

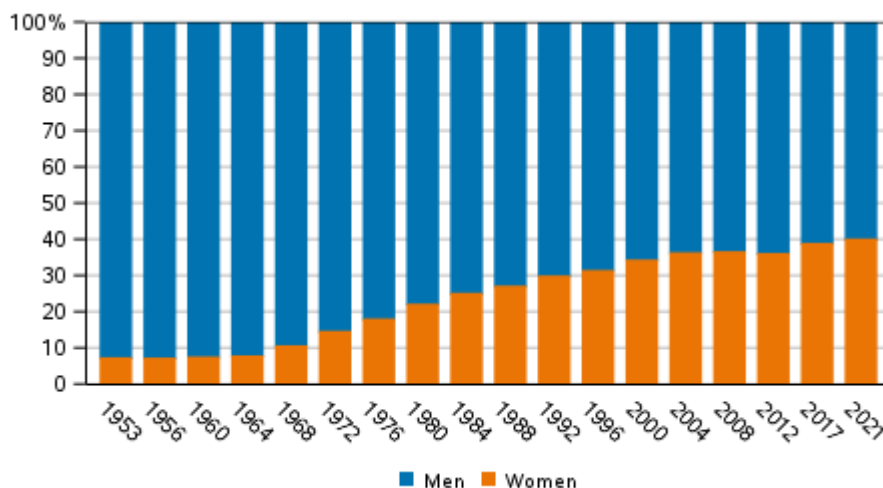
# Municipal elections 2021

## Background analysis of candidates and elected councillors

### Altogether 43.9 per cent of councillors elected in Municipal elections 2021 are new municipal councillors

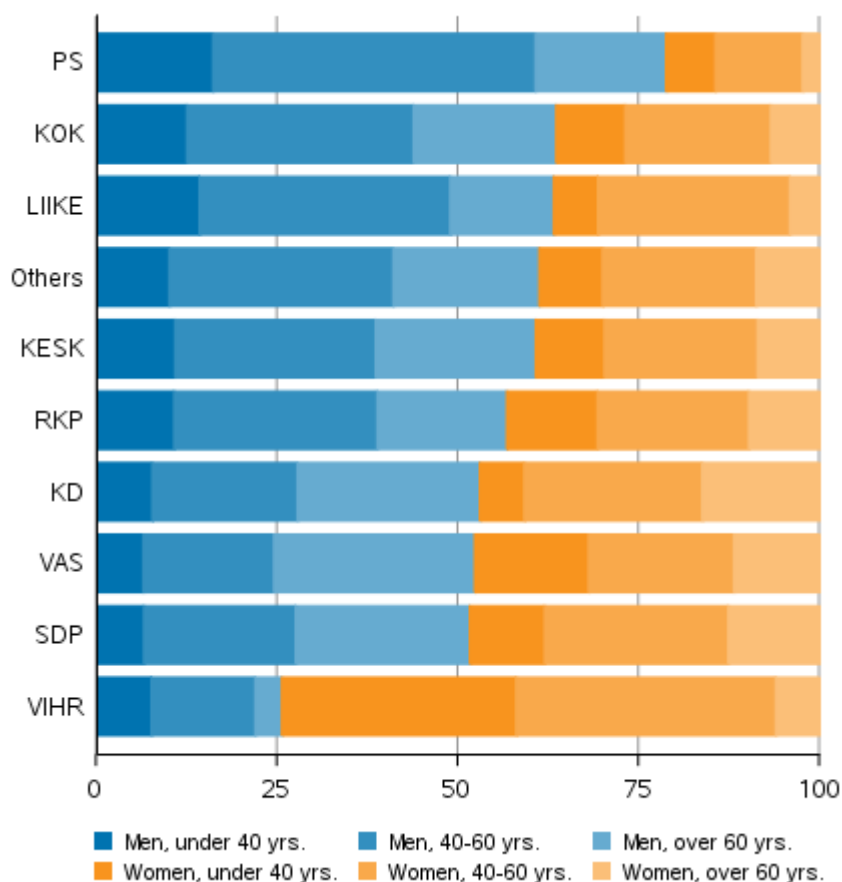
A total of 8,859 councillors were elected to municipal and town councils in the Municipal elections 2021. Of the elected representatives, 43.9 per cent were new councillors. Of the elected councillors, 40.2 per cent were women, which is 1.2 percentage points more than in the previous elections.

#### Men and women as percentage of elected councillors in Municipal elections 1953-2021, %



Of the parliamentary parties, the Green League has the most female councillors elected in the Municipal elections, 74.1 per cent, and the Finns Party has the least, 21.1 per cent. The average age of elected councillors in the 2021 elections was 50.8 years, that of elected women 48.2 years and that of men 52.6 years. The average age of new councillors was lowest for the Green League (42.9 years) and highest for the Christian Democrats (54.9 years).

**Share of men and women among the elected by party and age in Municipal elections 2021, %**



Current councillors made up 56.1 per cent of all elected councillors. The proportion of Finnish speakers and Sami speakers among new councillors was 92.8 per cent, that of Swedish speakers 6.3 per cent and that of persons not speaking national languages 0.8 per cent. Of the elected councillors 78.6 per cent were employed and 18.5 per cent were in the inactive population. The median for the disposable monetary income of all elected councillors was EUR 33,700.

**Table 1. Background analysis of elected councillors by party in the Municipal elections 2021**

	Memb. of Parl. (%)	Counc. in municipal councils (%)	Average age	Finn. or Sami speakers (%)	Swedish speakers (%)	Other lang. speakers (%)	Employed (%)	Unemployed (%)	In inactive pop. (%)	Avg. income
Total	2.0	56.1	50.8	92.8	6.3	0.8	78.6	2.9	18.5	33,700
SDP	2.5	66.9	53.4	95.5	3.0	1.5	73.7	3.4	22.9	32,400
PS	2.6	37.6	49.0	98.8	0.4	0.8	76.8	5.8	17.3	30,200
KOK	2.1	55.3	50.2	98.2	1.2	0.6	81.0	1.5	17.5	41,100
KESK	1.0	59.3	51.3	99.8	0.1	0.1	81.3	2.1	16.6	33,800
VIHR	3.7	51.5	42.9	96.1	1.4	2.5	82.4	4.2	13.4	34,800
VAS	2.8	66.5	52.3	96.9	1.2	2.0	69.9	4.7	25.4	29,300
RKP	1.9	59.2	50.0	5.8	93.1	1.1	83.2	0.4	16.4	35,400
KD	1.6	56.3	54.9	88.1	11.6	0.3	74.9	1.0	24.1	33,100
LIIKE	2.0	26.5	49.2	91.8	8.2	-	83.7	2.0	14.3	39,900
Others	-	54.4	51.0	95.9	3.0	1.0	80.7	2.7	16.6	32,600

More detailed data on the candidates and elected councillors of the Municipal elections can be found in the review: [Background analysis of candidates and elected councillors in Municipal elections 2021](#).

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# 1. Background analysis of candidates and elected councillors in Municipal elections 2021

Background information of persons entitled to vote and of the candidates nominated by the parties and of elected councillors are examined in the following review. The data on persons entitled to vote derive from the voting register established on 23 April 2021 and the data on the candidates from the candidate register set up on 14 May 2021. The background data are based on Statistics Finland's statistical data, such as population, employment and family statistics and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees.

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

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

## 1.1. Summary

### **Most council seats for the Centre Party, the Finns Party increased their council seats most**

The tendency in the 2000s towards the number of candidates falling in Municipal elections now made an upturn. Now, 35,627 candidates were nominated for the Municipal elections, which is 2,009 more than in 2017. However, the number of candidates fell for many parties. The Centre Party and the Social Democratic Party lost their candidates most compared with the previous elections. The Centre Party has 590 fewer candidates and the Social Democratic Party 512 fewer than in the 2017 elections. The Finns Party increased their number of candidates most; their number of candidates went up by 2,122, or by 55 per cent, from the previous elections.

A total of 8,859 councillors were elected to municipal councils. Although in the number of votes cast the Coalition Party and the Social Democratic Party were clearly ahead of the Centre Party, the Centre Party still has the most council seats (2,445) despite losing a total of 379 seats compared with 2017. The Centre Party's share of all council seats was 27.6 per cent. The Coalition Party has the second most council seats (17.5% of all elected councillors) and the Social Democratic Party the third most (16.4%). The Finns Party increased its share of council seats by 6.7 percentage points from 8.6 to 15.3 per cent.

The proportion of female candidates has remained at around 40 per cent already for a long time. Only the Green League has more female than male candidates. Around 60 per cent of its candidates are women. Among the parliamentary parties, the Finns Party has the least female candidates, 22 per cent. Women's share of the elected councillors rose to over 40 per cent. The rise from the previous elections amounts to 1.2 percentage points.

Candidates are, on average, one year younger than persons entitled to vote. Female candidates are, on average, four years younger than women entitled to vote, whereas male candidates are slightly over one year older than men entitled to vote. Female candidates are nearly three years younger than male candidates. The average age of male candidates is 51.0 years and that of female candidates 48.3.

The average age of the elected councillors is 50.8 years, around six months higher than in the previous elections. Approximately one fifth are aged under 40 and 29 per cent were aged 60 or older. Considerably fewer persons aged under 40 were elected than in 2017, when one-quarter of elected councillors belonged to this age group.

### **Around forty-four per cent of council seats went to others than current councillors**

Over one-half of all the candidates nominated by the parties were also candidates in the 2017 Municipal elections. Forty-seven per cent of the candidates were now in the same party as in the previous elections and around three per cent were candidates on the list of some other party or constituency association. Since

the previous elections, the Finns Party has renewed its list of candidates most, as 60 per cent of their candidates were not candidates in the previous Municipal elections. Around 16 per cent of the candidates nominated by the new party, Movement Now, were candidates for some other party or constituency association in the 2017 elections.

Nearly one-fifth of the candidates are current councillors. The Centre Party has the most current councillors on its list, around 27 per cent of the party's candidates. Altogether, 176 of the candidates are Members of Parliament. 43.9 per cent of the members of the new councils were not municipal councillors at the time of the elections.

The Centre Party candidates dominate in small municipalities measured by population with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants. In municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants as many as 35 per cent of all candidates were nominated by the Centre Party. In the largest municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants, the party distribution is clearly more even and no party has over 20 per cent of the candidates. In small municipalities with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants the Centre Party gained most council seats, in larger municipalities the Coalition Party is the majority party.

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

Compared with persons entitled to vote, persons with foreign background are under-represented among candidates. Persons of foreign background, that is, those whose both parents were born abroad, represent around seven per cent of those entitled to vote, 2.7 per cent of candidates and 0.8 per cent of elected councillors. The Swedish People's Party has the most candidates with foreign background (5.6%) and the Finns Party has the least (1.5%).

The result is similar when examined by native language. Clearly fewer candidates and elected councillors than persons entitled to vote speak a foreign language as their native language. The number of candidates speaking foreign languages is 953. The largest group of foreign-language speaking candidates is formed by Russian speakers, 191 candidates, and the second largest by Estonian speakers, 95 candidates. Of the elected councillors, 75 are foreign-language speakers. The largest foreign-language groups were speakers of English, 12 of the elected councillors and Somali, 10.

There are citizens from over 60 different countries among the candidates even though the share of foreign citizens among all candidates is under one per cent. In all, 4.5 per cent of all persons entitled to vote are foreign citizens. Of the candidates, 331 persons are foreign citizens. Under ten of the elected councillors are foreign citizens.

A person can have more than one nationality. There are 637 candidates that are Finnish citizens with citizenship in another country as well. They represent 1.8 per cent of all candidates. Among all persons entitled to vote, around 2.4 per cent have dual citizenship. Sixty-four dual citizens were elected as councillors.

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

The education of the candidates differs clearly from that of persons entitled to vote. Nearly 90 per cent of the candidates have completed post-comprehensive level qualifications while 76 per cent of those entitled to vote have done so. This is largely explained by the different age structure of people entitled to vote and the candidates. The educational level is highest for the Green League candidates. More than 60 per cent of them have tertiary level qualifications, while this is so for 36 per cent of all candidates and for 24 per cent of all persons entitled to vote.

Persons elected to municipals councils are more highly educated than those entitled to vote and the candidates. Of those elected, around 44 per cent have tertiary level qualifications and slightly under seven per cent only have basic level of education.

The difference in the age structure of the candidates, elected councillors and persons entitled to vote is also reflected in labour market position: nearly 80 of the elected councillors, 70 per cent of the candidates and slightly more than one half of those entitled to vote are employed persons. In turn, 31 per cent of those entitled to vote are retired, while this is the case for 18 per cent of candidates and 15 per cent of elected councillors. The employment rate is calculated as the share of employed persons in working-age population aged 18 to 64. The employment rate of the candidates is around 81 per cent, while that of persons entitled to vote is around ten percentage points lower, i.e. around 72 per cent. The employment rate of elected

councillors is high, 90 per cent for the whole country. It is nine percentage points higher than that of candidates and nearly 20 per cent higher than that of persons entitled to vote.

Viewed by socio-economic group, there are more self-employed persons among the candidates and elected councillors than among persons entitled to vote. The share of self-employed persons among employed elected councillors is 23.5 per cent, 17.5 per cent among candidates and 10 per cent among persons entitled to vote. The highest proportions of self-employed persons are found among the candidates of the Movement Now party (27.8%) and the second highest among Centre Party candidates (26.9%), of whom over one half are farmers and forestry entrepreneurs. Among Coalition Party candidates around one quarter are also self-employed.

The public sector employs candidates more than persons entitled to vote. Around 36 per cent of employed elected councillors work in the public sector, close on one-third of candidates, and 27 per cent of employed persons entitled to vote. The public sector employs candidates most in the largest municipalities with over 50,000 inhabitants. In these municipalities, especially the share of those working in the central government sector is higher than in smaller municipalities. In small municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants, the share of self-employed persons among employed candidates is over one quarter.

### **Around forty per cent of elected councillors are parents of a family with children**

The candidates and elected councillors also differ in their family status from the persons entitled to vote: 40 per cent of elected councillors and around 34 per cent of candidates are parents of a family with children, that is, considerably more than among persons entitled to vote (22%). Nearly 14 per cent of elected councillors and around 21 per cent of candidates live alone, while around 28 per cent of persons entitled to vote live alone. Differences in the family status are explained by the fact that the age structure of the candidates and persons entitled to vote differ from each other.

The current family status does not reveal how many of the candidates and of those entitled to vote have or have had children of their own. This can, however, be examined based on the number of children recorded in the Finnish Population Information System. Candidates and elected councillors have more children than average. In all, 78 per cent of the candidates and 85 per cent of elected councillors have children of their own, whereas the corresponding figure for persons entitled to vote is 65 per cent. The candidates have an average of two children, elected councillors 2.3 and persons entitled to vote have 1.5 children. The number of children is highest among Christian Democrats, 2.5 children and lowest among Green League candidates, 1.6 children.

### **Income level highest for Coalition Party candidates and elected councillors**

Compared to persons entitled to vote, the candidates and elected councillors are more highly educated and a larger share of them are also working. This also partially explains that their income level is higher than that of persons entitled to vote. The median for disposable monetary income among candidates in 2019 was EUR 28,400, among elected councillors EUR 33,700 and among persons entitled to vote EUR 22,300. Disposable monetary income refers to the monetary income after taxes that consists of earned income, property income, and transfer income.

The median for the candidates' disposable monetary income varies by party from EUR 33,900 in the Coalition Party to EUR 25,100 in the Left Alliance. When the population entitled to vote is arranged according to income and divided into ten equal parts, the income deciles of the population entitled to vote are generated. Each decile contains around 440,000 persons. The highest-income decile of the population entitled to vote has at least EUR 41,400 at their disposal and the lowest income decile at most EUR 9,400 per year.

Among all candidates, 18 per cent belong to the highest income decile and of the elected councillors nearly 30 per cent. The Coalition Party candidates and elected councillors are at the higher end of the income distribution. Thirty-six per cent of male candidates and 25 per cent of female candidates in the National Coalition Party belong to the highest income decile. Nearly one-half of the Coalition Party's elected councillors belong to the highest income decile.

There are fewer women in the highest income decile among persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors. Around one-third of the elected men belong to the highest income decile and close on one-quarter of the elected women.



One-tenth of all persons entitled to vote thus belong to the lowest income decile. Fewer of the candidates, slightly under six per cent, belong to this decile. Examined by party, the highest proportion of candidates belong to the lowest income decile in Movement Now and the Green League, slightly over eight per cent. Only around three per cent of the elected councillors belong to the lowest income decile.

