language speakers by region among persons entitled to vote and candidates in Municipal elections 2012, %**



**Figure 10. Share of foreign-language speakers by region among elected councillors in Municipal elections 2012, %**



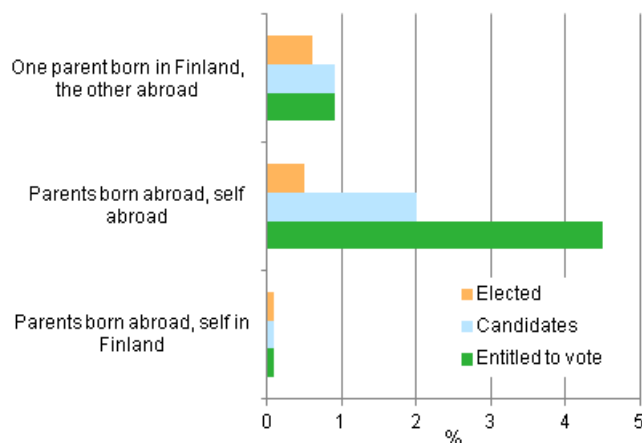
The foreign background of the population can also be examined by the person's origin. For 94.5 per cent of the persons entitled to vote and for 97.1 per cent of the candidates born in Finland both of their parents were also born in Finland. Thus, good five per cent of the persons entitled to vote and nearly three per cent of the candidates have some type of foreign background (Figure 11). Around one per cent of both persons entitled to vote and candidates have one parent born in Finland and the other abroad.

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 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, 4.5 per cent belong to this group, while this is so for only 2.0 per cent of the candidates.

For nearly 99 per cent of the elected councillors born in Finland both of their parents were also born in Finland. Persons whose one parent was born in Finland and the other abroad make up 0.6 per cent of the elected councillors. Thus, around half a per cent of the elected are of foreign background by their origin.

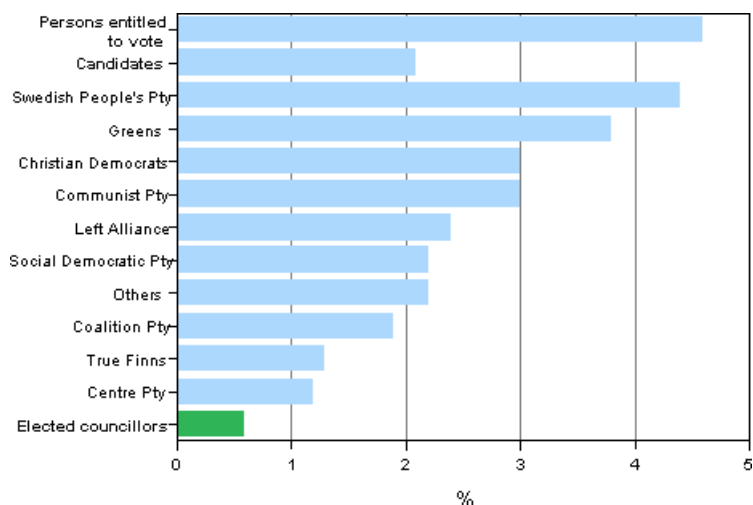
Of the elected councillors, 0.1 per cent are second generation immigrants, that is, the same figure as among the candidates and persons entitled to vote. In contrast, there are fewer first generation immigrants elected than among the candidates or persons entitled to vote. (Figures 11 and 12.)

**Figure 11. Proportion of persons with foreign background (persons whose at least one parent is born abroad) among persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors in Municipal elections 2012, %**



In the following examination, persons whose both parents (or only) were born abroad (first and second generation immigrants) are regarded as persons with foreign background. Of all candidates, 2.1 per cent belong to this group and 4.6 per cent of the persons entitled to vote. Examined by party, the number of candidates with foreign background is highest in the Swedish People's Party, 4.4 per cent of the candidates, and lowest in the True Finns (1.3%) and the Centre Party (1.2%). The Greens, the Christian Democrats, the Communist Party, the Left Alliance and the Social Democratic Party have more than average candidates with foreign background. (Figure 12.)

**Figure 12. Proportion of persons with foreign background (persons whose at least one parent is born abroad) among persons entitled to vote, candidates by party and elected councillors in Municipal elections 2012, %**

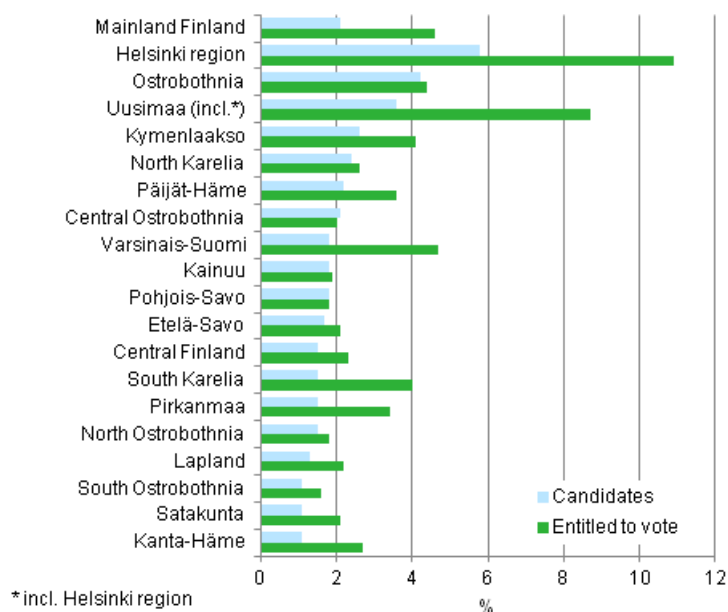


Uusimaa has the most persons entitled to vote who have foreign background, especially in the Greater Helsinki region, as has Varsinais-Suomi and Ostrobothnia, where in all the share of foreign-background persons is more than or close to the average for Mainland Finland. South and North Ostrobothnia,

Pohjois-Savo and Kainuu have the lowest proportion of persons entitled to vote with foreign background, where under two per cent of the voters have foreign background. (Figure 13).

With regard to their share of the population, candidates with foreign background are clearly under-represented in South Karelia, Varsinais-Suomi, Kanta-Häme, Uusimaa and Pirkanmaa, where the proportion of the candidates is less than one half of that of persons entitled to vote. In contrast, the ratio of candidates with foreign background is almost equal to persons entitled to vote in Central Ostrobothnia, Pohjois-Savo, North Karelia and Kainuu. In Central Ostrobothnia even slightly more candidates have foreign background than persons entitled to vote do.

**Figure 13. Proportion of persons with foreign background (persons whose both parents are born abroad) among persons entitled to vote and candidates by region, the Greater Helsinki region separately, in Municipal elections 2012, %**



#### 1.4. Educational level of the candidates and elected councillors high

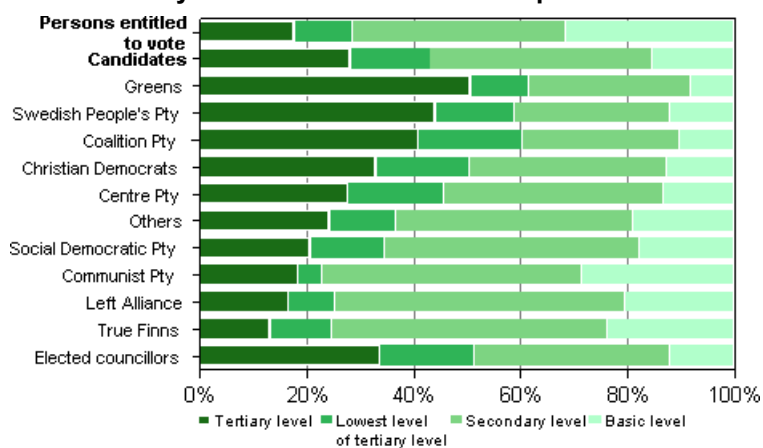
As regards education, candidates differ clearly from persons entitled to vote. Of the candidates, 84.5 per cent have attained a higher educational level than the basic level, while 68.5 per cent of all persons entitled to vote have some post-basic level education. Of persons entitled to vote, 28.4 per cent have at least lowest level tertiary education and of the candidates this is so for 43 per cent. (Figure 14.)

The educational level is highest for the Green League candidates. One half of them have tertiary level qualifications (ISCED 5A/6), while this is so for under 30 per cent of all candidates and for under 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.