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

### Finns Party council seats increased by 75 per cent, the fourth largest party by the number of seats

A total of 35,627 candidates were nominated for the Municipal elections. This is 2,009 candidates more than in 2017.

As in previous years, the Centre Party of Finland (6,871) had the most candidates, even though its number of candidates is considerably lower than in the previous election. The Coalition Party (6,010 candidates) nominated the second most candidates and the Finns Party the third most (5,953 candidates). (Table 1)

The number of candidates grew most both in absolute and relative terms for the Finns Party, the lists of which now have 2,122 candidates, or 55 per cent more than in the 2017 elections. The number of candidates also grew in the Coalition Party (+271), the Green League (+203) and the Swedish People's Party (+61). The numbers of candidates nominated by the other parties fell from the previous Municipal elections. The number of Centre Party candidates fell most (-590). The number of SDP candidates fell by 512 persons and that of Christian Democrats by 26 persons.

A total of 8,859 councillors were elected to the municipal councils of Mainland Finland. This is 140 fewer councillors than in 2017. The decrease in the number of elected councillors is affected by municipal mergers between the elections and changes in the population on the level of municipalities. In 2017, councillors were elected for 295 municipal councils, now there are two fewer municipalities.

All in all, the number of elected councillors decreased by 1.6 per cent from the previous elections. In relative terms, most seats were lost by the Left Alliance (-22.8%) and the Green League (-18.9%). The number of elected councillors also decreased more than average for the Social Democratic Party and the Centre Party. The number of councillors grew most for the Finns Party both in absolute numbers and in relative terms. Compared with 2017, the number of seats for the Finns Party elected to councils increased by 581 persons, or by around 76 per cent. Compared to 2012, the Finns Party also increased their number of seats. The Coalition Party and representatives of the constituency associations and smaller parties also increased their number of seats.

Although in the number of votes cast the Coalition Party and the Social Democratic Party were clearly ahead of the Centre Party, the Centre Party still has the most council seats (2,445) despite losing a total of 379 seats compared with 2017. The Centre Party's share of all council seats was 27.6 per cent.

The Coalition Party has the second most council seats (17.5% of all elected councillors) and the Social Democratic Party the third most (16.4%). The Finns Party increased its share of council seats by 6.7 percentage points from 8.6 to 15.3 per cent.

**Table 1. Number of candidates and elected councillors by party in Municipal elections 2012, 2017 and 2021**

	Number of candidates			Change from the previous elections, %			Number of elected councillors			Change from the previous elections, %		
	2012	2017	2021	2012	2017	2021	2012	2017	2021	2012	2017	2021
Candidates	37,124	33,618	35,627	-3.6	-9.4	6.0	9,674	8,999	8,859	-7.1	-7.0	-1.6
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	6,987	6,132	5,620	-9.3	-12.2	-8.3	1,729	1,697	1,451	-16.3	-1.9	-14.5
The Finns Party PS	4,393	3,831	5,953	138.8	-12.8	55.4	1,195	770	1,351	169.8	-35.6	75.5
National Coalition Party KOK	6,874	5,739	6,010	-9.9	-16.5	4.7	1,735	1,490	1,552	-14.1	-14.1	4.2
Centre Party of Finland KESK	8,401	7,461	6,871	-15.8	-11.2	-7.9	3,077	2,824	2,445	-12.5	-8.2	-13.4
Green League VIHR	2,299	2,600	2,803	4.9	13.1	7.8	323	534	433	-12.7	65.3	-18.9
Left Alliance VAS	3,506	3,203	3,010	-14.7	-8.6	-6.0	640	658	508	-23.2	2.8	-22.8
Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	1,350	1,324	1,385	-4.1	-1.9	4.6	480	471	463	-6.1	-1.9	-1.7
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	1,870	1,971	1,945	-2.7	5.4	-1.3	300	316	311	-14.5	5.3	-1.6
Movement Now LIIKE	-	-	469	-	-	-	-	-	49	-	-	-
Others	1,444	1,357	1,561	-16.4	-6.0	15.0	195	239	296	-35.0	22.6	23.8

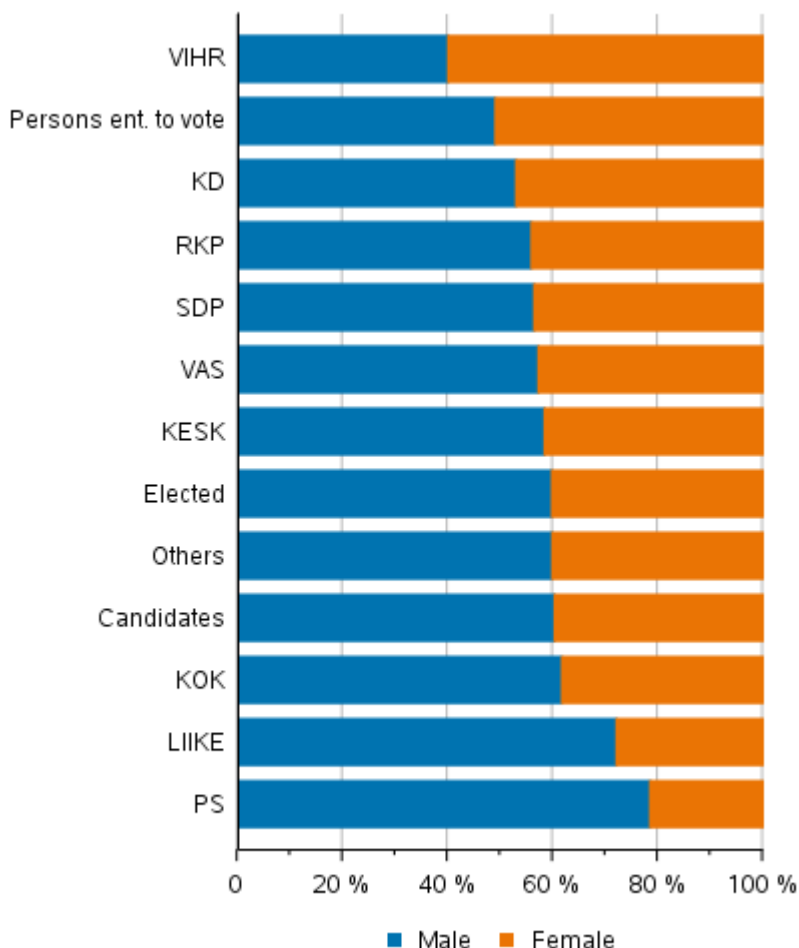
### **Women's share of the elected councillors rose to over 40 per cent**

Women make up 39.7 per cent of the candidates. The majority, or 51 per cent, of the persons entitled to vote are women. Not much change took place from the 2017 elections. Only the Green League has more female than male candidates. Sixty per cent of its candidates are women. The Christian Democrats have the second most female candidates, as the proportion of women is 47 per cent and the Swedish People's Party has the third most, 44.1 per cent. The proportion of female candidates is above the average in the Centre Party, the Left Alliance and the Social Democratic Party, varying between 41.6 and 43.6 per cent. The Finns Party has the least female candidates, 21.5 per cent of candidates. There are also relatively few women (27.9%) among the candidates of the new party, Movement Now. The proportion of female candidates has also decreased from the previous elections in the Finns Party and the Coalition Party. (Figure 1)

Women make up 40.2 per cent of the elected councillors. The share of women among elected councillors rose by 1.2 percentage points from the previous elections. The proportion of women is slightly higher among new councillors, or among those who are not municipal councillors at the moment (42.8%).

A distinct majority of the elected Green League councillors are women, around 74 per cent. The Social Democratic Party (48.7%), the Left Alliance (47.8%) and the Christian Democrats (46.6%) also have more elected women than average. The least women were elected to municipal councils from the Finns Party. Just slightly over one-fifth of them are women. The proportion of women elected to councils from Movement Now, the Coalition Party and the Centre Party is also under 40 per cent. (Figure 1)

**Figure 1. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by sex in Municipal elections 2021, %**



Women’s share of all candidates has remained at around 40 per cent throughout the 2000s. Among most parties, the share of female candidates has remained more or less on the same level. Only the Left Alliance, Green League and SDP have clearly increased their share of female candidates in recent years. The proportion of female candidates has increased by over six percentage points since 2008 in the Left Alliance, by over three percentage points in the Green League and by 2.8 percentage points in the Social Democratic Party. For the Finns Party, the share of women is now lowest in the 2000s. It is over four percentage points lower than in the 2008 elections and compared with the previous 2017 elections, women's proportion is 3.7 percentage points lower.

**Table 2. Women's proportion of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors by party in Municipal elections 2008 to 2021, %**

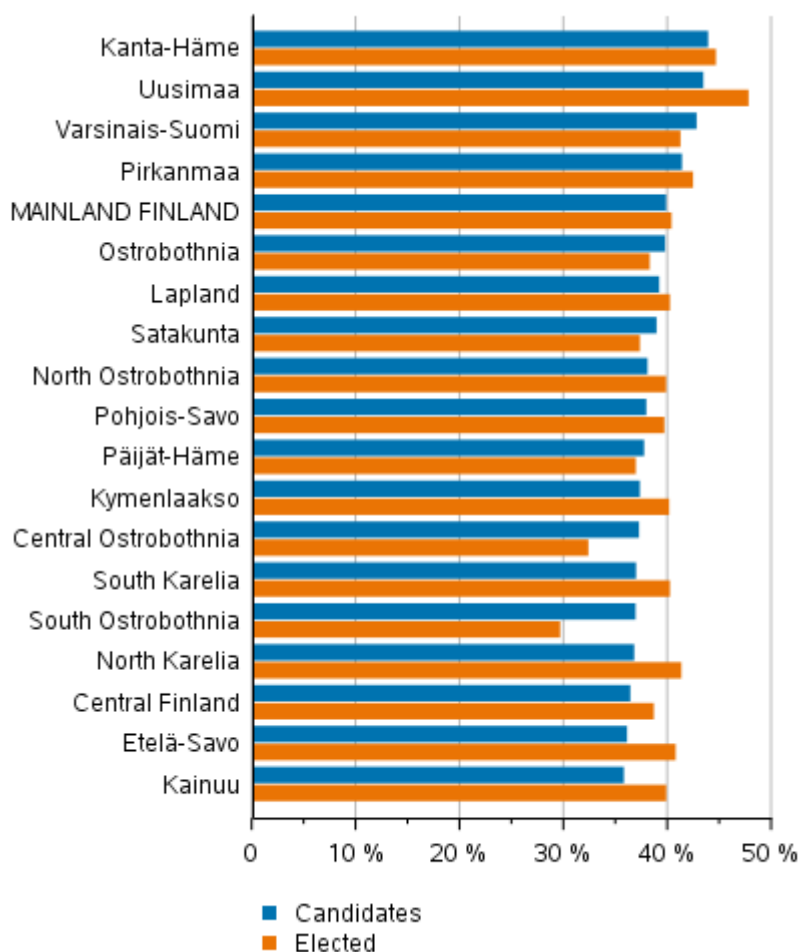
		2008	2012	2017	2021
	Persons ent. to vote	51.5	51.4	51.2	51.0
Candidates	Candidates	40.4	38.8	39.9	39.7
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	40.8	40.4	40.9	43.6
	The Finns Party PS	25.7	23.3	25.2	21.5
	National Coalition Party KOK	40.3	39.1	39.0	38.3
	Centre Party of Finland KESK	40.3	39.8	39.7	41.6
	Green League VIHR	56.8	56.8	57.9	60.0
	Left Alliance VAS	36.6	37.9	39.8	42.8
	Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	42.9	43.5	43.7	44.1
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	48.2	45.3	46.7	47.0
	Movement Now LIIKE	-	-	-	27.9
	Others	33.6	32.8	33.8	40.2
	Elected	Elected	36.7	36.2	39.0
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP		41.0	41.7	44.4	48.7
The Finns Party PS		20.8	23.2	21.8	21.1
National Coalition Party KOK		35.9	35.7	35.9	36.8
Centre Party of Finland KESK		34.1	35.1	36.1	39.5
Green League VIHR		64.3	68.1	67.8	74.1
Left Alliance VAS		32.4	35.8	40.4	47.8
Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP		38.2	38.3	40.1	43.0
Christian Democrats in Finland KD		43.0	38.7	46.5	46.6
Movement Now LIIKE		-	-	-	36.7
Others		34.3	29.7	31.0	37.5

The percentages of female candidates were the highest in Kanta-Häme (43.7%) and Uusimaa (43.3%), and the lowest in Kainuu (35.6%) and South Savo (35.9%). In addition to Kanta-Häme and Uusimaa, only the regions of Southwest Finland and Pirkanmaa have more female candidates than average. (Figure 2)

Most women were elected into municipal councils in Uusimaa. Of the future councillors in municipal councils in Uusimaa, 47.6 per cent are women. The share of women among elected councillors was also above the average for the whole country in Kanta-Häme, Pirkanmaa, North Karelia, Varsinais-Suomi and South Savo.

The share of women among elected councillors is smallest in the region of South Ostrobothnia (29.5%). In these regions, also clearly fewer women were elected than were standing as candidates (36.7%). By contrast, the share of women among elected councillors in South Savo, North Karelia, Uusimaa and Kainuu is over four percentage points higher than their share of candidates.

**Figure 2. Women’s share of candidates and elected councillors by region in Municipal elections 2021, %**



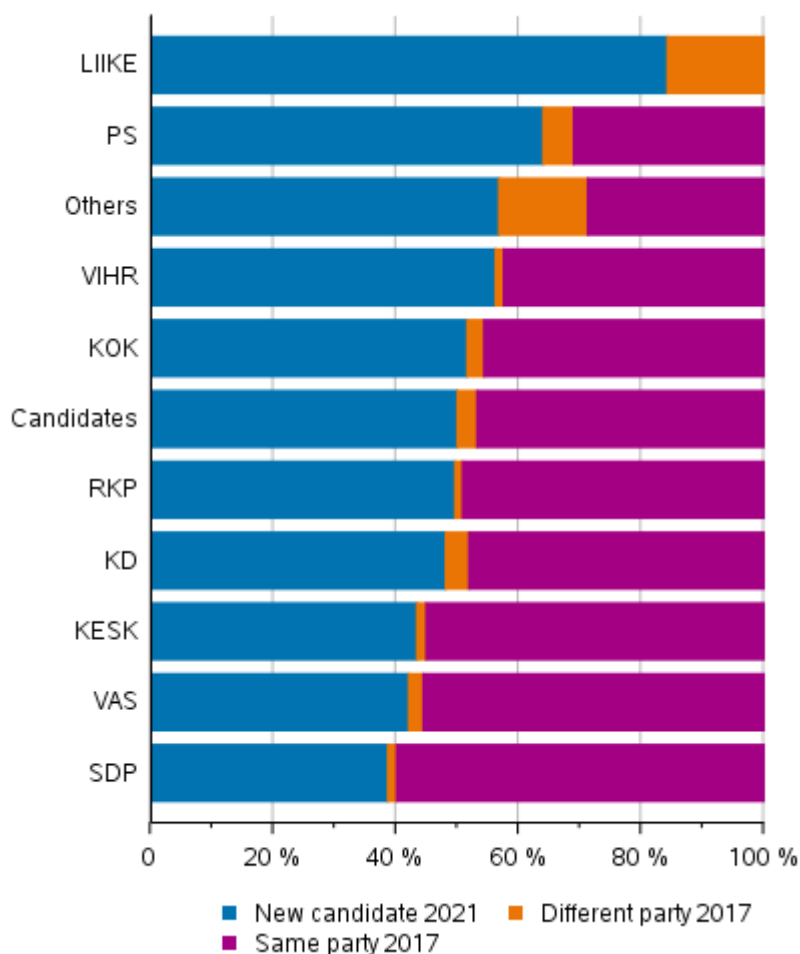
**Altogether 44 per cent of elected councillors are new**

One-half of the candidates nominated by the parties are new, that is, they were not candidates in the 2017 elections. In total, 46.8 per cent of the candidates were candidates for the same party as in the previous elections and 3.2 per cent were candidates on the list of some other party or constituency association.