The educational level of the elected councillors is higher than that of those entitled to vote and those nominated as candidates. One-third of the elected councillors have tertiary level qualifications and 17 per cent lowest level tertiary qualifications. Thus, one half of the elected councillors have tertiary level degrees. Of the candidates 43 per cent have tertiary level degrees and this is so for around 28 per cent of persons entitled to vote.

Of the elected councillors the Greens have the highest educational level: over 70 per cent have tertiary level qualifications. Nearly one half of those elected from the Coalition Party have tertiary level qualifications (48.5%). The number of those with tertiary level qualifications is lowest among the councillors elected from the True Finns (20.1%) and the Left Alliance (24.4%).

**Figure 14. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by educational level in Municipal elections 2012, %**



The educational level of the Municipal election candidates reflects the differences in the educational structure of different areas. In the region of Uusimaa and especially in the Greater Helsinki region the proportion of highly educated is higher than in the rest of country both among the persons entitled to vote and the candidates (Figure 11). In Uusimaa and particularly in the Greater Helsinki region the proportion of highly educated candidates is considerable. In the Greater Helsinki region, nearly 45 per cent and in the whole Uusimaa region around 38 per cent of the candidates have tertiary level qualifications (ISCED 5A/6). In other areas at most 30 per cent of the candidates have tertiary level qualifications (ISCED 5A/6).

**Table 8. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by educational level in Municipal elections 2012, %**

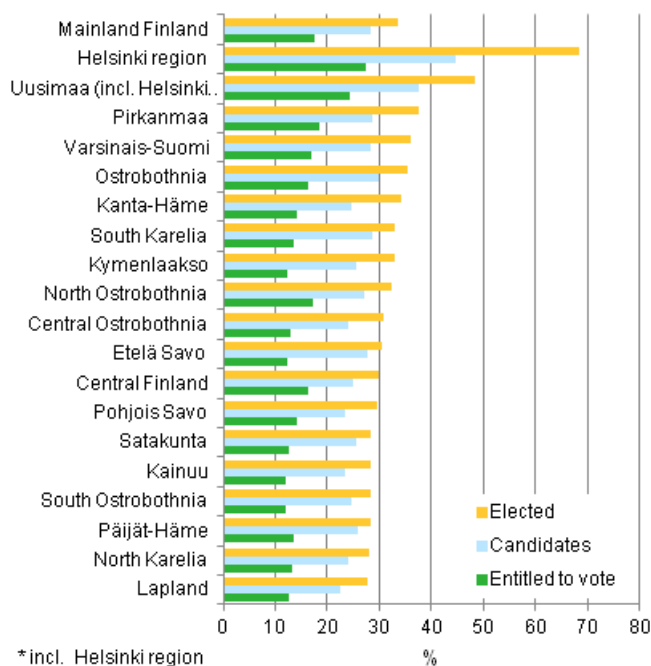
	Tertiary level (ISCED 5A/6)	Lowest tertiary (ISCED 5B)	Secondary level (ISCED 3/4)	Basic level
<b>Persons entitled to vote</b>	17.7	10.8	40.1	31.5
<b>Candidates</b>	28.2	14.9	41.5	15.5
Green League GREENS	50.7	10.7	30.3	8.3
Swedish People's Pty in Finland RKP	44.1	14.7	29.0	12.2
National Coalition Pty KOK	41.0	19.3	29.5	10.3
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	32.9	17.5	36.9	12.7
Centre Pty of Finland CENT	27.6	18.0	41.0	13.3
Others	24.2	12.5	44.4	18.9
Finnish Social Democrats in Finland SDP	20.7	13.7	47.8	17.8
Communist Pty of Finland SKP	18.4	4.3	48.7	28.6
Left Alliance LEFT	16.6	8.6	54.2	20.6
True Finns PS	13.2	11.3	51.6	23.9
<b>Elected councillors</b>	33.7	17.6	36.5	12.2

In regions where persons entitled to vote have the least often tertiary level educational qualifications, the number of candidates with tertiary level qualifications is in relative terms the highest. For instance, in Etelä-Savo, South Karelia, Kymenlaakso, South Ostrobothnia and Satakunta, the proportion of candidates with tertiary level qualifications is double that of persons entitled to vote. In the Greater Helsinki region and Uusimaa the ratio is around one-and-a-half times as high.

By region, the educational level is highest for the councillors elected in Uusimaa, and especially in the municipalities in the Greater Helsinki region. Of those elected in Uusimaa, nearly one half have tertiary level qualifications and this is so for almost 70 per cent of those elected in the Greater Helsinki region.



**Figure 15. Proportion of persons with tertiary level qualifications among persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors by region in Municipal elections 2012, %**



## 1.5. Family status

### Majority of candidates and elected councillors live in families with children

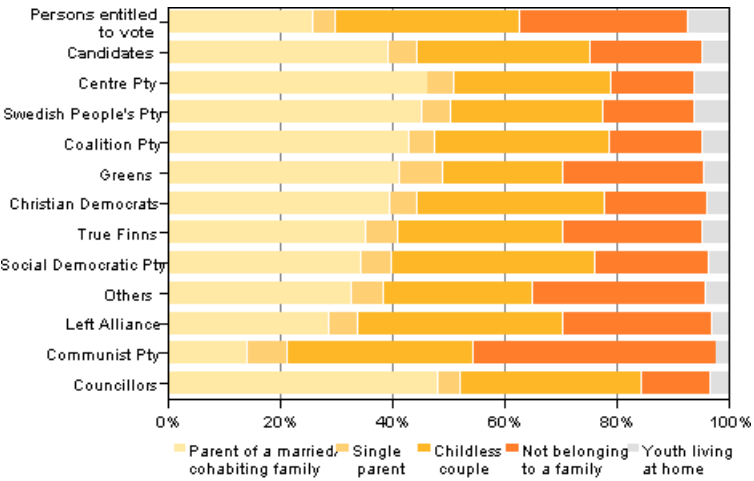
The candidates also differ in their family status from the persons entitled to vote: considerably more (36%) of them are parents of a family with children and fewer of them are without a family (20%) than is the case among persons entitled to vote (24% and 30%). Fewer of the candidates are young people 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 9.)

Of all persons entitled to vote around one quarter are parents of a family with children, or the family has at least one underage child. Nearly three per cent of them are single parents. In addition, around eight per cent are parents with adult children living at home. Approximately 33 per cent are childless couples, close on 30 per cent live alone without a family and around seven per cent of persons entitled to vote are young adults living at home.

The proportion of candidates whose children are still living at home is highest for the Centre Party and Swedish People's Party candidates, being over one half of these parties' candidates. In turn, the Communist Party and Left Alliance candidates have the least often children living in their household. Young people living at home are the most common among the Centre Party and Coalition Party candidates and persons without a family among the Communist Party (43%) and Green League candidates (25%). Only the Communist Party of Finland has more candidates without a family than is the case for all persons entitled to vote.

In their family status the elected councillors differ clearly from those entitled to vote. Of the elected councillors, 41.3 per cent are parents of families with children. The respective percentage among the persons entitled to vote is 24. Parents with only adult children living at home are also more numerous among the elected councillors than among persons entitled to vote. Considerably fewer of the elected councillors are without a family, only 12.2 per cent, while around 30 per cent of persons entitled to vote belong to this group.