Of the parties that had candidates in 2017 and 2021, the Finns Party has the most new candidates, as many as 64 per cent of them are completely new. Over one-half of the Green League and Coalition Party candidates are also new, as are the group others, which includes constituency associations and parties that have no MPs in Parliament. Of the candidates nominated by the new Movement Now party, the majority, or 84 per cent, are new and the rest of the candidates were last time nominated by some other party. In both elections, slightly over three per cent of the candidates have changed parties, the most among the Finns Party candidates (5.0%). (Figure 3)

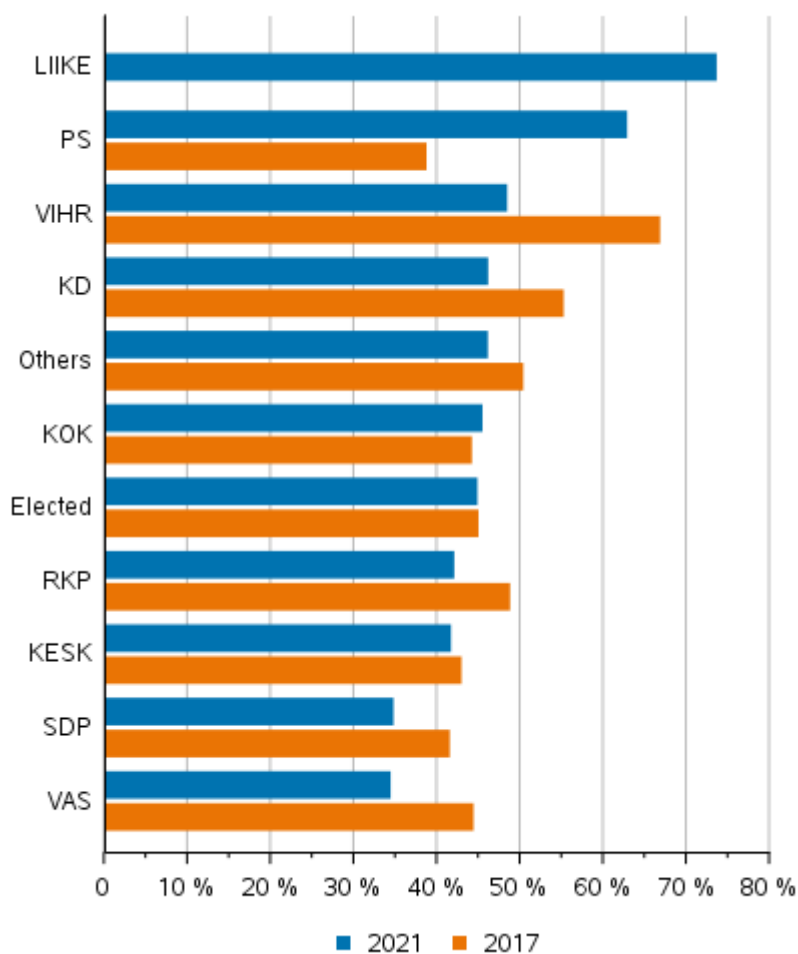
Close on one-fifth of all candidates are current councillors. The Centre Party has the most current councillors on its list, around 27 per cent of the party’s candidates and Movement Now has the least, 3.4 per cent and the Finns Party around ten per cent. Altogether, 176 of the candidates are Members of Parliament.

**Figure 3. Share of candidates nominated in the 2017 election and new candidates by party in the Municipal elections 2021, %**



Altogether 8,859 councillors were elected to municipal councils of whom 3,888 or around 44 per cent were not municipal councillors at the time of the elections. Around 62 per cent of the elected councillors from the Finns Party are other than current municipal councillors and nearly two-thirds of the elected councillors from the new party, Movement Now, are new municipal councillors. The Left Alliance and the Social Democratic Party have the least new councillors, around one third were not municipal councillors during the elections. (Figure 4)

**Figure 4. Proportion of new councillors by party in the Municipal elections 2017 and 2021, %**



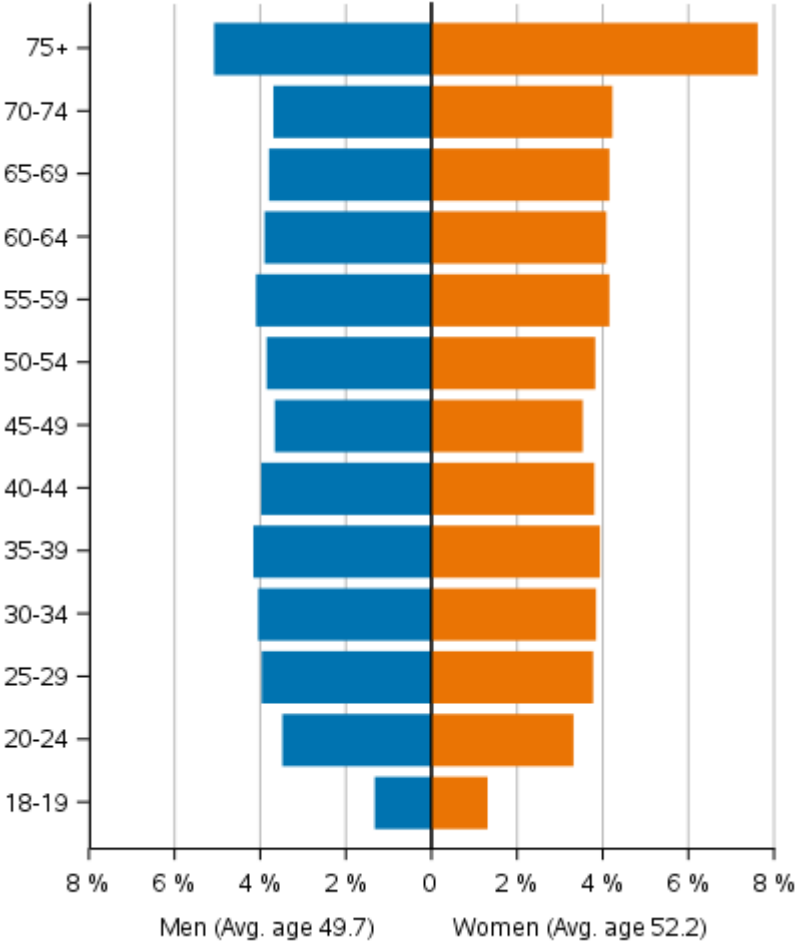
### 1.3. Age structure

#### Oldest councillors among Christian Democrats, youngest among the Green League

The average age of the candidates is now almost half a year higher than in the previous elections and around two years older than in 2008. Female candidates are nearly three years younger than male candidates. The average age of male candidates is now 51.0 years and that of female candidates 48.3. Female candidates are, on average, four years younger than women entitled to vote, whereas male candidates are slightly over one year older than men entitled to vote. The average age of persons entitled to vote has risen by nearly one year since the previous elections and by slightly over two years from 2008. On the day of the election the average age of persons entitled to vote is now 49.7 for men and 52.2 for women.

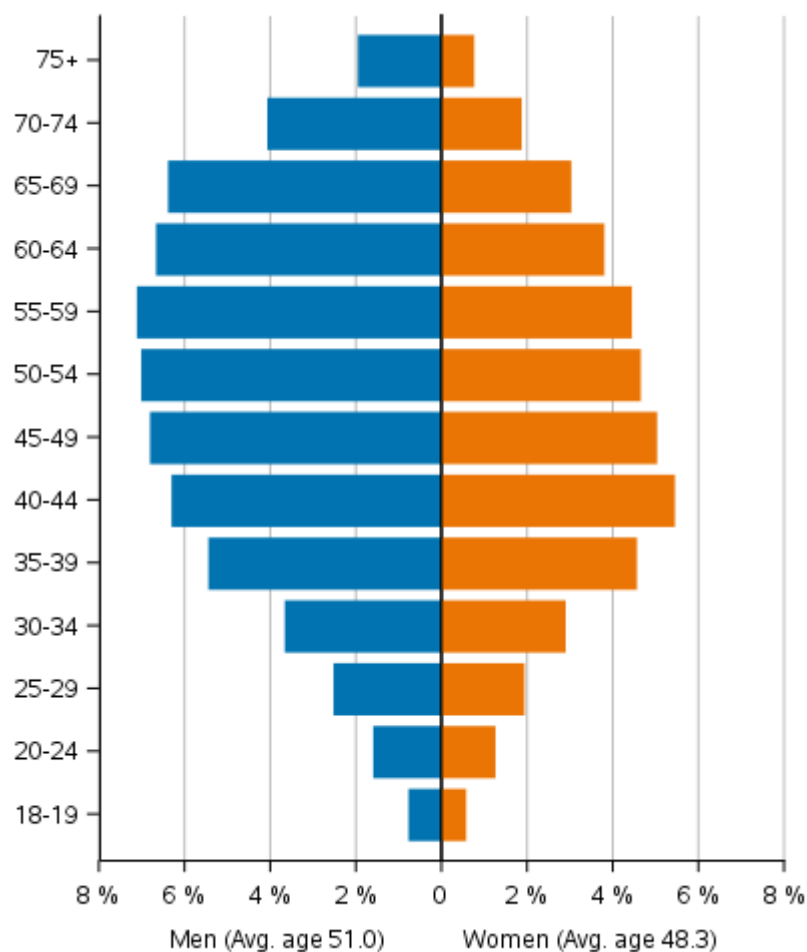
The sex and age structure of candidates is very different from that of persons entitled to vote (Figures 5 and 6). The age pyramid of neither group is no longer a pyramid as the name indicates: the age structure of persons entitled to vote rather resembles a tower and that of candidates a one sided gyroscope, from which the missing of the youngest and oldest age groups as well as the dominance of men are visible. Most male candidates represent the 45 to 69 age groups and most female candidates the 35 to 59 age groups.

**Figure 5. Age distributions and average age of persons entitled to vote by sex in Municipal elections 2021, %**



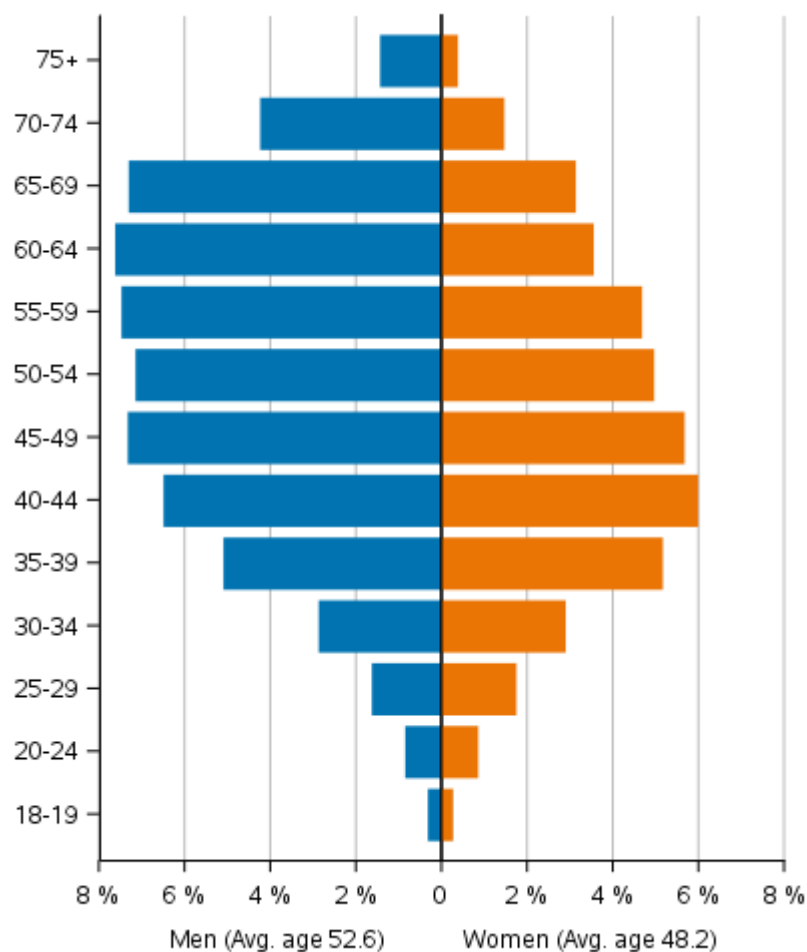


**Figure 6. Age distributions and average age of candidates by sex in Municipal elections 2021, %**



Examined by party, the Christian Democrats has the oldest candidates: Around 40 per cent of their candidates are aged 60 or over and the average age is 53.9 years. One-third of the Social Democratic Party and Left Alliance candidates are also aged 60 or over. The Green League has the youngest candidates. Almost 37 per cent of them are aged under 40, and the average age of the candidates is 44.6 years. Around 25 per cent of all candidates are aged under 40 and around 28 per cent are aged 60 or over. (Figure 6, Table 3)

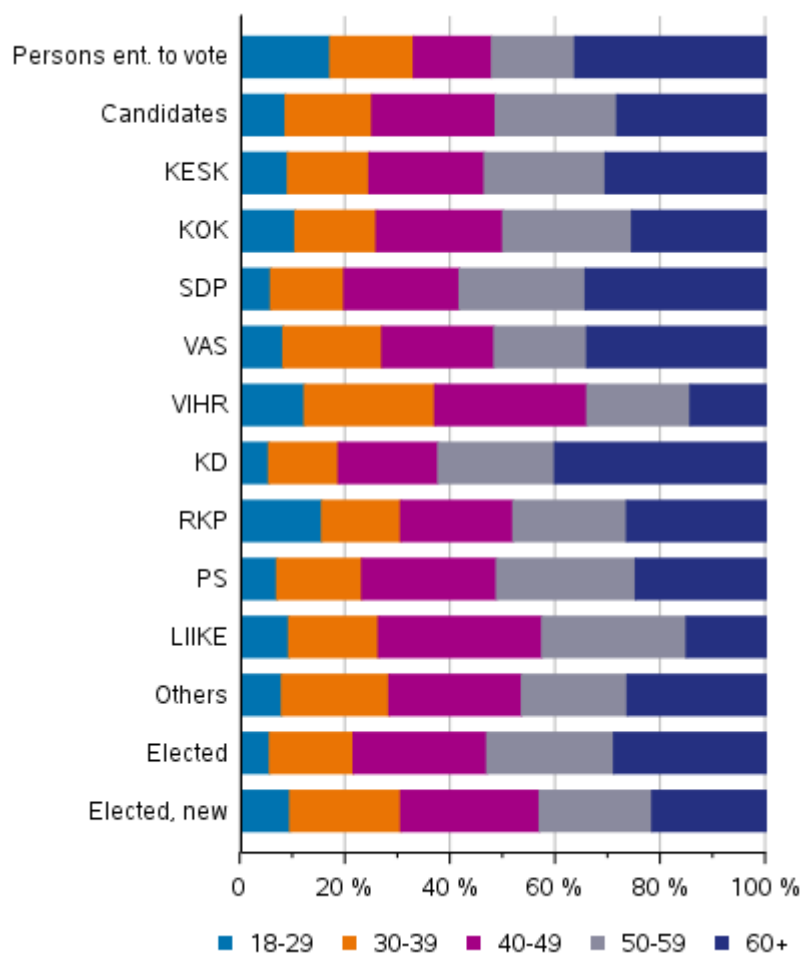
**Figure 7. Age distribution and average age of elected councillors by sex in the Municipal elections 2021, %**



Around one-fifth of the elected councillors are aged under 40 and 29 per cent are aged 60 or over. Considerably fewer persons aged under 40 were elected than in 2017, when one-quarter of elected councillors belonged to this age group. The share of persons aged 60 or over among elected councillors also decreased by two percentage points.