**Figure 16. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by family type in Municipal elections 2012, %**



**Table 9. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) and elected councillors by family status in Municipal elections 2012, %**

Party	Families with children (aged under 18)		Other families with only children aged 17 or over		Childless couple	Youth living at home	Not belonging to a family
	Parent of a married/cohabiting family	Single parent	Parent of a married/cohabiting family	Single parent			
<b>Persons entitled to vote</b>	21.3	2.7	4.5	1.4	32.9	7.3	29.9
<b>Candidates</b>	32.4	3.9	6.8	1.4	30.8	4.6	20.1
National Coalition Pty KOK	36.7	3.6	6.2	1.1	31.0	4.7	16.7
Finnish Social Democratic Pty SDP	27.5	3.9	7.0	1.5	36.1	3.5	20.4
True Finns PS	30.5	4.3	4.9	1.4	29.3	4.7	24.9
Centre Pty of Finland CENT	37.3	3.4	9.0	1.4	27.9	6.2	14.8
Green League GREENS	38.2	6.6	3.0	1.2	21.4	4.3	25.3
Left Alliance LEFT	22.2	3.7	6.5	1.6	36.5	2.9	26.6
Swedish People's Pty in Finland RKP	36.6	3.7	8.8	1.4	27.1	6.3	16.1
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	31.3	3.8	8.4	1.0	33.4	3.8	18.2
Communist Pty of Finland SKP	11.2	5.6	3.0	1.6	33.2	2.3	43.1
Others	27.7	4.6	5.0	1.3	26.4	4.1	30.9
Elected councillors	38.5	2.8	9.6	1.3	32.3	3.4	12.2

## 1.6. Number of children

### More children than on average

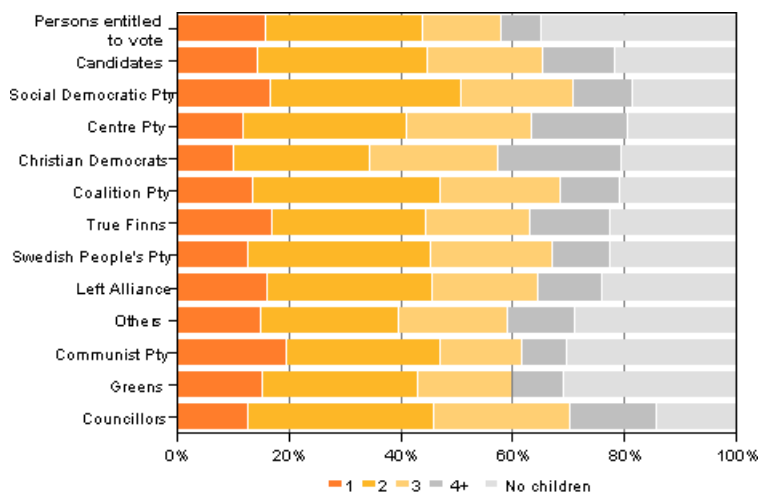
Family status does not reveal how many of the candidates have or have had children of their own, because in older families, children may have already moved away from home and in family break-ups, children may live with their other parent. Information on the number of children can be regarded as an indicator of how many have experiences of children of their own.

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 Communist Party and Green League candidates (Figure 13). The candidates' number of children reflects the birth rate in the area, which means that the number of children is highest in North, Central and South Ostrobothnia, Kainuu and Lapland, and lowest in Varsinais-Suomi, Uusimaa, Kymenlaakso and South Karelia. (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 19 per cent for the Social Democrats to 31 per cent for the Green League.

**Figure 17. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by number of children in Municipal elections 2012, %**



The candidates have two children, on average. 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. 2.3 children and lowest among the Communist Party candidates, 1.6 children. Men entitled to vote have slightly fewer children than women, but there is not much of a difference between genders among the candidates. (Table 10.)

Elected councillors have more children than those entitled to vote and candidates, on average. Only 14 per cent of the candidates are entirely without children, while around one-third of persons entitled to vote and about one-fifth of candidates do not have or have not had children. Elected councillors have an average of 2.3 children. The number of children is highest among the elected Christian Democrats, i.e. 3.1 children and lowest among the elected Communist Party councillors, 1.9 children. Around 16 per cent of the elected councillors have at least four children, while this is so for only 7.3 per cent of persons entitled to vote.

**Table 10. Persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors by number of children (children on average) in Municipal elections 2012**

	Total		Men		Women	
	Candidates	Councillors	Candidates	Councillors	Candidates	Councillors
Persons entitled to vote		1.5		1.4		1.6
<i>Party</i>	Candidates	Councillors	Candidates	Councillors	Candidates	Councillors
Total	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.2
National Coalition Pty KOK	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.2	1.9	2.2
Finnish Social Democratic Pty SDP	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1
True Finns PS	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.2
Centre Pty of Finland CENT	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.7	2.3	2.5
Green League GREENS	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.8	1.7	2.0
Left Alliance LEFT	1.8	2.1	1.8	2.2	1.9	2.0
Swedish People's Pty in Finland RKP	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.1
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	2.3	3.1	2.3	3.2	2.3	2.9
Communist Pty of Finland SKP	1.6	..	1.6	..	1.6	..
Others	1.8	2.3	1.6	2.4	2.0	2.2

## 1.7. Employment status

### Employment problems rare

Seventy-one per cent of the candidates are employed, and the proportion of unemployed persons is more or less the same as among persons entitled to vote. In turn, there are clearly fewer pensioners among the candidates, just 16 per cent. However, there are nearly three percentage points more pensioner candidates than in the previous Municipal elections. 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 18, table 11.)

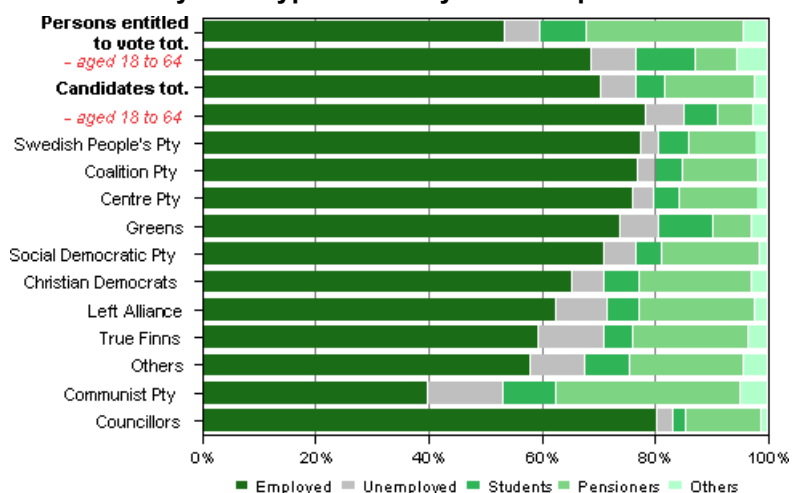
Over one half, around 54 per cent, of persons entitled to vote, are working, six per cent are unemployed and around 28 per cent are pensioners. Eight per cent of persons entitled to vote are studying and around four per cent are otherwise in inactive population. The proportion of the employed has fallen somewhat and that of the unemployed has risen slightly from the previous elections.

The number of employed persons is highest among the Swedish People's Party, Coalition Party and Centre Party candidates, of whom over 75 per cent are working. In these parties unemployment is rarer than average. Among the candidates of the Social Democratic Party, the Green League and the Christian Democrats unemployment is as common as among the persons entitled to vote, whereas the candidates

of the Left Alliance, the True Finns and the Communist Party have been unemployed more often than average. The Green League has in relative terms the highest proportion of student candidates, 11.8 per cent. The proportion of pensioners is highest for the Communist Party of Finland, which explains the small share of employed persons among the Communist Party candidates.

Around 80 per cent of those elected to municipal councils are employed persons. Of the elected councillors, 13.2 per cent are pensioners. When examining the population of working age (aged 18 to 64) the employment of elected councillors is even higher. As many as 87.5 per cent of the elected councillors in these age groups are employed persons. This is so for under 70 per cent of persons entitled to vote of same age and for nearly 80 per cent of the candidates.

**Figure 18. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by main type of activity in Municipal elections 2012, %**



**Table 11. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by main type of activity in Municipal elections 2012, %**

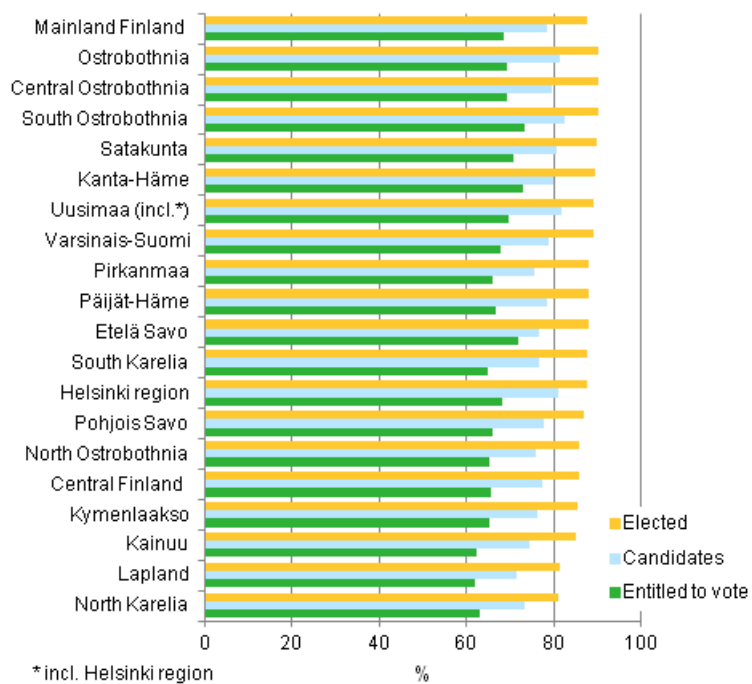
	Employed	Unemployed	Students	Pensioners	Others
<b>Persons entitled to vote, tot.</b>	53.6	6.2	8.1	27.9	4.3
- aged 18 to 64	68.7	8.0	10.5	7.3	5.5
<b>Candidates, tot.</b>	70.6	6.0	5.3	15.8	2.3
- aged 18 to 64	78.3	6.8	6.0	6.2	2.6
Swedish People's Pty in Finland RKP	77.7	2.9	5.5	11.7	2.2
National Coalition Pty KOK	77.0	3.2	4.8	13.2	1.8
Centre Pty of Finland CENT	76.2	3.7	4.5	13.7	1.9
Green League GREENS	73.9	6.9	9.4	7.0	2.8
Finnish Social Democratic Pty SDP	71.0	5.7	4.5	17.3	1.5
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	65.3	5.8	6.1	19.8	3.0
Left Alliance LEFT	62.5	9.0	5.7	20.4	2.4
True Finns PS	59.5	11.5	5.2	20.2	3.6
Others	58.1	9.6	8.0	20.0	4.3
Communist Pty of Finland SKP	39.8	13.5	9.2	32.6	4.9
Councillors	80.3	2.8	2.4	13.2	1.3

The employment rate is calculated as the ratio of employed persons aged 18 to 64 to the population of the same age. The employment rates of the candidates closely resemble those of persons entitled to vote. Where the employment rate of 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, 73.4 per cent, and there over 82 per cent of the candidates are working. Correspondingly, the general employment rate in North Karelia is 62 per cent and the employment of the candidates is also lowest, around 72 per cent are employed. (Figure 19, table 12.)

The employment rate of the candidates is closest to those entitled to vote in Uusimaa, where the employment rate of the candidates is 6.9 percentage points higher than that of persons entitled to vote. The difference between employment rates is largest in Satakunta, that is, 12.9 percentage points. There the employment rate of the candidates is 81.1 per cent and that of persons entitled to vote 68.2 per cent.

The employment rate of the elected councillors is highest in Varsinais-Suomi, South Ostrobothnia and Ostrobothnia, where in all the employment rate is over 90 per cent. The employment rates are lowest for councillors elected in Lapland and North Karelia, around 80 per cent, but even that is considerably higher than among persons entitled to vote in the best region.

**Figure 19. Employment rate of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors (aged 18 to 64) by region in Municipal elections 2012, %**





**Table 12. Employment rate of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors (aged 18 to 64) by region in Municipal elections 2012, %**

Region	Both sexes			Men			Women		
	Persons entitled to vote	Candidates	Councillors	Persons entitled to vote	Candidates	Councillors	Persons entitled to vote	Candidates	Councillors
<b>Mainland Finland</b>	68.7	78.3	87.5	67.6	77.3	86.7	69.8	79.9	88.7
Uusimaa	72.9	79.8	89.5	71.7	79.1	88.1	74.0	80.6	91.2
Greater Helsinki region	72.0	76.8	87.9	70.5	76.0	87.5	73.4	77.9	88.2
Varsinais-Suomi	69.1	79.5	90.5	67.7	78.0	89.5	70.5	81.5	92.1
Satakunta	68.2	81.1	87.6	67.6	78.7	85.2	68.8	84.7	92.3
Kanta-Häme	70.7	80.8	89.4	69.9	80.1	89.6	71.6	81.7	89.1
Pirkanmaa	67.7	78.9	89.2	66.8	79.3	90.1	68.6	78.3	87.6
Päijät-Häme	66.7	78.5	88.0	66.2	78.5	86.5	67.2	78.5	90.4
Kymenlaakso	65.8	75.7	87.7	64.5	73.0	86.5	67.1	79.7	89.5
South Karelia	65.5	77.4	85.7	63.9	74.9	85.3	67.2	81.3	86.4
Etelä Savo	65.9	77.6	87.0	64.0	76.6	87.1	67.8	79.1	86.8
Pohjois Savo	64.9	76.6	87.7	63.4	74.7	86.3	66.4	79.4	89.9
North Karelia	62.0	71.6	81.7	60.6	70.9	79.8	63.6	72.8	84.8
Central Finland	65.3	75.9	85.5	64.7	76.0	83.9	66.0	75.6	87.9
South Ostrobothnia	69.3	81.5	90.2	69.4	80.2	90.3	69.3	83.6	90.1
Ostrobothnia	73.4	82.4	90.4	73.2	80.7	89.1	73.7	85.0	92.4
Central Ostrobothnia	69.6	81.8	89.3	70.2	82.6	89.1	69.0	80.3	89.7
North Ostrobothnia	65.1	76.4	85.2	65.0	74.8	85.7	65.3	78.8	84.3
Kainuu	62.4	74.3	85.0	59.8	72.9	83.6	65.3	76.5	87.2
Lapland	62.9	73.2	80.8	61.1	71.5	80.7	64.8	75.6	80.9

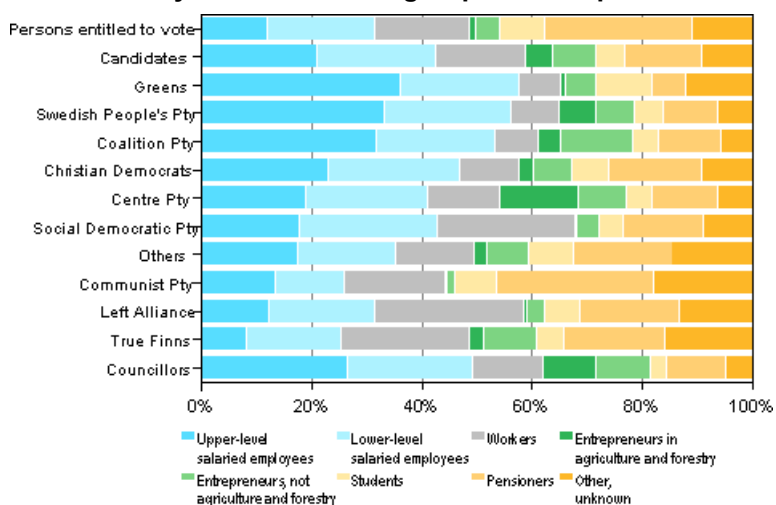
### Majority of candidates and one half of elected councillors are salaried employees

Over 40 per cent of all candidates are salaried employees and this is so for around 30 per cent of all persons entitled to vote. The proportion of salaried employees is highest among the Green League, Swedish People's Party and Coalition Party candidates, over one half of whom are upper-level or lower-level salaried employees. In all these the proportion of upper-level employees is over one half among all salaried employees. The proportion of salaried employees is lowest among the True Finns (8.3%), Left Alliance (12.4%) and Communist Party (13.5%) candidates. (Figure 20.)

The Coalition Party (14.2%) and Swedish People's Party (6.7%) candidates have the highest proportion of entrepreneurs in agriculture and forestry. The Coalition Party candidates have the biggest share of other entrepreneurs, or 13 per cent. The proportion of workers is highest among the Left Alliance and Social Democrat candidates, around one quarter, and among the True Finns, about 23 per cent.

Around one half of the elected councillors are salaried employees, about 12 per cent workers, and about 20 per cent entrepreneurs. The rest, around 20 per cent, are pensioners and students.