The average age of the elected councillors was 50.8 years, which is around six months higher than in the previous elections. The Christian Democrats have the oldest elected councillors, on average, aged 55. The elected councillors from the Green League are, in turn, the youngest - their average age is 43. (Table 3)

**Figure 8. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by age group in Municipal elections 2021, %**



**Table 3. Average age of candidates and elected councillors by party in the Municipal elections 2021**

		Total	Male	Female
	Persons ent. to vote	51.0	49.7	52.2
Candidates	Candidates	50.0	51.0	48.3
	Centre Party of Finland KESK	50.4	51.8	48.4
	National Coalition Party KOK	49.1	49.8	48.1
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	52.2	53.5	50.6
	Left Alliance VAS	50.7	52.9	47.8
	Green League VIHR	44.6	45.8	43.8
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	53.9	54.2	53.5
	Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	48.1	49.1	47.0
	The Finns Party PS	49.9	50.2	48.4
	Movement Now LIIKE	47.1	47.6	45.7
	Others	49.2	50.5	47.3
Elected	Elected	50.8	52.6	48.2
	Centre Party of Finland KESK	51.3	52.9	48.9
	National Coalition Party KOK	50.2	51.6	47.9
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	53.4	56.2	50.4
	Left Alliance VAS	52.3	56.9	47.4
	Green League VIHR	42.9	45.8	41.9
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	54.9	56.2	53.4
	Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	50.0	51.7	47.8
	The Finns Party PS	49.0	49.8	46.0
	Movement Now LIIKE	49.2	49.7	48.4
	Others	51.0	52.6	48.4

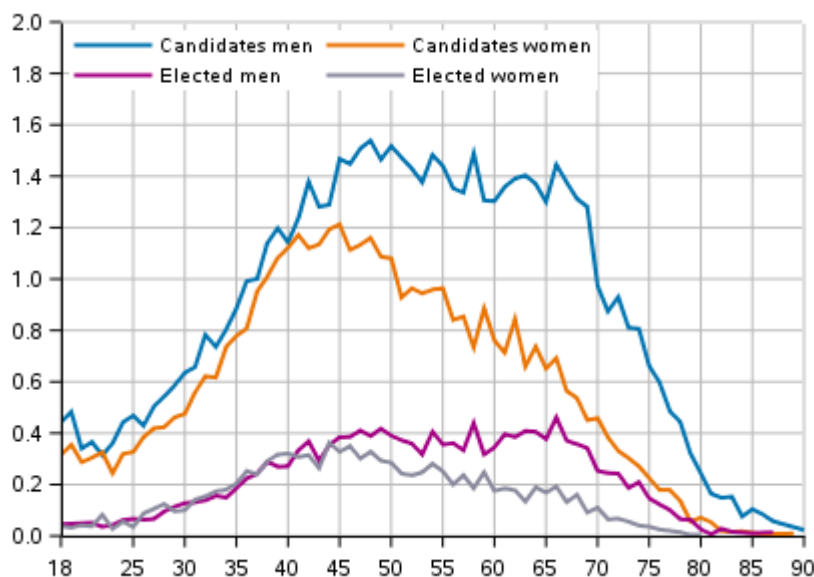
**Not much difference between the sexes in the shares of elected councillors aged under 40 in the age group**

Altogether one per cent of men entitled to vote and 0.6 per cent of women are nominated as candidates. In all age groups, fewer women are nominated than men. The share of candidates of the age group raises sharply for women to about the age of 40 and for men to the age of about 50. At about the age of 40 women’s participation rate is only slightly lower than men’s but the difference grows after that. While women’s participation rate makes a downturn after the age of 45, men’s participation rate starts to fall only at the age of around 70 and drops to the same level as for 40-year-old men.

The proportion of male candidates per age group is at its highest in ages 42 to 69, when around 1.3 to 1.5 per cent of each 1-year age group are candidates. Among women, most stand as candidates between the ages 37 to 55, 1.0 to 1.1 per cent of the age group. (Figure 9)

The share of elected councillors in the age groups resemble the share of candidates in the age groups. It is likely that the share of elected councillors is larger, the larger the proportion of the age group that stood as candidates. Relative to the size of the age group, most men became elected among those aged slightly over 60. Among women, most became elected to councils at the age of slightly over 40. The shares of elected councillors among the age group were very similar for both men and women until the age of 44, after which the share of women starts to fall, while the share of men stays at the same level until the age of over 60.

**Figure 9. Share of candidates and elected councillors in the age group by sex in Municipal elections 2021, %**



**Centre Party the biggest party in small municipalities, Coalition Party in bigger municipalities**

The Centre Party has the highest number of candidates in small municipalities measured by population with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants. In municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants around 35 per cent of candidates were nominated by the Centre Party. In municipalities of this size category, the Finns Party and the National Coalition Party have nominated the second and third most candidates. In large municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants the proportion of the Centre Party is about ten per cent of all candidates. (Table 4)

In larger municipalities no party reaches as large a share of the candidates as the Centre Party does in small municipalities. In municipalities with 20,000 to 99,999 inhabitants the three parties that nominated the most candidates were the Coalition Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Finns Party, each with close on 20 per cent of all candidates.

In the largest municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants the party distribution of candidates is considerably more even: the Coalition Party and the Social Democratic Party have nominated the most candidates, that is, both parties have a proportion of slightly over 14 per cent. Large towns also have more candidates than average from the Green League and the Left Alliance. The share of the Finns Party among the candidates is about 17 per cent in municipalities with fewer than 100,000 inhabitants and around 14 per cent in larger towns.

In municipalities with under 20,000 inhabitants the Centre Party gained most seats in municipal councils. In municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants as many as over 40 per cent of elected councillors were from the Centre Party and in municipalities with 5,000 to 19,999 inhabitants 25 to 30 per cent. The Coalition Party, the Finns Party and the Social Democratic Party competed for the second and third places, with shares of 12 to 18 per cent of the seats. In municipalities with over 20,000 inhabitants most candidates were elected from the Coalition Party and the second most from the Social Democratic Party. The Finns Party won the third most council seats, except in the largest towns with over 100,000 inhabitants, where the Green League won the third place.

**Table 4. Party distribution of candidates and elected councillors by size of municipality in the Municipal elections 2021, %**

		Size category of municipality (population at the end of 2020, %)						
		Total	-4,999	5,000-9,999	10,000-19,999	20,000-49,999	50,000-99,999	100,000+
Candidates	Centre Party of Finland KESK	19.3	35.3	24.5	20.1	13.1	13.2	9.8
	National Coalition Party KOK	16.9	15.2	15.2	18.3	19.1	19.3	14.4
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	15.8	12.0	15.0	16.9	18.2	18.5	14.3
	Left Alliance VAS	8.4	5.3	8.4	6.6	9.6	8.8	11.4
	Green League VIHR	7.9	2.5	4.5	5.7	9.8	11.5	13.4
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	5.5	3.9	5.2	6.1	5.3	5.2	6.9
	Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	3.9	1.1	5.3	5.1	3.0	3.3	5.6
	The Finns Party PS	16.7	17.5	16.6	17.6	17.7	17.1	13.9
	Movement Now LIIKE	1.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	1.3	1.3	3.2
	Others	4.4	6.8	4.6	2.8	2.8	1.7	7.0
	Total	100.1	100.0	100.1	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9
Elected	Centre Party of Finland KESK	27.6	43.6	29.8	25.2	14.8	14.7	8.8
	National Coalition Party KOK	17.5	13.6	14.3	18.2	22.3	22.2	25.3
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	16.4	12.2	15.0	17.4	20.5	21.8	19.0
	Left Alliance VAS	5.7	4.3	6.1	4.5	7.4	5.6	9.4
	Green League VIHR	4.9	1.4	2.5	4.4	8.2	8.9	15.6
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	3.5	2.8	3.8	4.3	3.6	3.4	3.1
	Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	5.2	1.5	9.2	8.1	3.9	5.0	2.6
	The Finns Party PS	15.3	14.3	14.6	15.8	16.8	17.7	13.8
	Movement Now LIIKE	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.6
	Others	3.3	6.1	4.3	1.7	1.7	-	0.8
	Total	100.0	100.1	100.1	100.1	99.8	99.9	100.0

## 1.4. Foreign background

### Less than one per cent of elected councillors are foreign-language speakers

The proportion of Swedish-speaking candidates (5.4 %) slightly exceeds their proportion of persons entitled to vote (4.6 %). Swedish-speaking candidates are more active particularly in Uusimaa and Ostrobothnia, 12.4 per cent of candidates in Uusimaa and 54.4 per cent in Ostrobothnia. Correspondingly, Swedish speakers account for 7.5 per cent of persons entitled to vote in Uusimaa and for 50.3 per cent in Ostrobothnia. (Table 5)

Slightly over seven per cent of all persons entitled to vote speak another language than Finland's national languages. Considerably fewer of the candidates, just 2.7 per cent are foreign-language speakers. The share of foreign-language speakers among candidates has, however, grown slightly from the 2017 elections when the share of foreign-language speaking candidates of all candidates was 2.2 per cent.

In relative terms, the number of foreign-language speaking candidates is highest in Ostrobothnia, where 5.3 per cent of candidates are foreign-language speakers and the second highest in Uusimaa, 4.8 per cent. The respective proportions among persons entitled to vote were 6.5 and 13.7 per cent.

On the level of mainland Finland, the under-representation of foreign-language speakers is 4.6 percentage points. This means that there are fewer foreign-language speaking candidates than foreign-language speaking persons entitled to vote. The under-representation is highest in areas where the population share of foreign-language speakers is largest, i.e. in Uusimaa – especially in the Greater Helsinki region – and in Southwest Finland. In Uusimaa, the share of foreign-language speakers is 8.9 and in Southwest Finland 4.6 percentage points lower than among persons entitled to vote.

Of national language speakers, there are more Sami speakers as candidates than average. Of Sami speakers entitled to vote, 2.3 per cent stand as candidates. Of all persons entitled to vote, on average, 0.8 per cent are candidates.

Of those elected to municipal councils under one per cent are foreign-language speakers, which is fewer than stood as candidates and considerably fewer than among persons entitled to vote. Most foreign-language speakers were elected to councils in Uusimaa and especially in the Greater Helsinki area. In Uusimaa municipalities 2.3 per cent of the new council members are foreign-language speakers. In Greater Helsinki, the share of foreign-language speakers is slightly over five per cent of elected councillors. No foreign-language speakers were elected to councils in the municipalities of South Savo.

More Swedish speakers were elected to municipal councils (6.3%) than their share among candidates or persons entitled to vote. Most Swedish speakers were elected in Ostrobothnia, where 71 per cent of elected councillors are Swedish-speaking. Around one-half of persons entitled to vote in Ostrobothnia are Swedish-speaking. Also in Uusimaa, more than double the number of Swedish speakers were elected as councillors (16.2%) compared to their share of persons entitled to vote. By contrast, in Central Ostrobothnia, the share of Swedish-speaking councillors (2.8%) was considerably lower than their share of the population (9.1%).

**Table 5. Persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors by native language by region in the Municipal elections 2021, %**

	Persons ent. to vote			Candidates			Elected		
	Finnish, Sami	Swedish	Other language, unknown	Finnish, Sami	Swedish	Other language, unknown	Finnish, Sami	Swedish	Other language, unknown
MAINLAND FINLAND	88.1	4.6	7.3	91.9	5.4	2.7	92.8	6.3	0.8
Uusimaa	78.7	7.5	13.7	82.8	12.4	4.8	81.6	16.2	2.3
Varsinais-Suomi	87.3	5.6	7.2	91.0	6.4	2.6	92.3	6.3	1.4
Satakunta	96.0	0.3	3.7	98.1	0.4	1.5	99.6	0.2	0.2
Kanta-Häme	95.4	0.4	4.2	98.3	0.6	1.1	99.2	0.3	0.6
Pirkanmaa	94.7	0.4	4.9	97.5	0.6	1.9	99.1	0.4	0.5
Päijät-Häme	94.5	0.3	5.1	97.3	0.4	2.4	99.7	-	0.3
Kymenlaakso	93.3	0.8	5.9	95.1	1.6	3.3	97.3	1.8	0.9
South Karelia	93.8	0.2	6.0	96.1	0.1	3.8	99.6	-	0.4
Etelä-Savo	96.6	0.2	3.2	98.2	-	1.8	100.0	-	-
Pohjois-Savo	97.0	0.1	2.9	97.5	0.4	2.1	99.0	0.8	0.2
North Karelia	96.3	0.1	3.6	97.4	0.1	2.5	99.7	-	0.3
Central Finland	96.4	0.2	3.4	98.0	0.1	1.9	99.3	-	0.7
South Ostrobothnia	97.4	0.3	2.3	97.5	0.6	1.9	99.6	-	0.4
Ostrobothnia	43.2	50.3	6.5	40.3	54.4	5.3	27.2	71.0	1.8
Central Ostrobothnia	87.9	9.1	3.0	91.1	7.0	1.8	96.7	2.8	0.6
North Ostrobothnia	96.9	0.2	2.9	98.4	0.2	1.4	99.5	-	0.5
Kainuu	97.2	0.1	2.7	98.4	0.1	1.4	99.5	-	0.5
Lapland	97.0	0.3	2.8	98.2	0.2	1.5	99.0	-	1.0

Foreign-language speakers are considerably less often candidates. Of the candidates, 953 are foreign-language speakers, which is 0.3 per cent of foreign-language speaking persons entitled to vote. The largest foreign-language speaking group among candidates is Russian speakers, 191 candidates, and the second largest is Estonian speakers, 95 candidates. (Table 6.)

Altogether, 75 foreign-language speakers were elected to councils. The largest foreign-language groups were speakers of English, 12 of the elected councillors and Somali, 10.

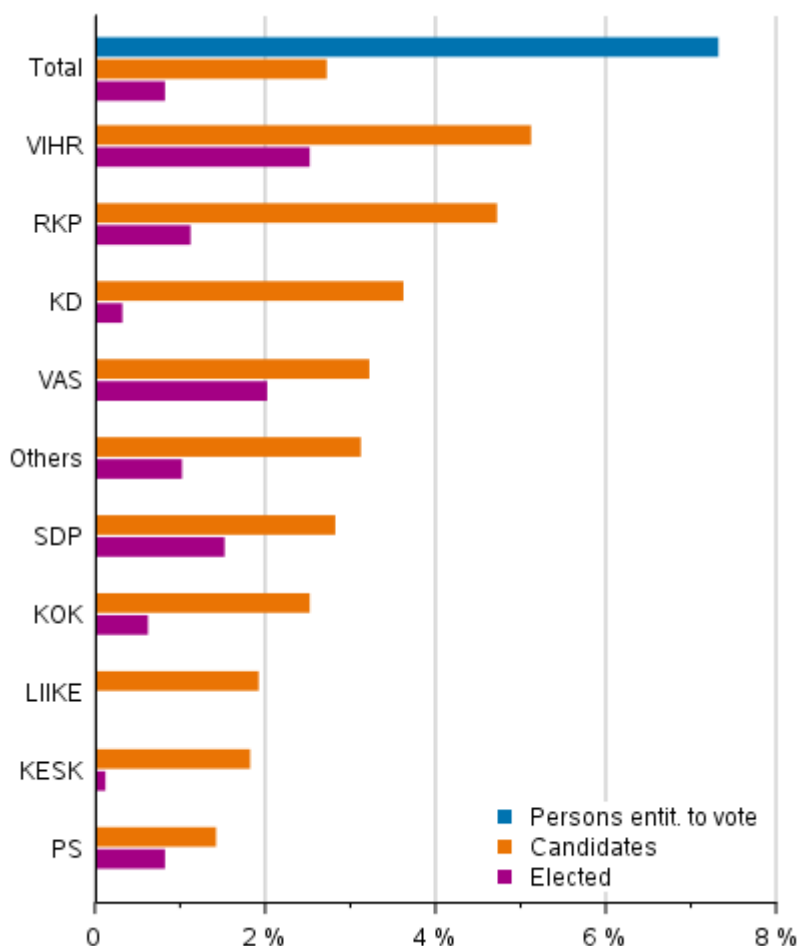
The Green League has the most foreign-language speaking candidates, 5.1 per cent of candidates and the Swedish People's Party has the second most, 4.7 per cent. The Finns Party has the lowest share of foreign-language speaking candidates, 1.4 per cent. Among the elected councillors, the Green League has the most foreign-language speakers (2.5%). No foreign-language speakers were elected from the lists of Movement Now and only 0.1 per cent of the elected Centre Party councillors are foreign-language speakers. Although the Christian Democrats had the third highest proportion of foreign-language speaking candidates (3.5%) after the Green League and the Swedish People's Party, only 0.3 per cent of the elected councillors were foreign-language speakers. (Figure 10)



**Table 6. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by native language, largest language groups specified, in the Municipal elections 2021, %**

	Persons entitled to vote	Candidates	% of persons entitled to vote
Total	4,464,815	35,627	0.8
NATIONAL LANGUAGES, TOTAL	4,141,093	34,674	0.8
Finnish	3,932,759	32,711	0.8
Swedish	206,848	1,929	0.9
Sami	1,486	34	2.3
FOREIGN LANGUAGES, TOTAL	323,722	953	0.3
Russian	65,372	191	0.3
Estonian	39,785	95	0.2
English	16,692	71	0.4
Arabic	20,514	50	0.2
Persian, Farsi	10,204	50	0.5
Turkish	6,531	40	0.6
Kurdish	10,213	36	0.4
Spanish; Castilian	7,307	30	0.4
Somali	13,261	26	0.2
German	5,819	25	0.4
French	3,890	22	0.6

**Figure 10. Foreign-language speakers' proportion of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors (by party) in Municipal elections 2021, %**