**Figure 20. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by socio-economic group in Municipal elections 2012, %**



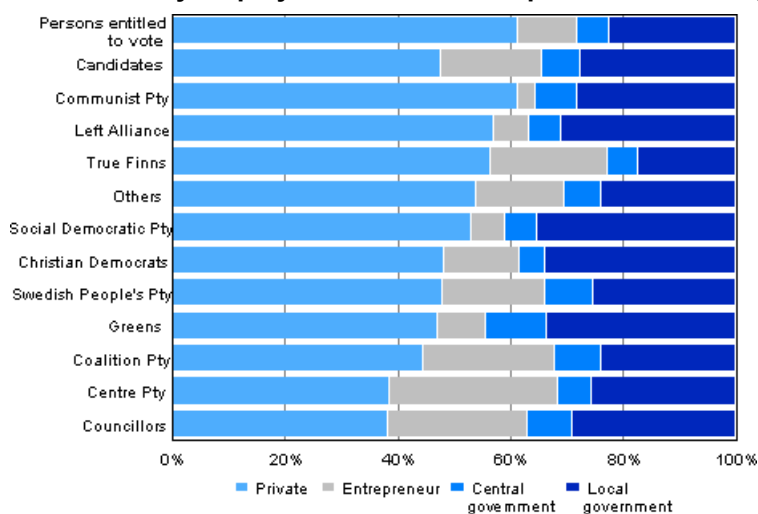
### The public sector employs candidates more than persons entitled to vote

Of the candidates around 70 per cent are employed. Forty-eight per cent of them are private sector wage and salary earners, 18 per cent are entrepreneurs and seven per cent work for central government and 27 per cent for local government. Employer type varies significantly by party. The proportion of private sector wage and salary earners is highest among the Communist Party and Left Alliance candidates, or around 60 per cent, 56 per cent among the True Finn candidates and 53 per cent among the SDP candidates. The lowest proportion of private sector wage and salary earners was found among the Centre Party candidates (39%). It should, however, be noted that only one half of the Communist Party candidates are in working life and the rest are pensioners, unemployed, studying and so on.

Thirty per cent of the Centre Party candidates are entrepreneurs, the majority of whom work in agriculture. The lowest proportions of entrepreneurs can be found in the Communist Party of Finland (3.3%) and the Social Democratic Party (6.0%). Green League candidates are most often employed by the public sector: 34 per cent receive their pay from local government and 11 per cent from central government. The next highest proportion of public sector employees is found among the Social Democrats, of whom 35 per cent are employed by local and six per cent by central government. The proportion of public sector candidates is lowest for the True Finns: 17 per cent work in the local government sector and five per cent in the central government sector. (Figure 21.)

Around 80 per cent of the elected councillors are employed. Of them 28 per cent are private sector wage and salary earners. Thirty-seven per cent of the elected work in the public sector. The share of entrepreneurs among elected councillors (24.7%) is considerably higher than among employed persons entitled to vote (10.3%).

**Figure 21. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by employer sector in Municipal elections 2012, %**



The public sector employs candidates most in the largest municipalities, where almost 40 per cent are employed in the local or central government sector. In municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants the public sector has a share of 30 per cent and the private sector (incl. entrepreneurs) 70 per cent. In the smallest municipalities, entrepreneurs account for around one fifth of the candidates. (Table 13.)

The proportion of entrepreneurs among elected councillors is highest in municipalities with the lowest population. In municipalities with fewer than 2,000 inhabitants around 40 per cent of the elected councillors are entrepreneurs. In larger municipalities more public sector wage and salary earners were elected to councils. In municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants more than one-fifth work in the central government sector and nearly 30 per cent in the local government sector.

**Table 13. Persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors by employer sector and size of municipality in Municipal elections 2012, %**

Size category of municipality	Private	Entrepreneurs	Central government	Local government	Public total
<b>Persons entitled to vote, tot.</b>	61.3	10.3	5.9	22.4	28.4
-1,999	47.7	23.4	3.2	25.7	29.0
2,000-4,999	50.8	20.8	3.4	25.1	28.5
5,000-9,999	55.4	16.4	4.0	24.2	28.2
10,000-19,999	58.3	13.9	3.9	23.9	27.8
20,000-49,999	63.2	9.7	4.5	22.6	27.1
50,000-99,999	58.8	9.1	6.4	25.6	32.1
100,000+	65.3	6.8	8.0	20.0	27.9
<b>Candidates, tot.</b>	47.7	18.0	6.7	27.7	34.3
-1,999	39.2	33.4	4.0	23.4	27.4
2,000-4,999	41.5	27.0	4.2	27.3	31.4
5,000-9,999	45.2	22.5	5.4	26.8	32.2
10,000-19,999	47.4	19.2	5.4	28.0	33.5
20,000-49,999	52.4	13.3	6.2	28.2	34.3
50,000-99,999	46.6	13.2	8.7	31.4	40.1
100,000+	52.8	9.2	11.8	26.1	37.9
<b>Councillors, tot.</b>	38.2	24.8	8.0	29.1	37.1
-1,999	33.6	40.7	4.0	21.7	25.7
2,000-4,999	35.7	32.9	5.1	26.3	31.4
5,000-9,999	38.6	27.6	6.4	27.4	33.8
10,000-19,999	38.1	23.9	7.5	30.6	38.0
20,000-49,999	42.3	15.7	8.2	33.8	42.0
50,000-99,999	35.0	17.8	12.5	34.6	47.2
100,000+	40.6	8.9	22.9	27.6	50.5

## 1.8. Income level

### **Income level of the candidates and elected councillors higher than that of persons entitled to vote**

The candidates are better educated and their employment rate is higher than that of persons entitled to vote in the area concerned. This partly explains why their income subject to state taxation is also clearly higher than that of persons entitled to vote. In the following, we examine the income level of the candidates and persons entitled to vote by means of median income.

In 2010 the median income of persons entitled to vote was EUR 21,500, and that of candidates EUR 29,900, that is, EUR 8,400 higher. Both the persons entitled to vote and the candidates had the highest income in the region of Uusimaa (EUR 25,000 and EUR 33,600, respectively). (Figure 22, table 14.)

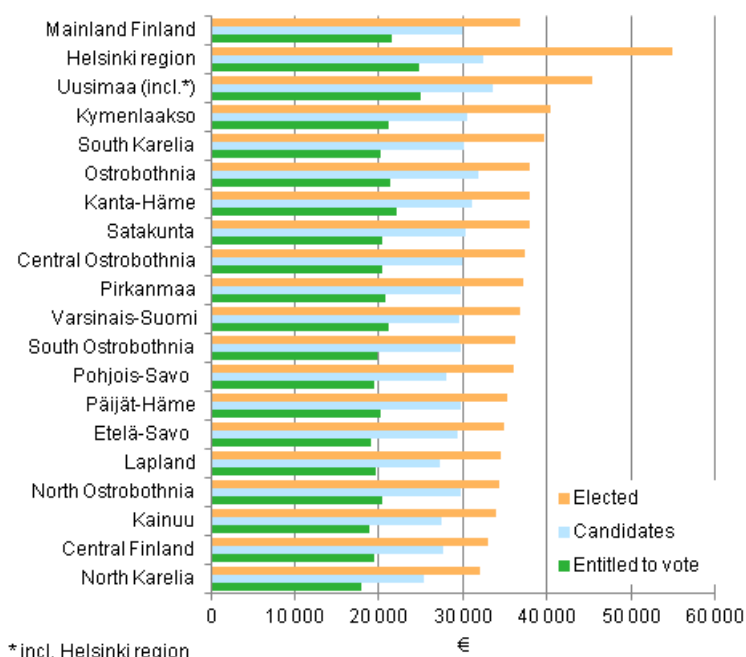
At its largest the income differential between the candidates and persons entitled to vote is in Ostrobothnia, Etelä-Savo and Satakunta, where the median income of the candidates is over EUR 10,000 higher than that of persons entitled to vote. The income differential is smallest in North Karelia and Lapland, under EUR 8,000. The income subject to state taxation has risen since the last Municipal elections, by 13.7 per cent among persons entitled to vote and by 12.7 per cent among the candidates.

Persons entitled to vote have had the best income development compared with the 2008 Municipal elections in Kainuu and Lapland, where their median income has risen by over 17 per cent. The candidates' income has gone up most in Ostrobothnia, South Ostrobothnia and Uusimaa, that is, by at least 15 per cent. In

contrast, the income of persons entitled to vote has risen least in Varsinais-Suomi (11.8%) and Uusimaa (12.3%). The income development of the candidates has been smallest in North Karelia, where the candidates' median income is around five per cent higher than during the previous Municipal elections.

The median income of elected councillors in 2010 was around EUR 37,000. Compared with those entitled to vote, their income was around 70 per cent and compared with the candidates, it was about 28 per cent higher. In euros the biggest differences in income subject to state taxation were for candidates and persons entitled to vote in Uusimaa, especially in the Greater Helsinki region, Kymenlaakso and South Karelia, where the median income of elected councillors is around EUR 20,000 higher than that of persons entitled to vote. Persons elected to municipal councils earn an average of EUR 15,000 more than persons entitled to vote.

**Figure 22. Median income subject to state taxation (in euro) of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors by region in Municipal elections 2012,**

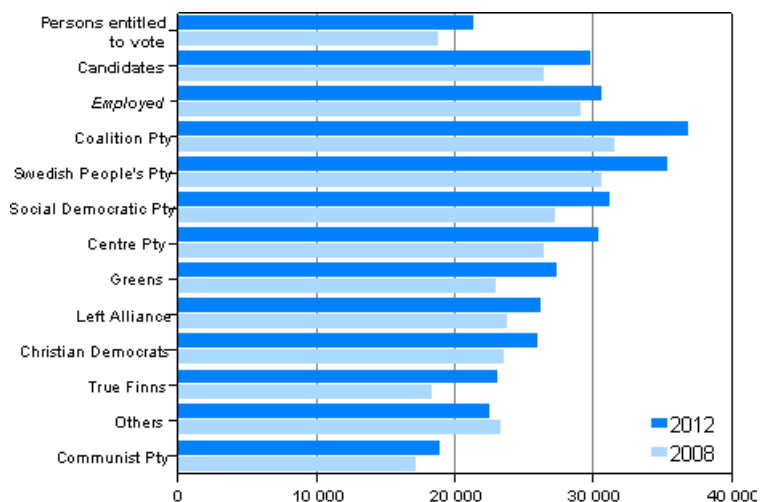


**Table 14. Median income subject to state taxation (in euro) of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors by region in Municipal elections 2012, %**

Region	Persons entitled to vote			Candidates			Councillors		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
<b>Mainland Finland</b>	21,498	24,746	19,062	29,884	31,701	27,565	36,908	38,984	34,111
Uusimaa	24,976	28,393	22,625	33,608	36,111	30,447	45,502	49,570	40,822
Greater Helsinki region	24,793	27,809	22,761	32,463	34,432	30,484	54,987	61,869	48,809
Varsinais-Suomi	21,228	24,511	18,814	29,554	30,875	27,770	36,798	38,460	35,332
Satakunta	20,316	24,161	17,461	30,365	32,971	27,587	37,877	40,961	33,837
Kanta-Häme	22,076	25,547	19,496	31,060	33,366	28,506	37,888	39,380	36,156
Pirkanmaa	20,792	24,317	18,252	29,713	31,728	26,735	37,179	39,643	34,944
Päijät-Häme	20,244	23,665	17,771	29,657	31,400	26,605	35,356	40,207	32,598
Kymenlaakso	21,173	25,142	17,981	30,472	32,782	27,391	40,394	42,492	38,241
South Karelia	20,250	23,933	17,483	30,076	32,561	26,775	39,618	41,219	35,346
Etelä Savo	19,057	21,299	17,227	29,401	31,342	26,238	34,964	37,467	32,905
Pohjois Savo	19,469	22,003	17,565	28,073	28,909	27,179	36,128	35,563	36,217
North Karelia	17,905	20,037	16,205	25,338	26,790	23,606	32,003	33,139	30,474
Central Finland	19,511	22,854	17,068	27,562	29,682	23,631	32,923	34,078	29,864
South Ostrobothnia	19,718	22,724	17,340	29,684	30,823	27,877	36,335	37,346	34,068
Ostrobothnia	21,348	25,473	18,339	31,793	32,240	28,359	38,011	41,107	32,689
Central Ostrobothnia	20,468	24,591	17,381	29,852	32,362	26,707	37,410	38,869	33,374
North Ostrobothnia	20,478	23,872	17,826	29,741	30,971	28,391	34,346	36,348	32,088
Kainuu	18,875	21,306	16,889	27,440	28,013	25,896	34,022	36,363	32,485
Lapland	19,657	21,963	17,750	27,347	28,967	25,217	34,611	36,867	31,591

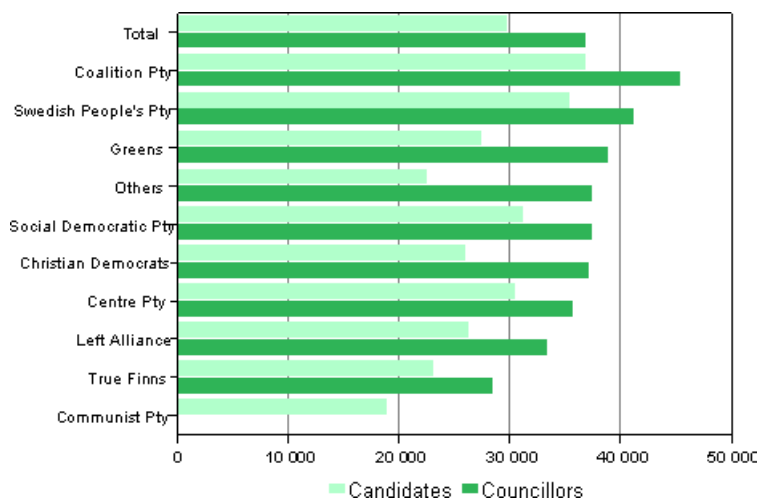
The candidates' income varies by party from EUR 37,000 in the Coalition Party to EUR 19,000 in the Communist Party. The median income of the Swedish People's Party candidates is EUR 35,500, that of the SDP candidates EUR 31,300 and that of the Centre Party candidates EUR 30,500. Compared to persons entitled to vote, the Coalition Party and Swedish People's Party candidates earn nearly EUR 15,000 more. The income of the Green League's younger and often student candidates is, on average, EUR 2,300 higher than that of the persons entitled to vote. Only the income of the Communist Party candidates is lower than that of persons entitled to vote. (Figure 23, table 15.)

**Figure 23. Median income subject to state taxation (in euro) of persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) in Municipal elections 2012 and 2008**



Of the elected councillors the income is highest in the Coalition Party, EUR 45,000, and lowest in the True Finns, EUR 29,000.

**Figure 24. Median income subject to state taxation (in euro) of candidates and elected councillors (by party) in Municipal elections 2012**



\*For the Communist Party of Finland the income is masked (under ten elected councillors)

**Table 15. Median income subject to state taxation (in euro) of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors (by party) in Municipal elections 2012**

	Total		Men		Women	
Persons entitled to vote	21,498		24,746		19,062	
<i>Party</i>	Candidates	Councillors	Candidates	Councillors	Candidates	Councillors
Total	29,884	36,908	31,701	38,984	27,565	34,111
National Coalition Pty KOK	36,968	45,499	39,925	48,458	33,444	40,827
Finnish Social Democratic Pty SDP	31,254	37,468	33,222	39,630	28,636	35,356
True Finns PS	23,145	28,542	24,031	29,597	20,555	26,242
Centre Pty of Finland CENT	30,530	35,773	33,164	38,142	27,364	32,016
Green League GREENS	27,481	39,049	29,071	44,369	26,188	36,655
Left Alliance LEFT	26,328	33,475	28,130	35,027	24,063	30,108
Swedish People's Pty in Finland RKP	35,513	41,310	39,150	46,214	31,410	37,728
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	26,063	37,235	28,708	39,790	24,027	35,156
Communist Pty of Finland SKP	18,974	..	20,421	..	17,644	..
Others	22,671	37,504	23,234	39,171	21,323	33,080

The median income of all candidates is nearly 40 per cent higher than that of persons entitled to vote. In comparison to persons entitled to vote, the income of the Coalition Party candidates is 72 per cent higher, that of the Swedish People's Party candidates 65 per cent, that of the SDP candidates 45 per cent and that of the Centre Party candidates 42 per cent. The income level of the True Finns is close to the income level of all persons entitled to vote, that is, just eight per cent higher. The income level of the Communist Party candidates is even lower than that of persons entitled to vote, or 88 per cent of that.

The differences are even bigger than this in the regions. The biggest difference between persons entitled to vote in the region and the candidates is found among the Swedish People's Party candidates in Central Ostrobothnia and the Coalition Party candidates in Central and North Ostrobothnia, as their median income is nearly double compared with persons entitled to vote in the region. The SDP candidates in Kainuu earn 77 per cent more than persons entitled to vote in the area. The Centre Party candidates in Etelä-Savo have 65 per cent higher median income than persons entitled to vote in the region.

The Green League, Left Alliance and Christian Democrat candidates differ usually less than average from persons entitled to vote, the biggest difference for the Greens is in Etelä-Savo (45 per cent higher income), for the Left Alliance in Ostrobothnia (42%) and for the Christian Democrats in South Karelia (47%). The True Finns are very close to the income level of persons entitled to vote: in Päijät-Häme and North Ostrobothnia even slightly below that of persons entitled to vote. The income of the Communist Party candidates remains below that of persons entitled to vote, except for the region of Päijät-Häme. (Table 16.)