## Councillors of foreign background still fairly rare

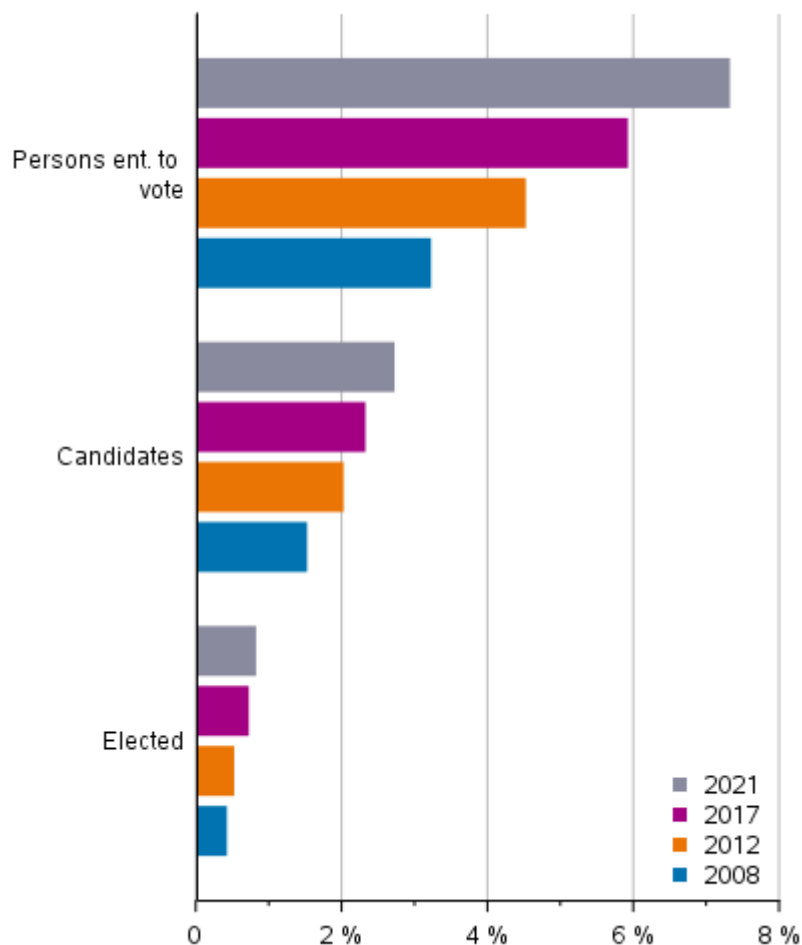
The foreign background of the population can also be examined from the point of the person's origin. Of the persons entitled to vote, 92.7 per cent and of candidates 97.3 per cent are of Finnish background, that is, persons of whose parents at least one was born in Finland. Thus, slightly over seven per cent of persons entitled to vote and nearly three per cent of candidates are of foreign background. Of the elected councillors, 0.8 per cent are of foreign background. Since 2008, the share of elected councillors of foreign background has grown from by 0.4 per cent.

Second generation immigrants, or those who were themselves born in Finland, but whose parents were born abroad, are still fairly few among both persons entitled to vote (0.3 per cent) and candidates (0.1 per cent). First generation immigrants (the person and parents both born abroad) are clearly under-represented both among the candidates and elected councillors. Of all persons entitled to vote, seven per cent belong to this group, while this is so for only 2.6 per cent of the candidates and for 0.7 per cent of elected councillors.

**Table 7. Persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors by origin in the Municipal elections 2008 to 2021**

	Persons ent. to vote				Candidates				Elected			
	2008	2012	2017	2021	2008	2012	2017	2021	2008	2012	2017	2021
Total	4,196,532	4,303,064	4,397,006	4,464,815	38,505	37,124	33,618	35,627	10,412	9,674	8,999	8,859
Persons with Finnish background total	4,061,377	4,111,446	4,135,878	4,138,679	37,925	36,399	32,859	34,666	10,373	9,624	8,933	8,788
Persons with Finnish background, born in Finland	4,028,034	4,075,699	4,097,547	4,097,007	37,647	36,066	32,502	34,253	10,319	9,564	8,860	8,706
Persons with Finnish background, born abroad	33,343	35,747	38,331	41,672	278	333	357	413	54	60	73	82
Persons with foreign background total	135,155	191,618	261,128	325,802	580	725	759	961	39	50	66	71
Persons with foreign background, born in Finland	3,272	5,141	9,540	14,772	30	30	24	40	6	5	4	9
Persons with foreign background, born abroad	131,883	186,477	251,588	311,030	550	695	735	921	33	45	62	62
Unknown	-	-	-	334	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Figure 11. The proportion of persons of foreign origin among persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors in Municipal elections 2008, 2012, 2017 ja 2021, %**

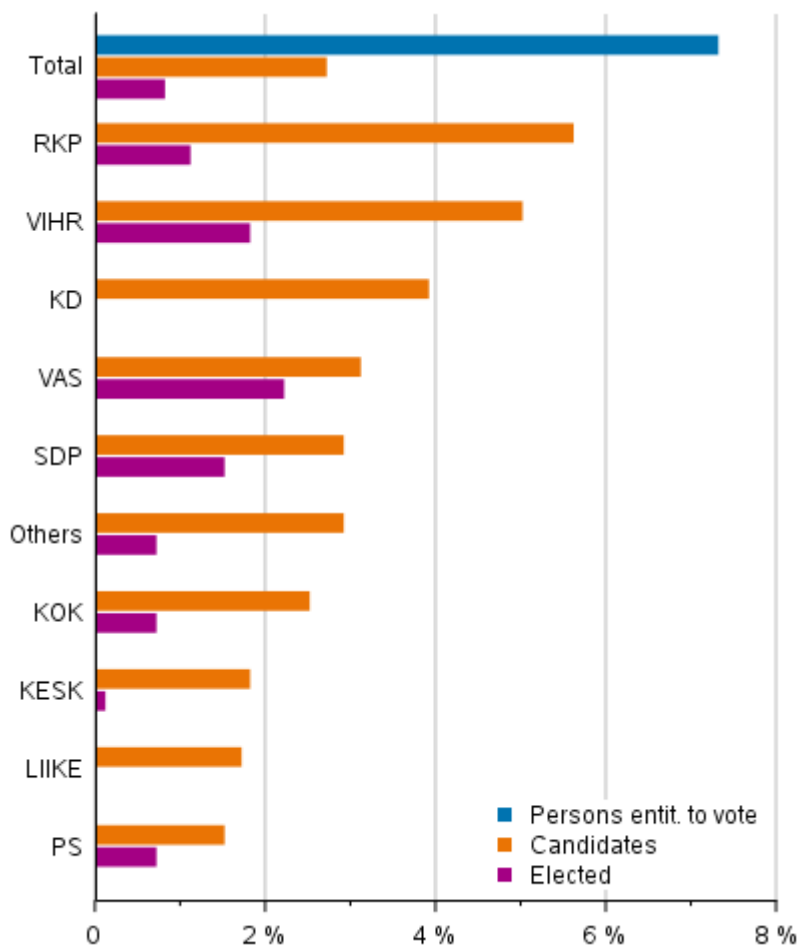


Latest data concerning the population living in Finland is from at the end of 2020

Examined by party, the number of candidates with foreign background is highest in the Swedish People’s Party, 5.6 per cent of the candidates, and lowest in the Finns Party (1.5 per cent) and Movement Now (1.7 per cent). The Green League and the Christian Democrats also have more than average candidates with foreign background. (Figure 10)

The Left Alliance has the largest proportion of persons with foreign background among councillors (2.2%) and the Green League has the second most (1.8%). None of the elected Christian Democrats and Movement Now councillors has a foreign background. A fairly small share of the elected councillors from the Centre Party are also of foreign background, i.e. 0.1 per cent.

**Figure 12. Proportion of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors (by party) of foreign origin in Municipal elections 2021, %**



### Number of candidates with dual citizenship 637

There are citizens from over 60 different countries among the candidates even though the share of foreign citizens among all candidates is under one per cent. In all, 4.5 per cent of all persons entitled to vote are foreign citizens. Of the candidates, 331 persons are foreign citizens. The biggest nationality group is Estonian with 65 candidates, the second largest are Swedish with 32 and Russian with 31 candidates.

There are 637 candidates that are Finnish citizens with citizenship in another country as well. They represent 1.8 per cent of all candidates. Of all persons entitled to vote, there are nearly 108,000 persons with dual citizenship or 2.4 per cent. Among the candidates the most common second citizenship is Russian, 123 persons and Swedish, 67 persons.

Less than ten of the elected councillors are foreign citizens. Altogether 64 persons, who in addition to Finnish citizenship also hold the citizenship of some other country, were elected to municipal councils.

## 1.5. Level of education

### Three-quarters of the Green League's elected councillors have tertiary level qualifications

The education of the candidates differs clearly from that of persons entitled to vote. Nearly 90 per cent of the candidates have completed post-comprehensive level qualifications while 76 per cent of those entitled to vote have done so. This is partially explained by the fact that there are very few representatives of the oldest age groups among the candidates whose educational level is usually lower than for younger persons.

Thirty-three per cent of the persons entitled to vote have at least lowest level tertiary qualifications and 48 per cent of the candidates. (Table 8)

**Table 8. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by educational level in the Municipal elections 2021, %**

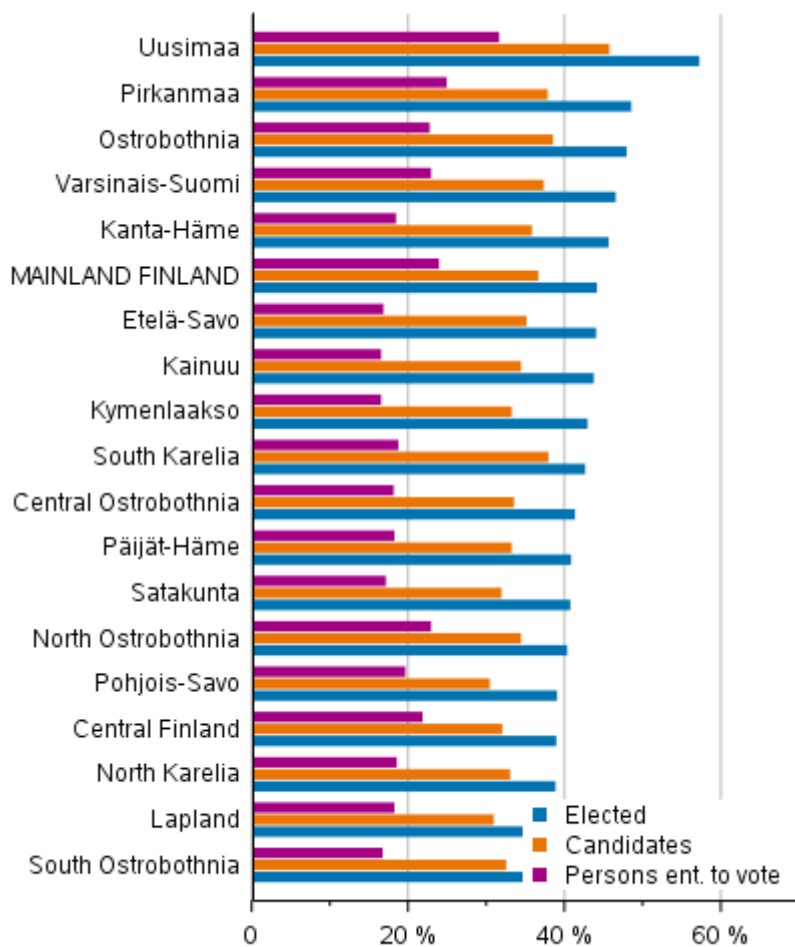
	Basic level	Upper secondary level	Lowest level tertiary	Lower-degree tertiary	Higher-degree level tertiary, doctorate
Persons ent. to vote	24.3	42.6	9.4	12.3	11.4
Candidates	10.6	41.9	11.1	16.5	19.8
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	11.0	47.6	11.5	14.9	14.9
The Finns Party PS	16.9	57.9	8.7	10.0	6.5
National Coalition Party KOK	8.6	30.6	13.2	19.7	27.9
Centre Party of Finland KESK	7.9	39.5	14.1	19.1	19.4
Green League VIHR	6.3	26.5	6.5	20.4	40.2
Left Alliance VAS	12.3	50.4	7.4	15.3	14.6
Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	8.4	29.2	9.7	21.5	31.1
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	9.3	34.7	14.5	16.5	25.0
Movement Now LIIKE	9.0	48.2	9.6	15.8	17.5
Others	13.5	44.1	10.5	15.3	16.6
Elected	6.8	36.5	12.9	19.0	24.9
Male	9.5	43.5	12.5	14.9	19.5
Female	2.7	26.1	13.4	25.0	32.8

Green League candidates have clearly the highest level of education. More than 60 per cent of them have tertiary level qualifications, while this is so for 36 per cent of all candidates and for 24 per cent of all persons entitled to vote. Swedish People's Party and National Coalition Party candidates also have more tertiary level qualifications than average for the candidates.

Persons elected to municipals councils are more highly educated than those entitled to vote and the candidates. Of those elected, around 44 per cent have tertiary level qualifications and slightly under seven per cent only have basic level of education. As many as 76 per cent of the Green League's and 58 per cent of the Coalition Party's elected councillors have tertiary level qualifications. Among the Finns Party councillors, the share of those with tertiary level qualifications is on level with persons entitled to vote, that is, 24 per cent.

The educational level of the candidates reflects the differences in the educational structure of different areas. In the region of Uusimaa, the proportion of highly educated is higher than in the rest of the country both among the persons entitled to vote and the candidates (Figure 13). In Uusimaa, around 45 per cent of candidates have tertiary level qualifications. In other regions, the share of candidates with tertiary level qualifications is below 40 per cent. The difference between the regions is also clearly visible for the elected councillors. The majority of elected councillors in Uusimaa municipalities, i.e. 57 per cent, have tertiary level qualifications. In other regions, the shares are considerably lower.

**Figure 13. Proportion of persons with tertiary level qualifications among persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors by region in Municipal elections 2021, %**



## 1.6. Labour market position

### Elected councillors feature strongly in working life

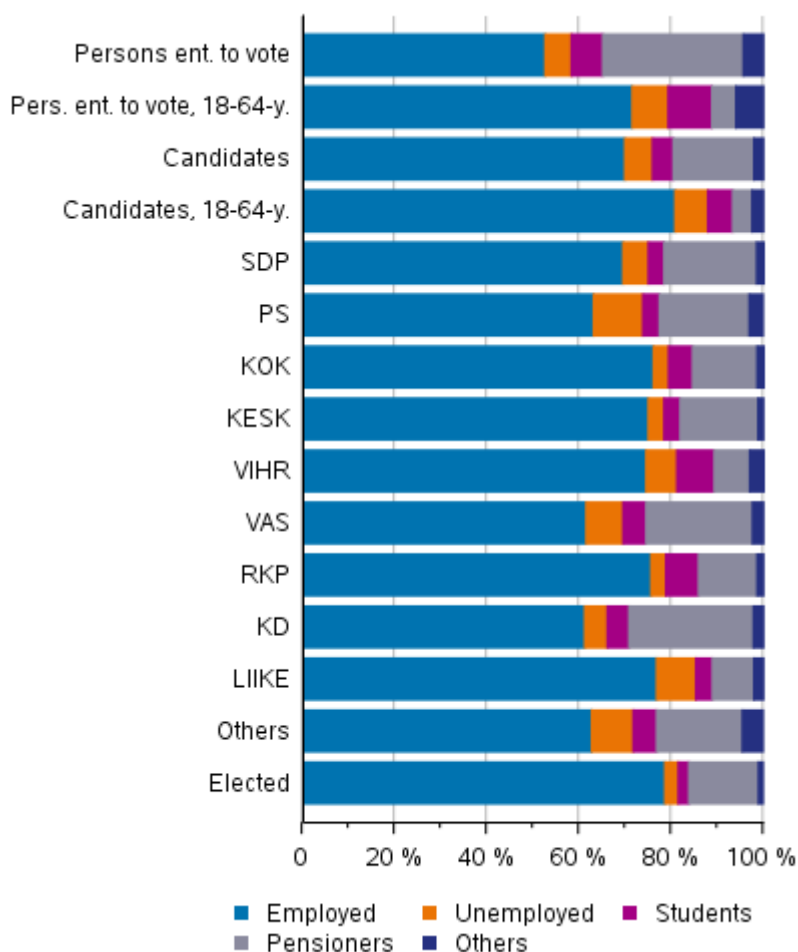
Seventy per cent of the candidates are employed, and the proportion of unemployed persons is the same as among persons entitled to vote, around six per cent. In turn, there are clearly fewer pensioners among the candidates, around 18 per cent. When looking at working-age population (aged 18 to 64), 81 per cent of the candidates are employed, while the proportion of employed persons is nine percentage points lower among all persons entitled to vote. Clearly more of the persons entitled to vote of this age are students and other inactive population than among the candidates. (Figure 14)

Fifty-three per cent of persons entitled to vote are working, six per cent are unemployed and around 31 per cent are pensioners. Seven per cent of persons entitled to vote are studying and around four per cent are otherwise in the inactive population.