**Table 16. Candidates' median income by party compared to median income of persons entitled to vote by region in Municipal elections 2012, persons entitled to vote = 100**

	Persons entitled to vote	Candidates	KOK	SDP	PS	CENT	GREENS	LEFT	RKP	KD	SKP	Oth.
<b>Mainland Finland</b>	100	139	172	145	108	142	128	122	165	121	88	105
Uusimaa	100	135	171	138	114	141	132	118	141	109	90	100
Greater Helsinki region	100	131	180	148	118	151	134	126	143	101	94	62
Varsinais-Suomi	100	139	175	149	118	127	133	119	174	105	77	75
Satakunta	100	149	179	164	110	147	120	130	..	131	..	107
Kanta-Häme	100	141	171	141	116	141	124	127	..	137	..	..
Pirkanmaa	100	143	179	148	119	138	129	134	..	144	96	105
Päijät-Häme	100	146	177	154	99	133	123	112	..	136	108	138
Kymenlaakso	100	144	183	158	103	149	119	117	..	123	..	142
South Karelia	100	149	182	148	100	157	110	91	..	147	..	102
Etelä Savo	100	154	178	165	104	165	145	127	..	120	..	133
Pohjois Savo	100	144	178	161	119	157	117	135	..	120	38	109
North Karelia	100	142	176	155	105	156	93	113	..	115	..	99
Central Finland	100	141	172	154	113	145	101	118	..	128	79	53
South Ostrobothnia	100	151	179	144	105	166	127	123	..	125	..	115
Ostrobothnia	100	149	167	141	113	148	95	142	168	134	..	144
Central Ostrobothnia	100	146	189	135	120	159	75	104	195	130	..	127
North Ostrobothnia	100	145	189	149	99	157	129	133	..	132	..	94
Kainuu	100	145	176	177	113	155	79	128	..	94	..	101
Lapland	100	139	172	147	112	150	103	126	..	145	68	120

Among the elected councillors, the median income subject to state taxation in 2010 is, on average, 72 per cent higher than among persons entitled to vote. For those elected from the Coalition Party the median income is more than double and for those from the Swedish People's Party nearly double compared with persons entitled to vote. The True Finns are closest to persons entitled to vote in their income level, as their median income is around one-third higher than among persons entitled to vote.

By region, the difference between persons entitled to vote is largest in the Helsinki region, where the income of elected councillors is more than double that of persons entitled to vote. The True Finns elected in North Ostrobothnia are closest to the income level of persons entitled to vote, as their median income is 17 per cent higher. In turn, those elected from the Coalition Party in the Helsinki region are farthest from the income level of persons entitled to vote, since their median income is over 2.5 times as high as that of voters in the region.

**Table 17. Elected councillors' median income by party compared to median income of persons entitled to vote by region in Municipal elections 2012, persons entitled to vote = 100**

	Persons entitled to vote	Councillors	KOK	SDP	PS	CENT	GREENS	LEFT	RKP	KD	SKP	Oth.
<b>Mainland Finland</b>	100	172	212	174	133	166	182	156	192	173	..	174
Uusimaa	100	182	221	174	155	172	176	164	192	182	..	170
Greater Helsinki region	100	222	263	239	166	..	189	215	238	..	..	..
Varsinais-Suomi	100	173	203	170	142	160	187	157	231	169	..	132
Satakunta	100	186	214	195	147	180	..	150	..	155	..	..
Kanta-Häme	100	172	214	160	147	177	137	165	..	207	..	..
Pirkanmaa	100	179	212	186	146	174	177	168	..	209	..	..
Päijät-Häme	100	175	216	183	132	143	179	177	..	222	..	..
Kymenlaakso	100	191	217	205	170	154	147	187	..	..	..	..
South Karelia	100	196	210	216	130	173	..	..	..	240	..	209
Etelä Savo	100	184	221	189	135	195	..	..	..	192	..	215
Pohjois Savo	100	186	231	186	132	186	222	190	..	198	..	..
North Karelia	100	179	218	184	137	197	..	184	..	125	..	..
Central Finland	100	169	229	173	129	163	131	146	..	184	..	..
South Ostrobothnia	100	184	206	172	141	190	..	169	..	170	..	..
Ostrobothnia	100	178	262	178	145	186	..	..	181	174	..	..
Central Ostrobothnia	100	183	232	174	133	181	..	..	..	..	..	..
North Ostrobothnia	100	168	228	176	117	174	208	154	..	..	..	163
Kainuu	100	181	259	205	137	184	..	163	..	..	..	..
Lapland	100	176	212	180	145	183	127	164	..	..	..	171

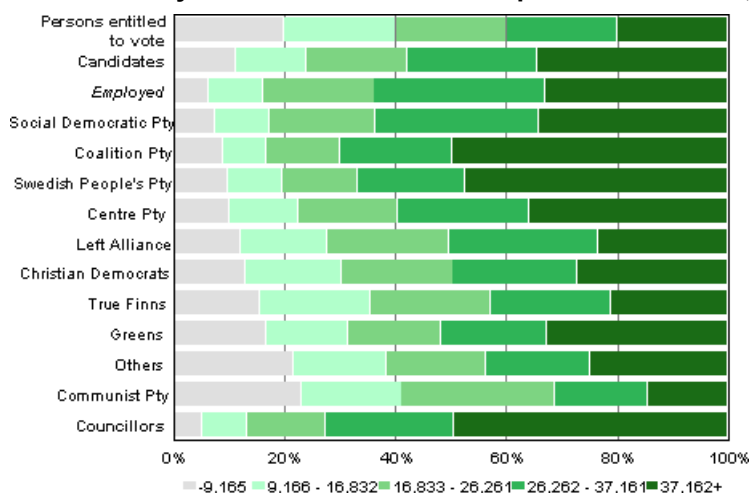
### 1.9. Income brackets

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.

In 2010 the lowest quintile among persons entitled to vote earned under EUR 9,166 and the highest quintile over EUR 37,161. Nearly seven per cent of employed persons and 11 per cent of the candidates belong to the lowest quintile. Correspondingly, one third of employed persons and nearly 35 per cent of the candidates belong to the highest income quintile. Almost one half of the Coalition Party and Swedish People's Party candidates belong to the highest income bracket. The proportion of low-income candidates is highest among the candidates of the Communist Party of Finland, the Green League and the Left Alliance. (Figure 25.)

Roughly one half of the elected councillors belonged to the highest quintile and only around five per cent to the lowest.

**Figure 25. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by income bracket in Municipal elections 2012, %**



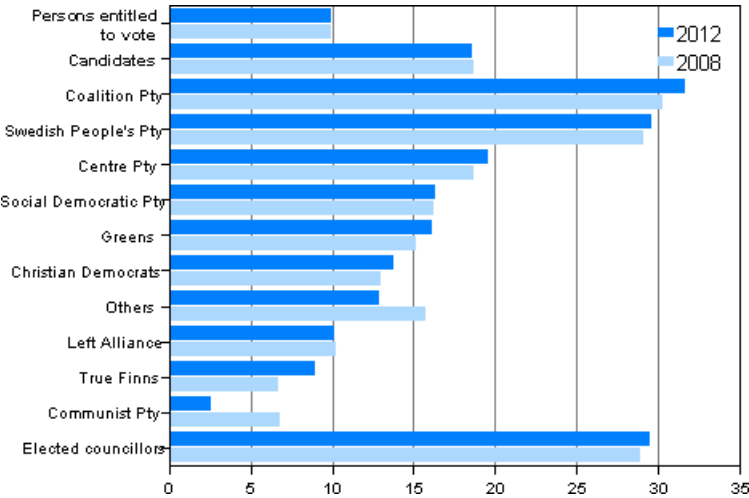
**Table 18. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by income bracket in Municipal elections 2012, %**

	-9,165	9,166-16,832	16,833-26,261	26,262-37,161	37,162+
Persons entitled to vote	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Candidates	11.2	12.7	18.1	23.4	34.6
Employed	6.4	9.7	20.1	30.7	33.1
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	7.6	9.7	19.1	29.4	34.2
National Coalition Party KOK	8.9	7.9	13.3	20.3	49.7
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	9.7	9.8	13.6	19.5	47.4
Centre Party of Finland CENT	10.1	12.3	18.1	23.5	36.0
Left Alliance LEFT	12.0	15.7	22.0	26.7	23.6
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	13.0	17.2	20.1	22.5	27.1
True Finns PS	15.5	20.1	21.6	21.5	21.3
Green League GREENS	16.8	14.6	16.7	19.1	32.7
Others	21.5	17.0	17.7	18.8	25.0
Communist Party of Finland SKP	23.0	18.1	27.6	16.8	14.5
Councillors	5.2	8.1	14.2	23.0	49.5