The numbers of employed persons are highest among the candidates of the Movement Now party, the National Coalition Party, the Swedish People's Party, the Centre Party and the Green League (75 to 77 per cent). The Green League has most students among its candidates, around eight per cent. The Christian Democrats and the Left Alliance have most pensioner candidates (27% and 23.1%, respectively).

A larger share of those elected to councils (over 80%) are in working life, i.e. employed, than of candidates. Fifteen per cent of elected councillors are retired and three per cent are unemployed.

**Figure 14. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by main type of activity in Municipal elections 2021, %**



### Employment rate of persons elected to councils 90 per cent

The employment rate is calculated as the ratio of employed persons aged 18 to 64 to the population of the same age. Of all candidates aged 18 to 64, altogether 81 per cent are employed. The employment rate of persons entitled to vote is nine percentage points lower. The employment rates of the candidates resemble the general employment rates in the regions. Where the employment rate of the total population is high, the employment rate of the candidates is also at a high level there. Ostrobothnia has the highest employment rate of total population, 76.2 per cent, and there 85 per cent of the candidates are working. Correspondingly in North Karelia where the general employment rate is lowest in the country, the employment rate of candidates is also lower than the average. (Table 9)

The employment rate of elected councillors is high, 90 per cent for the whole country. It is nine percentage points higher than that of candidates and nearly 20 per cent higher than that of persons entitled to vote. Regional variations were also high. The employment rate of elected councillors varies from 93.6 per cent in South Ostrobothnia to 84.1 per cent in Päijät-Häme.

**Table 9. Employment rate of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors (aged 18 to 64) by sex and by region in the Municipal elections 2021, %**

	Pers. ent. to vote, 18-64-y.			Candidates, 18-64-y.			Elected 18-64-y.		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
MAINLAND FINLAND	71.5	70.4	72.7	80.8	80.2	81.5	90.0	90.1	89.8
Uusimaa	73.7	73.2	74.3	82.3	81.8	82.8	90.3	89.5	91.1
Varsinais-Suomi	71.8	70.7	72.9	81.2	80.8	81.6	91.4	91.3	91.5
Satakunta	71.2	69.6	72.9	83.4	83.2	83.7	91.1	90.9	91.3
Kanta-Häme	72.8	71.5	74.2	82.7	82.1	83.5	92.6	92.8	92.4
Pirkanmaa	70.8	69.8	71.8	79.0	80.2	77.3	88.4	90.9	85.4
Päijät-Häme	69.6	68.7	70.6	80.5	79.8	81.7	84.1	84.5	83.5
Kymenlaakso	68.4	66.5	70.4	76.7	75.9	78.1	87.4	83.5	92.6
South Karelia	68.1	65.7	70.8	79.5	78.6	81.2	89.8	88.5	91.7
Etelä-Savo	69.7	67.3	72.3	79.1	78.2	80.6	88.1	89.8	86.0
Pohjois-Savo	69.8	68.0	71.6	79.7	79.6	79.9	89.2	89.0	89.4
North Karelia	65.5	63.4	67.8	74.8	74.6	75.2	86.6	86.5	86.9
Central Finland	67.9	66.7	69.1	77.2	75.7	79.5	88.5	89.2	87.6
South Ostrobothnia	73.6	72.2	75.1	83.8	83.2	84.8	93.6	93.4	94.1
Ostrobothnia	76.2	75.4	77.0	85.2	85.3	85.2	92.0	93.8	89.2
Central Ostrobothnia	73.6	73.4	73.9	83.5	83.3	83.9	91.7	91.7	91.7
North Ostrobothnia	69.0	68.3	69.8	79.9	79.1	81.1	89.9	90.1	89.5
Kainuu	68.9	65.6	72.5	78.8	76.6	82.1	89.3	87.4	91.9
Lapland	70.5	68.4	72.8	81.7	79.6	84.8	91.3	90.9	91.8

### **60 per cent of elected councillors are upper-level employees**

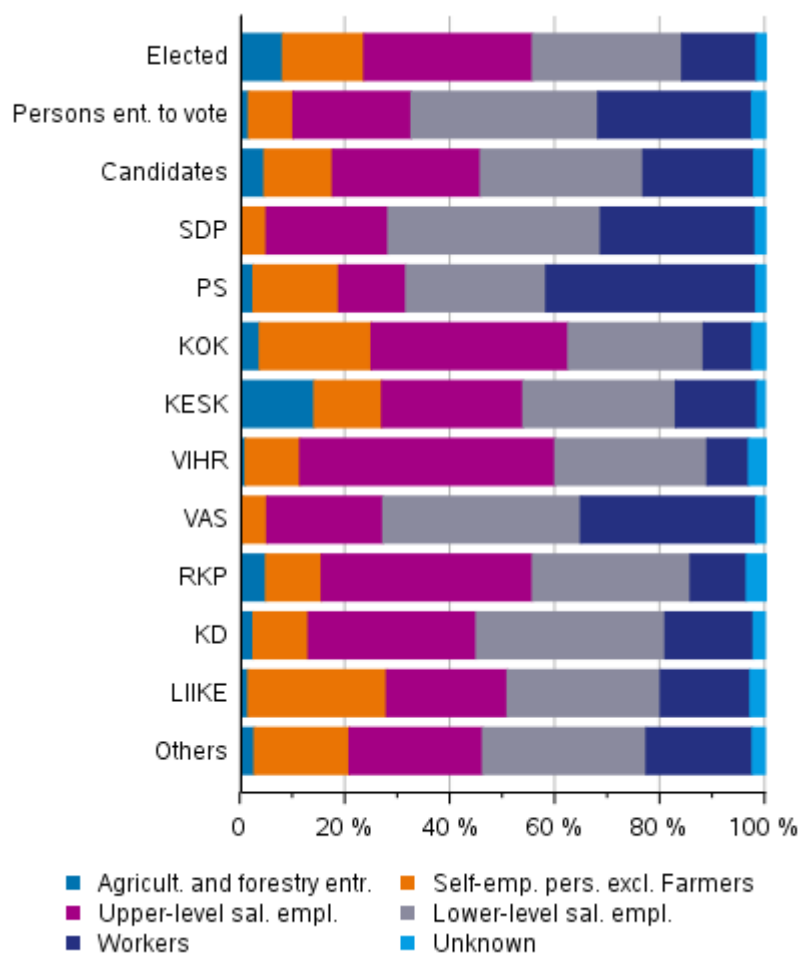
Nearly 30 per cent of all employed candidates and around 20 per cent of employed persons entitled to vote are upper-level employees. Most upper-level employees, nearly one-half of employed candidates, are found in the Green League. Also in the Swedish People’s Party and the Coalition Party, nearly 40 per cent of candidates are upper-level employees. The number of upper-level employees is lowest among the candidates of the Finns Party (13.5%). (Figure 15)

Of all employed candidates, 17.5 per cent are self-employed and of all persons entitled to vote 10.0 per cent. The highest proportions of self-employed persons are found among the candidates of the Movement Now party (27.8%) and the second highest among Centre Party candidates (26.9%), of whom over one half are farmers and forestry entrepreneurs. One-quarter of the Coalition Party candidates are also self-employed, however, focusing more on other self-employed persons than farmers and forestry entrepreneurs. The proportion of workers is highest among the Finns Party candidates, around 40 per cent, and second highest among the Left Alliance candidates, around one third of employed candidates.

For nearly 60 per cent of the elected councillors the socio-economic group is upper-level employees, 14.2 per cent are workers, nine per cent are farmers and forestry entrepreneurs, and 15.5 per cent are other entrepreneurs.



**Figure 15. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by socio-economic group in Municipal elections 2021, %**



**The public sector and entrepreneurship employ elected councillors more than persons entitled to vote**

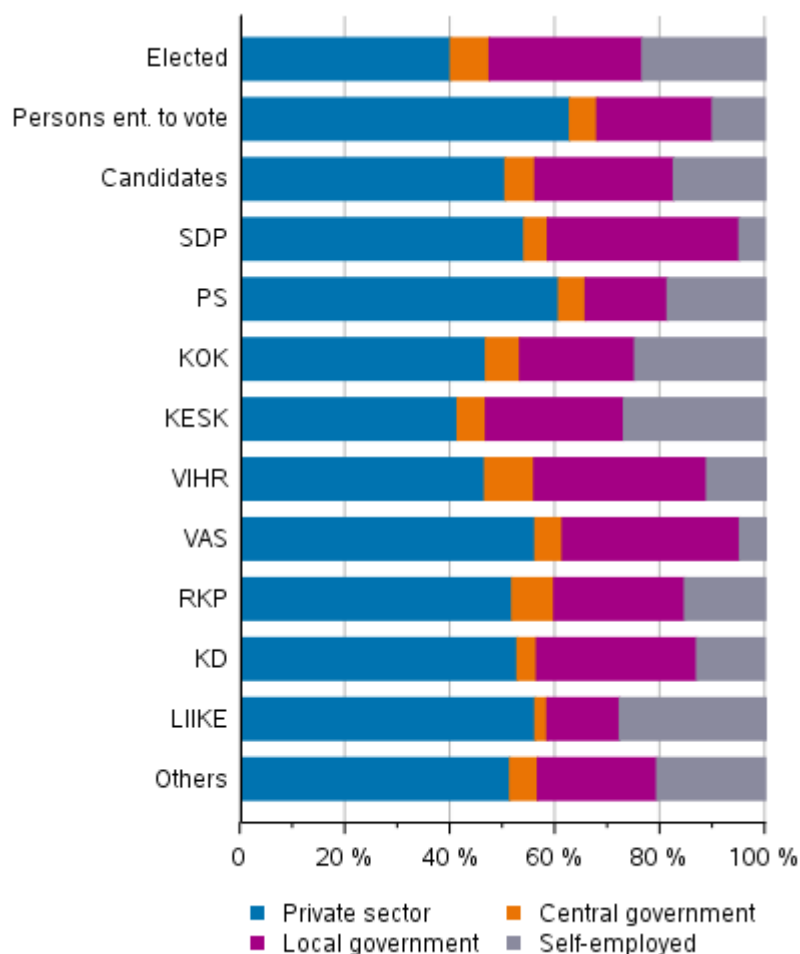
Employed persons can be divided by occupational status into wage and salary earners and entrepreneurs. In addition, wage and salary earners can be further divided according to the employer sector into private sector, central government and local government wage and salary earners. One-half of employed candidates work in the private sector and close on one third in the public sector. Around 18 per cent of the candidates are self-employed.

The employer type varies very much by party. The number of entrepreneurs is highest among the employed candidates of Movement Now, the Centre Party and the Coalition Party, while the number of wage and salary earners in the local government sector is highest among the Social Democratic Party candidates (36.5%). Around one-third of the Left Alliance and Green League candidates also work in the local government sector. Of employed persons entitled to vote, ten per cent are self-employed and around 22 per cent are wage and salary earners in the local government sector.

The highest proportions of central government sector wage and salary earners are found among the candidates of the Green League (9.4%) and the Swedish People's Party (8.0%). Around five per cent of employed persons entitled to vote work in the central government sector. (Figure 16)

Of elected councillors, 29 per cent work in the local government sector. All in all, 7.4 per cent of elected councillors work in the central government sector, 40 per cent in the private sector and 23 per cent as entrepreneurs.

**Figure 16. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by employer sector in Municipal elections 2021, %**



The public sector employs candidates most in the largest municipalities with over 50,000 inhabitants. Slightly over one-third of the candidates and nearly one-half of the elected councillors employed in these municipalities work as wage and salary earners in the local or central government sector. In these municipalities, especially the share of candidates and elected councillors working in the central government sector is higher than in smaller municipalities. In small municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants, the share of self-employed persons among employed candidates is nearly one-quarter and 31 per cent of elected councillors. (Table 10)

**Table 10. Candidates and elected councillors by employer sector and size of municipality in Municipal elections 2021, %**

		Size category of municipality (population at the end of 2020, %)						
		Total	-4,999	5,000-9,999	10,000-19,999	20,000-49,999	50,000-99,999	100,000+
Persons ent. to vote	Private sector	62.7	53.0	57.5	60.8	63.5	59.7	66.2
	Central government	5.2	2.7	3.2	3.3	4.0	5.8	6.8
	Local government	22.0	25.1	24.2	23.6	22.5	25.5	19.5
	Self-employed	10.0	19.1	15.1	12.2	10.0	9.1	7.6
Candidates	Private sector	50.4	44.0	48.0	49.9	52.6	51.5	55.8
	Central government	5.7	3.4	4.1	4.1	5.6	7.8	9.6
	Local government	26.4	26.5	27.2	27.4	26.5	27.8	23.5
	Self-employed	17.5	26.1	20.7	18.6	15.3	12.9	11.1
Elected	Private sector	40.0	37.2	40.7	40.7	41.9	40.5	41.8
	Central government	7.4	3.9	4.6	5.8	9.3	13.1	23.2
	Local government	29.1	28.0	28.6	30.0	30.4	33.1	26.0
	Self-employed	23.5	30.9	26.1	23.5	18.4	13.3	9.0

## 1.7. Family status

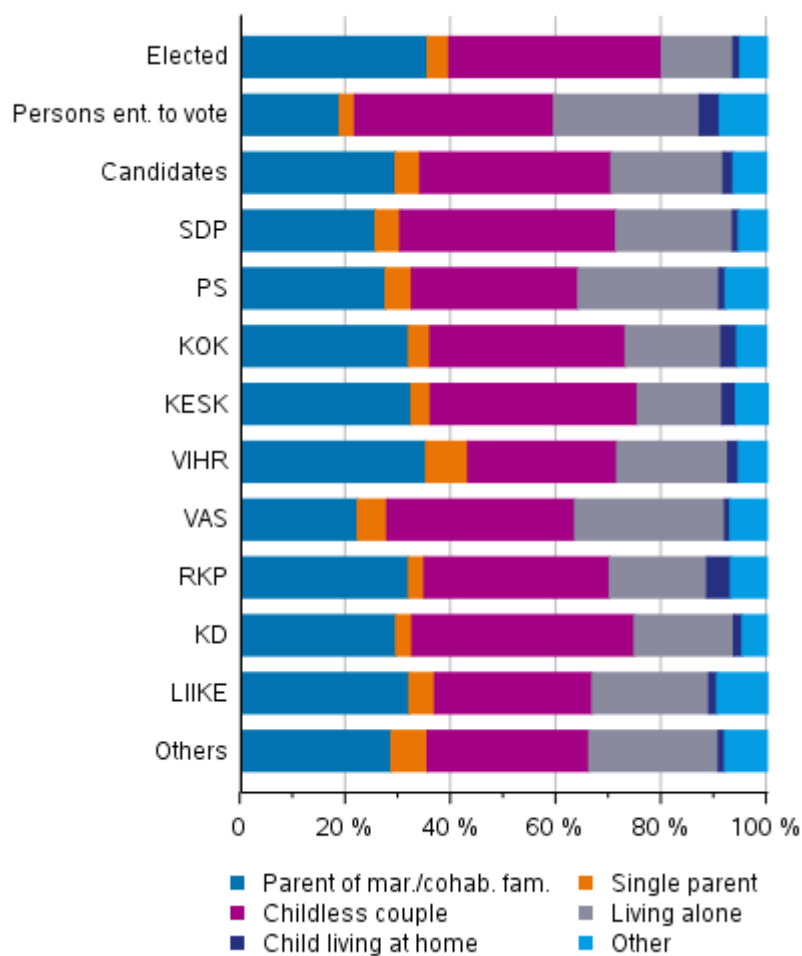
### Forty per cent of elected councillors are parents of a family with children

The candidates also differ in their family status from the persons entitled to vote: considerably more (34%) of the candidates are parents of a family with children than among persons entitled to vote (22%) and fewer candidates live alone (21%) than persons entitled to vote (28%). There are also fewer young people living at home among the candidates. 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 large part of persons entitled to vote, children have already moved away from home, while most candidates are at an age when children are still living at home. (Figure 17, Table 11)

The Green League has the most candidates that are parents of a family with children, 43 per cent. The Left Alliance has the least candidates that still have children aged under 18 living at home. The Swedish People's Party has the most young people aged under 25 still living at home (4.5%) and the Left Alliance has the most persons living alone (28.5%) among their candidates.

Of the elected councillors, nearly 40 per cent are parents of a family with children, which is more than the average for candidates and persons entitled to vote. By contrast, there are clearly fewer persons living alone among the elected councillors (13.6%) than among persons entitled to vote of whom over one quarter are living alone. The Green League has the most candidates that are parents of a family, nearly 52 per cent. The Left Alliance has the least elected councillors that are parents of a family, around 33 per cent.

**Figure 17. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by family status in Municipal elections 2021, %**



**Table 11. Persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors by party and by family status in the Municipal elections 2021, %**

		Parent of mar./cohab. fam.	Single parent	Childless couple	Living alone	Child living at home	Other
	Persons ent. to vote	18.8	2.9	37.8	27.7	3.8	9.0
Candidates	Candidates	29.4	4.7	36.3	21.3	1.9	6.3
	Centre Party of Finland KESK	32.4	3.7	39.3	16.1	2.6	6.1
	National Coalition Party KOK	31.9	4.1	37.1	18.2	3.0	5.6
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	25.6	4.7	41.0	22.2	1.1	5.4
	Left Alliance VAS	22.2	5.6	35.7	28.5	1.0	7.0
	Green League VIHR	35.2	8.0	28.3	21.1	2.0	5.4
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	29.5	3.1	42.2	18.9	1.6	4.7
	Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	31.9	3.0	35.2	18.5	4.5	6.9
	The Finns Party PS	27.5	5.0	31.6	26.8	1.2	8.0
	Movement Now LIIKE	32.0	4.9	29.9	22.2	1.5	9.6
	Others	28.6	6.9	30.7	24.6	1.2	8.0
	Elected	Elected	35.5	4.1	40.4	13.6	1.3
Centre Party of Finland KESK		36.9	2.8	43.0	10.8	1.6	4.9
National Coalition Party KOK		38.3	3.4	38.9	12.6	1.8	5.0
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP		29.2	4.9	46.7	14.0	0.7	4.6
Left Alliance VAS		27.6	4.9	44.1	18.3	0.8	4.3
Green League VIHR		43.9	7.9	24.9	14.5	2.5	6.2
Christian Democrats in Finland KD		33.8	2.3	53.7	9.0	-	1.3
Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP		36.5	1.9	42.1	11.2	1.9	6.3
The Finns Party PS		35.8	5.5	32.7	18.7	0.6	6.7
Movement Now LIIKE		40.8	4.1	34.7	14.3	-	6.1
Others		39.2	6.4	32.8	14.9	0.7	6.1

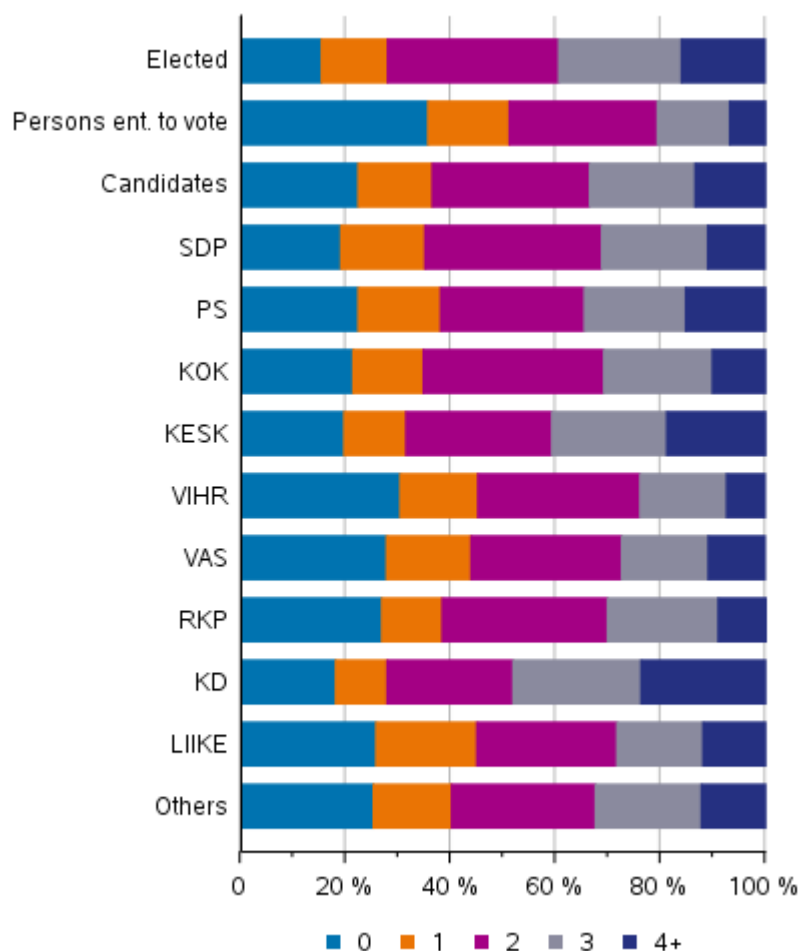
**Candidates and elected councillors have more children than average**

Family status does not reveal how many have or have had children of their own, because in older families, children may have already moved away from home and in family break-ups, children may live with their other parent. This can, however, be examined based on the number of children recorded in the Finnish Population Information System.

Candidates and elected councillors have more children than average. Around 78 per cent of the candidates and 85 per cent of the elected councillors have children of their own. The corresponding share for persons entitled to vote is 65 per cent. Children are the most numerous among the Christian Democrats, of whom 24 per cent have at least four children, and among the Centre Party candidates, of whom 19 per cent have four or more children. Large families are rarer for the Green League candidates (Figure 18).

In all, 36 per cent of the persons entitled to vote and 22 per cent of the candidates have never had or do not yet have children of their own. The proportion of childless candidates varies from 18 per cent for the Christian Democrats to 30 per cent for the Green League.

**Figure 18. Persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected councillors by number of children in Municipal elections 2021, %**



On average, the candidates have two children. All persons entitled to vote have an average of 1.5 children. The number of children is highest among the Christian Democrat candidates, 2.5 children and among the Centre Party candidates, 2.4 children. The Green League candidates have the lowest number of children, 1.6. Men entitled to vote have slightly fewer children than women, but there are not much of a difference between sexes among the candidates. (Table 12)

Elected councillors have an average of 2.3 children. The number of children is highest among the Christian Democrat candidates, 3.1 children, on average, and lowest among the Green League candidates, 1.7 children.

**Table 12. Persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors by party and by number of children (on average) in the Municipal elections 2021**

		Total	Male	Female
	Persons ent. to vote	1.5	1.4	1.6
Candidates	Candidates	2.0	2.0	2.0
	Centre Party of Finland KESK	2.4	2.4	2.4
	National Coalition Party KOK	1.9	1.9	1.9
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	1.9	1.8	2.0
	Left Alliance VAS	1.7	1.7	1.7
	Green League VIHR	1.6	1.5	1.6
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	2.5	2.5	2.4
	Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	1.8	1.8	1.7
	The Finns Party PS	2.0	1.9	2.2
	Movement Now LIIKE	1.7	1.7	1.8
	Others	1.9	1.8	2.0
Elected	Elected	2.3	2.3	2.2
	Centre Party of Finland KESK	2.7	2.7	2.6
	National Coalition Party KOK	2.1	2.1	2.1
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	2.1	2.1	2.1
	Left Alliance VAS	2.0	2.1	1.9
	Green League VIHR	1.7	1.7	1.7
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	3.1	3.4	2.7
	Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	2.0	2.0	2.1
	The Finns Party PS	2.2	2.2	2.2
	Movement Now LIIKE	2.1	2.2	2.0
	Others	2.4	2.5	2.3

## 1.8. Income level

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

The following examines the persons entitled to vote and the candidates by their disposable income. Income data derive from the latest confirmed taxation from 2019. Disposable monetary income refers to the monetary income after taxes that consists of earned income, property income, and transfer income.

Candidates and elected councillors are more highly educated and a larger share of them are also working than among persons entitled to vote. This partly explains why their income level is also higher than that of persons entitled to vote. The median disposable income of persons entitled to vote was EUR 22,300 in 2019, while that of candidates was EUR 28,400 and of elected councillors EUR 33,700. The candidates' disposable income is, on average, 27 per cent higher than that of persons entitled to vote. Disposable income is highest in Uusimaa both for persons entitled to vote (EUR 24,900 per year), candidates (EUR 31,100 per year) and elected councillors (EUR 39,400 per year). (Table 13)

In euros, the income differential between the candidates and persons entitled to vote is largest in South Karelia, where the median income of the candidates is over EUR 8,500 higher than that of persons entitled to vote. In Satakunta, South Savo, Päijät-Häme and Kanta-Häme the candidates' median income is also over EUR 7,000 higher than that of persons entitled to vote. Income differentials are smallest in Lapland, Central Ostrobothnia and North Savo, under EUR 6,000.

**Table 13. Median disposable income (EUR per year) of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors by region in the Municipal elections 2021**

	Persons entit. to vote			Candidates			Elected		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
MAINLAND FINLAND	22,300	24,200	20,800	28,400	29,000	27,700	33,700	34,900	32,100
Uusimaa	24,900	26,900	23,400	31,100	31,900	30,100	39,400	41,600	37,900
Varsinais-Suomi	21,900	23,800	20,400	28,600	29,800	27,500	34,200	36,200	32,400
Satakunta	21,300	23,500	19,600	28,900	29,800	28,000	33,400	35,100	31,400
Kanta-Häme	22,200	24,200	20,600	29,400	29,600	29,000	35,300	36,100	34,100
Pirkanmaa	21,700	23,800	20,200	27,900	29,000	26,400	33,400	35,900	31,500
Päijät-Häme	21,300	23,300	19,800	28,700	29,000	27,700	35,400	37,800	32,300
Kymenlaakso	21,200	23,600	19,300	27,700	28,500	26,500	35,000	35,400	33,700
South Karelia	20,800	23,000	19,200	29,300	29,800	28,300	34,900	36,200	33,100
Etelä-Savo	20,200	21,500	19,200	27,700	27,900	27,100	31,300	31,600	30,600
Pohjois-Savo	20,900	22,400	19,700	26,800	26,900	26,400	31,800	32,900	30,600
North Karelia	19,600	20,700	18,700	25,700	25,800	25,100	30,900	32,500	28,600
Central Finland	20,800	22,700	19,400	26,800	27,200	26,500	32,100	33,400	31,000
South Ostrobothnia	21,100	22,700	19,700	28,000	28,500	27,500	33,600	34,700	31,000
Ostrobothnia	22,000	24,300	20,100	28,300	29,600	26,800	33,200	34,700	30,800
Central Ostrobothnia	21,500	23,700	19,700	27,300	28,100	26,900	31,400	31,500	31,000
North Ostrobothnia	21,700	23,500	20,200	27,700	28,300	27,000	32,200	34,100	30,900
Kainuu	20,600	22,000	19,400	27,200	27,600	26,500	30,900	31,000	30,300
Lapland	21,400	22,800	20,300	27,100	27,600	26,700	31,600	33,300	29,600

#### **Candidates and elected councillors from the Coalition Party have the highest income**

The median for the candidates' disposable monetary income varies by party from EUR 33,900 in the Coalition Party to EUR 25,100 in the Left Alliance. The median income of the Swedish People's Party candidates is EUR 31,500 and that of the Centre Party 30,000. Compared with persons entitled to vote, the candidates of the Coalition Party have over EUR 11,000 more at their disposal per year. The candidates for the Left Alliance are closest to persons entitled to vote in terms of their income level. Their annual disposable income is EUR 2,800 higher than that of persons entitled to vote. (Table 14)

The median disposable income of elected councillors is EUR 33,700 per year, which is over EUR 11,000 more than the median income of persons entitled to vote. Future councillors from the Coalition Party have the highest income. On average, they have EUR 41,100 per year at their disposal. The councillors elected from the Left Alliance have the lowest income. The median for their disposable monetary income is around EUR 29,300 per year.



**Table 14. Median disposable income (EUR per year) of persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors by party in the Municipal elections 2021**

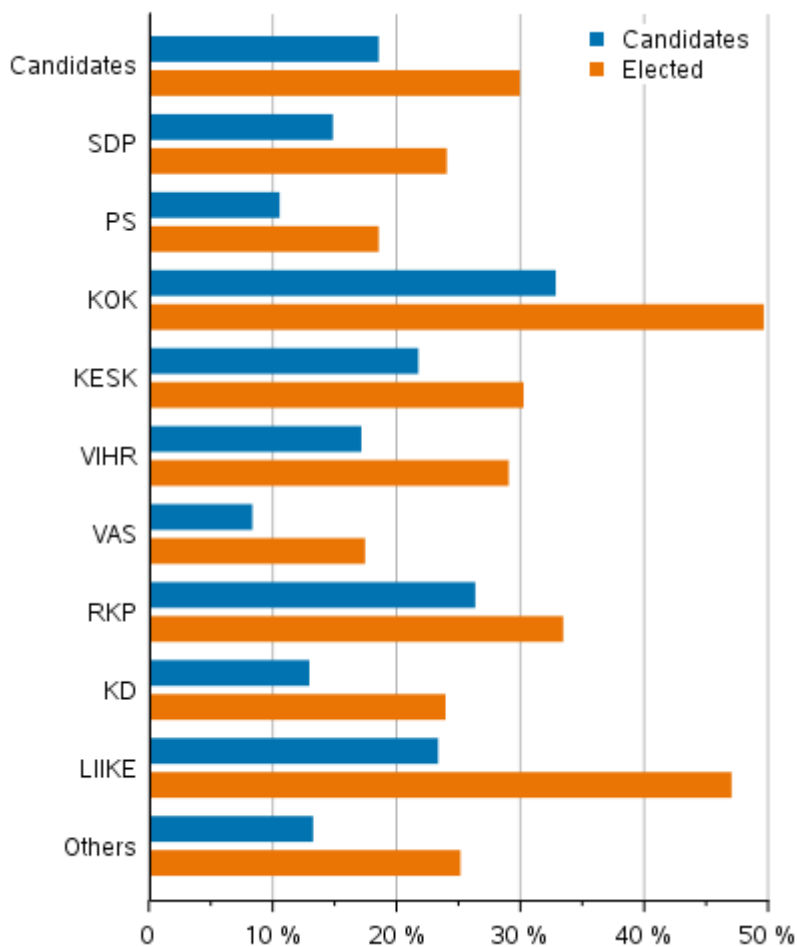
		Total	Male	Female
	Persons ent. to vote	22,300	24,200	20,800
Candidates	Candidates	28,400	29,000	27,700
	Centre Party of Finland KESK	30,000	31,300	28,600
	National Coalition Party KOK	33,900	35,900	31,800
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	28,700	29,200	28,000
	Left Alliance VAS	25,100	25,100	25,100
	Green League VIHR	28,700	29,300	28,300
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	25,800	26,300	25,200
	Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	31,500	33,700	29,400
	The Finns Party PS	25,400	25,900	23,600
	Movement Now LIIKE	29,000	30,000	26,100
	Others	25,200	25,700	24,500
Elected	Elected	33,700	34,900	32,100
	Centre Party of Finland KESK	33,800	35,600	31,600
	National Coalition Party KOK	41,100	43,900	37,700
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	32,400	33,200	31,400
	Left Alliance VAS	29,300	29,700	29,000
	Green League VIHR	34,800	36,600	34,400
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	33,100	34,500	30,000
	Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	35,400	37,200	32,600
	The Finns Party PS	30,200	30,700	28,600
	Movement Now LIIKE	39,900	40,700	37,400
	Others	32,600	33,600	31,300

When the population entitled to vote is arranged according to income and divided into ten equal parts, the income deciles of the population entitled to vote are generated. Each of these has slightly under 440,000 persons. The highest income decile of the population entitled to vote has at least EUR 41,400 at their disposal and the lowest income decile at most EUR 9,400.

Among all candidates, 18 per cent belong to the highest income decile and of the elected councillors nearly 30 per cent. The Coalition Party candidates and elected councillors were at the higher end of the income distribution. Thirty-seven per cent of male Coalition Party candidates and 25 per cent of female candidates belong to the highest income decile. Among the candidates of the Swedish People's Party, around 32 per cent of men and 19 per cent of women belong to the highest income decile. Nearly one-half of those elected from the Coalition Party belong to the highest income decile and around one-third of elected councillors from the Swedish People's Party. Around 47 per cent of the elected councillors from Movement Now belonged to the highest income decile, although the share of the candidates was under one quarter. (Figure 19)

There are fewer women in the highest income decile among persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors. The biggest difference between sexes is found among the Movement Now, Swedish People's Party, the Coalition Party and the Centre Party candidates. In these parties, there are over ten percentage points more men in the highest income decile than women. The difference is smallest among Left Alliance candidates where around three percentage points more men than women belong to the highest income decile. Around one-third of the elected men belong to the highest income decile and close on one-quarter of the elected women.