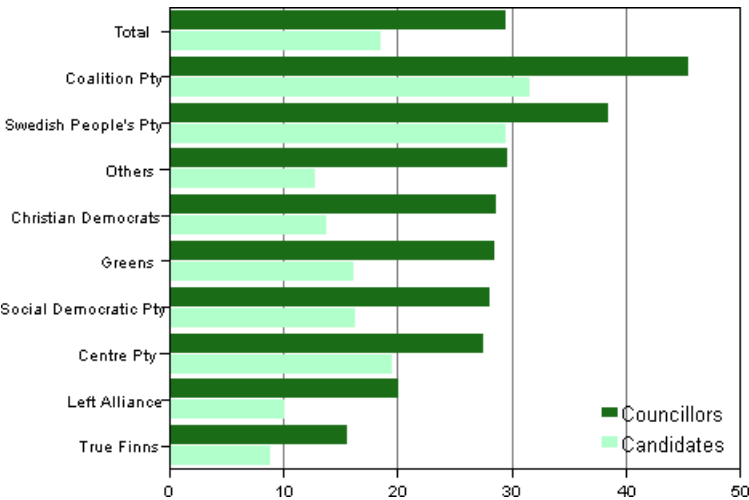
Examined by income decile, around 19 per cent of the candidates belong to the highest income decile. The deciles were formed on the basis of the income of all persons entitled to vote, that is, ten per cent of those entitled to vote belong to each decile. As many as one third of the Coalition Party and Swedish People's Party candidates belong to the highest income decile. The Left Alliance, True Finns and Communist Party candidates are on level with or at a lower level than persons entitled to vote. (Figure 26.)

Thirty per cent of the elected councillors belong to the highest income decile, that is, their annual income subject to state taxation was over EUR 48,396 per year in 2010. Nearly 40 per cent of those elected from the Coalition Party and nearly 40 per cent of those from the Swedish People's Party belong to the highest income decile. Only 15 per cent of the elected True Finns belong to the highest income decile. (Figure 27.)

**Figure 26. Proportion of persons belonging to the highest income decile by party in Municipal elections 2012 and 2008, %**



**Figure 27. Proportion of persons belonging to the highest income decile among candidates and elected councillors by party in Municipal elections 2012 and 2008, %**



# *Municipal elections, quality description*

## *1. Relevance of statistical information*

### **1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics**

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

### **1.2 Essential concepts**

#### *Holding of elections*

Municipal elections are held every four years on the fourth Sunday in October. In the municipalities of the autonomous territory of the Åland Islands elections ([www.val.ax](http://www.val.ax)) are also arranged every four years, but one year ahead of those in Mainland Finland. Elections are held in accordance with the Election Act in force, more details on the Ministry of Justice's web pages [www.vaalit.fi](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 (365/1995).

#### *The main principles of holding elections*

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

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

#### *Right to vote and voting register, voting and calculation of the election result*

##### *Right to vote*

Entitled to vote in municipal elections are:

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

### *Voting register*

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

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

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

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

### *Voting*

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

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

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

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

*Voting percentage = proportion of voters of persons entitled to vote*

### *Calculation of the result of the municipal elections*

#### Counting the advance votes

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

#### Counting the votes on the election day

As soon as the doors of the polling stations have been closed at 8 pm, the election board begins a preliminary count of the votes. The board opens the ballot box, counts the ballots within it, and notes down the votes of the candidates in a particular election protocol. Immediately thereafter the board informs the central election committee of the municipality of the votes of the candidates, i.e. of the election results in the voting district. The central election committee again enters the results in the central calculation system in the Election Information System of the Ministry of Justice. Finally, the election board seals the ballots in a parcel and delivers it to the central election committee before Monday morning at 9 am.

#### Determination of the election results

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

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

is counted. Parties which have formed an electoral alliance are thus treated as a single group, as are constituency associations on a joint list. In the second stage of the calculation the candidates in each group are ranked in order of their personal number of votes. In the third stage each candidate is accorded a comparative index, i.e. the candidate who has received most personal votes is accorded an index which equals the total number of votes of the group, the second best candidate half of that, the third best a third, the fourth best a fourth, and so on. In the final stage all candidates within the municipality are listed in order from best to worst according to their comparative index, and the councillors elected from the municipality are chosen from this list.

#### *Eligibility and nomination of candidates*

##### *Eligibility*

Eligible as candidates in municipal elections are persons,

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

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

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

##### *Nomination of candidates*

Candidates in municipal elections may be nominated by

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### *Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities*

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

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

The valid statistical grouping of municipalities is used in the statistics (Statistics Finland, Municipalities and Regional Divisions Based on Municipalities). The changes in municipalities entering into force at the beginning of the year following the elections are taken into account in the statistics on municipal elections, because the elections are held following the coming municipal division. In the statistical grouping of municipalities, municipalities are divided by the proportion of the population living in urban settlements and by the population of the largest urban settlement into urban, semi-urban and rural municipalities. The classification is based on the definition of urban settlements made in 201x and the population of the municipality in 201x. The definition of urban settlements is produced yearly by the Finnish Environment Institute.

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

#### *Classifications used*



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

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

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

#### *Data collection methods and data sources*

Statistics Finland receives basic election data from the Ministry of Justice's election data system, the technical implementation of which is assigned to Tieto.

#### **1.3 Acts, decrees and recommendations**

The function of Statistics Finland is to compile statistics describing conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). 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, 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**

The analysis is based on the data derived from the voting register (Population Register Centre) and on the candidate register (Ministry of Justice) and on the results of the preliminary calculation as well as on Statistics Finland's employment statistics data.

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 12 September 2012 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's Population Statistics Department, such as employment statistics, the Register of Completed Education and Degrees and family statistics.

The analysis describes the persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected representatives with regard to certain variables. Employed persons in 2009/2010 according to employment statistics are also included as comparative data in some figures/tables. The background data derive from years year 2009 to 2011. The person's age is the age on the day of the election in full years.

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

#### *Constituency*

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

#### *Foreign background*

Foreign background is viewed by means of two variables, that is, native language or origin. Persons whose native language is not Finnish, Swedish or Sami are regarded by language as coming from a foreign background. Persons whose both parents were born abroad are regarded by origin as coming from a foreign background. The data are from the year 2011.

#### *Main type of activity*

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

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 2010.

#### *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
- Not belonging to a family
- Youth living at home

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. Young people

living with their own or adopted parent/s having the status of a child are defined as the youth living at home. Those not belonging to a family are usually persons living alone but also a lone mother/father living with her/his child's family is counted as not belonging to a family.

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

#### *Number of children*

In the analysis the number of children used is the number of the person's biological and adopted children. The data are from the year 2011.

#### *Level of education*

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

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

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

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

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

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

The data on education are derived from Statistics Finland's Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2010.

#### *Income subject to state taxation*

With certain exceptions, all income received as money or a benefit of monetary value is taxable. Certain social benefits, allowances and compensations are not taxable. These are such as child benefits, housing allowances and income support. Taxable are neither grants and awards received from the general government.

The data are based on the National Board of Taxes' data in the tax database concerning income subject to state taxation. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2010.

#### *Median income*

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

### **3. Correctness and accuracy of data**

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

### **4. Timeliness and accuracy of data**

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

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

### ***5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data***

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

Releases and time series tables in addition to the tables concerning the elections in question are available in three languages (Finnish, Swedish and English) on the statistics pages on Municipal elections.

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

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

### ***6. Comparability of statistics***

The municipal classification of the year following the election year is used in the statistics. The new statistical grouping of municipalities (urban, semi-urban and rural) was introduced starting from the year 2000. Prior to that, municipalities were grouped as follows: towns and other municipalities. Changes in constituencies and municipalities between elections have been taken into account in statistics which contain comparative data with the previous elections.

Election results are presented on the statistics pages on Municipal elections from 1921 onwards.

### ***7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity and documentation***

The Ministry of Justice publishes exhaustive information about different elections and the national candidate register and election result data on its web pages ([www.vaalit.fi](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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[http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/kvaa/index\\_en.html](http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/kvaa/index_en.html)

Source: Municipal Elections 2012, confirmed result and background analysis of candidates and elected representatives, Statistics Finland