**Figure 19. Candidates and elected councillors (by party) belonging to the highest income decile in Municipal elections 2021, % of the party's candidates (disposable monetary income)**

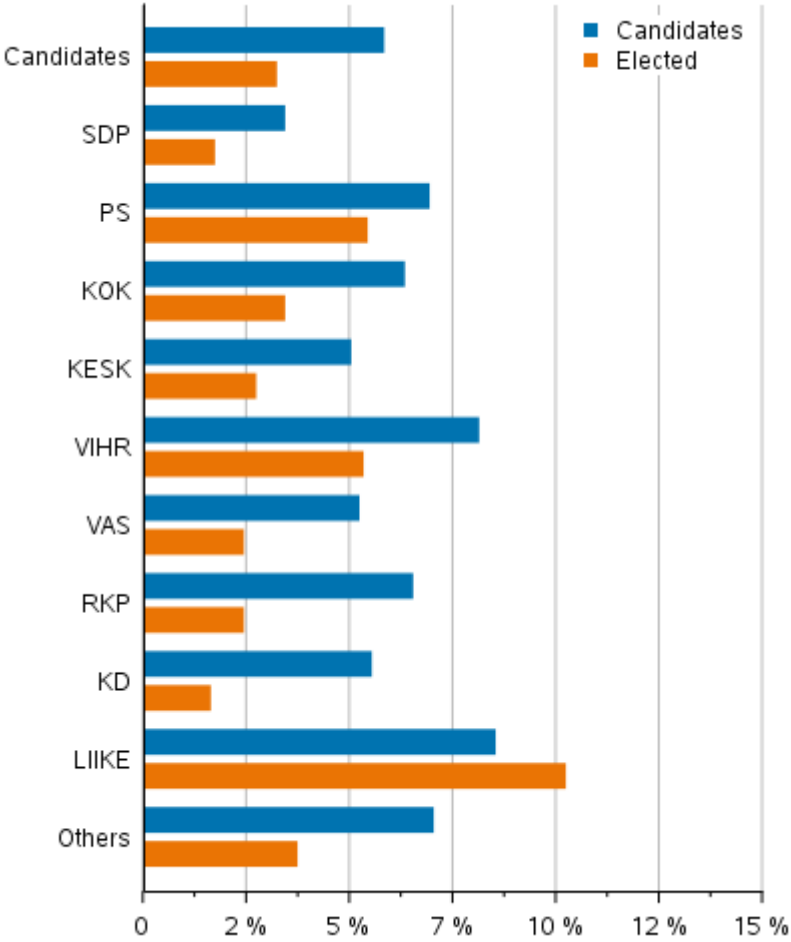


Slightly under six per cent of the candidates belong to the lowest income decile. Examined by party, the highest proportion of candidates belong to the lowest income decile in Movement Now and the Green League, slightly over eight per cent. The Social Democrats have the least candidates belonging to the lowest income decile, slightly over three per cent. (Figure 20)

In the lowest income decile the share of men is also higher than that of women both among persons entitled to vote and candidates. A larger share of female candidates than male candidates belong to the lowest income decile only among Left Alliance, Swedish People’s Party and Movement Now candidates. However, the difference between sexes is not as large as in the shares of those belonging to the highest income decile.

Only around three per cent of the elected councillors belong to the lowest income decile. Although a majority of the elected councillors from Movement Now belonged to the highest income decile, they are also more numerous in the lowest income decile than on average among the elected councillors or candidates. Around ten per cent of the elected councillors of Movement Now belong to the lowest income decile, which is the same as among persons entitled to vote.

**Figure 20. Candidates and elected councillors (by party) belonging to the lowest income decile in Municipal elections 2021, % of the party's candidates (disposable monetary income)**



# Municipal elections, quality description

## 1. Relevance of statistical information

### 1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

Statistics Finland produces official statistics on the municipal elections. The main content of the statistics is: the numbers and shares of votes gained by the parties divided into votes received in advance voting and on the actual election day, the council seats gained by the parties, the numbers and shares of votes gained by the candidates and the number of elected councillors by party, the number of persons entitled to vote and those who voted by sex, and the number of persons who voted by sex.

The statistics pages on municipal elections also contain analyses on the backgrounds of the candidates and elected councillors, as well as on those who voted.

Starting from 2004, the data can also be found by voting district in Statistics Finland's StatFin statistical database.

### 1.2 Essential concepts

#### *General*

In the municipal elections councillors are elected to municipal councils. At the beginning of 2021, the number of municipalities is 293 in Mainland Finland (and 16 in Åland).

The municipal elections are held in accordance with the division of municipalities that came into effect at the beginning of the election year (2021) (the division of voting districts came into force on 1 January 2021, based on the decisions on the voting district division reported by municipalities to the Digital and Population Data Services Agency by 31 August 2020).

*\*If municipal elections are held in the year preceding a change in the municipal division entering into force, they must be held in accordance with the new municipal division in the municipalities to which the change applies..*

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

#### *Legislation on elections*

The first act concerning municipal elections was enacted in 1917. With the revision of election legislation in 1998 all provisions on elections were collected into one single act, the Election Act (714/1998), which entered into force on 8 October 1998. The provisions concerning municipal elections are included in it and in the Local Government Act 410/2015.

The amendment of the Election Act (563/2015) entered into force on 1 June 2015 when the name of the elections was changed in Finnish to 'kuntavaalit' and the time for holding the elections was changed from October to April. Municipal elections are held every four years on the third Sunday of April. If the third Sunday falls on Easter Sunday or the Sunday after it, the election day moves to the Sunday preceding Easter Sunday (Election Act 563/2015, Section 144). In the municipalities of the autonomous territory of the Åland Islands elections [www.val.ax](http://www.val.ax) are also arranged every four years (**next in October 2023**), but at a different time than in Mainland Finland. Elections are held in accordance with the Election Act in force, (Election Act in force [www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/1998/en19980714](http://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/1998/en19980714) ), more details on the Ministry of Justice's web pages [www.vaalit.fi](http://www.vaalit.fi) (=> Legislation) and [www.finlex.fi](http://www.finlex.fi), Election Act (714/1998). In municipal elections advance voting was possible abroad for the first time in 2000.

The amendment to the Election Act (939/2017), which allowed postal voting for Finnish citizens not resident in Finland and other voters staying abroad at the time of the elections, was confirmed on 14 December 2017 and it came into force on 1 November 2018. Postal voting was used for the first time in the 2019 Parliamentary elections and after that in the 2019 European Parliament elections. Government bill for an act on amendment to the Election Act (HE 101/2017).

The amendment to the Election Act (1223/2018) included some technical reviews, such as a change in the timetable of decisions concerning the division of voting districts and the possibility of sending an electronic notification of the right to vote (notification card) to persons entitled to vote.

The amendment to the Election Act (1132/2019) was connected to the establishment of the Digital and Population Data Services Agency on 1 January 2020.

Because of health and safety risks related to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), it was announced on 6 March 2021 that the municipal elections 2021 would be postponed.

The postponement of the municipal elections required amendment to the Election Act (HE 33/2021, PeVM 4/2021, EV 31/2021), the act (256/202) on the postponement of the municipal elections 2021 was confirmed on 29 March 2021.

### *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 persons they want to be elected.
- **The elections are proportional.** In proportional elections each party (or other group) gains seats in relation to the votes cast for it compared with the votes cast for other groups (not in presidential elections).
- **The elections are secret.** Secrecy of the ballot means that neither the election authorities nor anyone else get to know for whom voters have cast their votes or whether they have returned an empty ballot. By contrast, the information on whether a person entitled to vote has exercised his/her right, i.e. actually voted, is not covered by the secret of the ballot.
- **The right to vote is universal and equal.** Universal franchise means that the right to vote only depends on requirements which citizens usually fulfil. Equal franchise means that every person entitled to vote has an equal right to influence the election results. In general elections everybody has one vote.
- **Voting is personal.** The right to vote may not be used through an agent.
- **Voting must take place in front of election authorities.** An exception is postal voting that does not take place in front of election authorities. In postal voting, the voter needs to have two witnesses who attest, by their signatures, that voting has taken place in such a manner that election secrecy has been preserved and electoral freedom respected while voting.
- **The Finnish election system is a combination of voting for individuals and parties,** where a vote goes to both a party and a person (not in presidential elections).

### *Right to vote and eligibility*

Entitled to vote in municipal elections are:

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

1. Citizens of Finland or another EU Member State as well as of Iceland and Norway and whose municipality of residence is the municipality in question (23 April 2021) on the 51st day before the election day; or
2. Citizens of other countries whose municipality of residence is the municipality in question (23 April 2021) on the 51st day before the election day and who at that time have had a municipality of residence in Finland for an uninterrupted period of two years; or
3. Persons employed by the EU or an international organisation in Finland and family members of such persons whose municipality of residence is the municipality in question (23 April 2021) on the 51st day before the election day, assuming that their data have upon their request been registered in the Finnish Population Information System and that they have notified to the Digital and Population Data Services Agency of their willingness to exercise the right to vote in the municipal election in writing no later than on 22 April 2021 (on the 52nd day before the election day).

Amendment to the Election Act (939/2017), which allows voting by post for Finnish citizens not resident in Finland (*NB no right to vote in municipal elections*) and other voters staying abroad at the time of the elections came into force on 1 November 2018. Postal voting was used for the first time in the 2019 Parliamentary elections and after that in the 2019 European Parliament elections.

#### *Eligibility and nomination of candidates*

##### *Eligibility*

Eligible as candidates in municipal elections are persons,

1. Whose municipality of residence is the municipality in question
2. Who are entitled to vote in municipal elections in some municipality, and
3. Who have not been declared legally incompetent.

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

As a rule, eligibility is determined in the same schedule as the person's voting municipality, that is, according to the information drawn from the Population Information System 51 days prior to the day of the election (in the 2021 Municipal elections by Friday 23 April 2021). 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 2021 Municipal election by Friday 14 May 2021 \*Ascension Day 13 May 2021), when the central election committees handle and decide the additions made to the candidate applications. Decisions on the candidates' municipality of residence are made based on the information in the Population Information System.

##### *Nomination of candidates*

Candidates in municipal elections may be nominated by

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

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

A constituency association for the nomination of one candidate may be established by at least ten people who are entitled to vote in the municipality. In a municipality where the population at the end of November in the year preceding the election year is at most 1,500, a constituency association can be established by at least three people who are entitled to vote. If the municipality's population is 1,501 to 2,000, a minimum of five people who are entitled to vote can establish a constituency association. Constituency associations may form joint lists with a maximum number of candidates equalling the number of councillors to be elected multiplied by one and a half.

Parties and constituency associations must deliver their lists of candidates (candidate application) to the central election committee of the municipality 40 days before the elections (by 9 March 2021 by 4 pm at the latest, possible to supplement until 4 May 2021). By the same deadline, notifications of electoral alliances and of joint electoral lists must also be delivered to the central election committee.

The central election committee of each municipality will publish no later than 1 March 2021 (on the 48th day before the election day) a notification indicating to whom, on which days and at which time and in which place candidate applications and notices are received.

The central election committee of the municipality checks the lists of candidates and in particular that the candidates are eligible and confirms the nomination of candidates on the 31st day prior to the day of the election (14 May 2021). 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 combination of lists of candidates can be seen in the polling booth, for example.

The number of councillors elected depends on the population of the municipality (data at the end of 30 November of the year preceding the election year).

*Local Government Act 410/2015, Section 16*

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

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

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

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

*Voting register*

The Digital and Population Data Services Agency compiles a register of everyone entitled to vote (voting register) 46 days before the election day. The voting register includes personal data on each person entitled to vote (name, personal identity code, constituency, municipality of domicile and polling station) included in the Population Information System on the 51st day prior to the election day. The voting register is established based on the information included in the Population Information System on 23 April 2021.

The voting register is publicly available at the Digital and Population Data Services Agency from 41 days before the election day onwards (i.e. from 03 May 2021). 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 (20 May 2021). 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 rectification concerning the voting register must be made to the Digital and Population Data Services Agency not later than 16 days before the election day (28 May 2021). The Digital and Population Data Services Agency will decide the claims for rectification not later than on 25 May 2021.

The voting register becomes legally valid at noon 12 days prior to the election day, that is, on Tuesday 25 May 2021 at noon.

*Voting*

Persons with a right to vote can vote either 1) during advance voting, or 2) on the election Sunday (13 June 2021).

Advance votes in Finland (26 to 23 May 2021) 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 (2 to 5 June 2021) are cast at Finnish embassies and their trade missions and Finnish vessels (possible to start already on 25 May 2021). General advance polling stations abroad are the Finnish embassies and their trade missions specified in a Government decree. Each person entitled to vote can vote in advance in general advance polling stations in Finland and abroad at Finnish embassies. Anyone entitled to vote in municipal elections can cast their vote at embassies regardless of which country or municipality the person lives in. Thus, for example, persons entitled to vote that are on holiday or working on a posting abroad can cast their vote at embassies.

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

A voter need not give grounds for advance voting but may freely choose between voting in advance or voting on the election day.

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

*Calculation of the result of the municipal elections*

*Counting the advance votes*

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

*Counting the votes cast on the election day*

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

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

*Determination of the election results*

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

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

is counted.

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

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

In *the final stage* all candidates within the municipality are listed in order from best to worst according to their comparative index, and the representatives elected from the municipality are chosen from this list.

### **Communication of preliminary results**



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

### **Control calculation and confirmation of election results**

The Electoral District Committees start the control calculation of ballots on the Monday following the election day at 9 am. The results of the control calculation must be finished on the following Wednesday, 16 June 2021 at 6 pm at which time the Electoral District Committees confirm the final election results in the constituencies.

### **The term of office of the councils to be elected in 2021 will start on 1 September 2021 and will run until the end of May 2025.**

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

Municipalities are placed into constituencies according to the constituency division in force. At the beginning of 2021, the number of municipalities is 293 in Mainland Finland (and 16 in Åland).

The valid statistical grouping of municipalities is used in the statistics (Statistics Finland, Municipalities and Regional Divisions Based on Municipalities). The municipal elections are held in accordance with the division of municipalities that came into effect at the beginning of the election year (2021) (the division of voting districts came into force on 1 January 2021, based on the decisions on the voting district division reported by municipalities to the Digital and Population Data Services Agency by 31 August 2020).

According to Section 23, Paragraph 1 of the act on municipal structures (1698/2009), municipal elections held in a year preceding a change in the municipal division taking effect are held in accordance with the new municipal division. This applies to those changes in the municipal division that enter into force on 1 January 2022. According to the reasoning of the Government proposal (HE 268/2014 vp), the Prime Minister's Office must in such cases make a decision concerning a change in the municipal division by the end of the year preceding the election (the year 2020).

At the beginning of 2021, the municipality of Honkajoki (099) was annexed to the town of Kankaanpää (214), the constituency remained unchanged as Satakunta (04). Nurmes (541) and Valtimo (911) were annexed to Nurmes (541) at the beginning of 2020, the constituency remained unchanged as Savo-Karelia (09).

At the beginning of 2021, five municipalities changed regions:

Kuhmoinen (291) moved from Central Finland to Pirkanmaa – *the constituency changed from Central Finland (11) to Pirkanmaa (07)*

Iitti (142) from Kymenlaakso to Päijät-Häme – *the constituency changed from Southeast Finland (08) to Häme (06)*

Joroinen (171) from South Savo to North Savo – *the constituency changed from Southeast Finland (08) to Savo-Karelia (09)*

Heinävesi from South Savo to North Karelia – *the constituency changed from Southeast Finland (08) to Savo-Karelia (09)*

Isokyrö from Ostrobothnia to South Ostrobothnia

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 locality delimitation made once a year and the information on the locality population derived from it.

Concept of urban settlement: An urban settlement is a cluster of dwellings with at least 200 inhabitants. The definition of urban settlement is based on the definitions made by the Finnish Environment Institute with geographic information methods utilising the building and population data of Statistics Finland's 250m x 250m grid data.

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, voting district, party (entered in the Party Register), age of the candidates and elected, country of residence.

*Candidates have been nominated in the Municipal elections 2021 by the following registered parties (19/21):*

- Finnish Social Democratic Party (SDP)
- Centre Party of Finland (KESK)
- National Coalition Party (KOK)
- Swedish People's Party in Finland (RKP)
- Christian Democrats in Finland (KD)
- Green League (VIHR)
- Left Alliance (VAS)
- Finns Party (PS)
- Liberal Party - Freedom to Choose (LIBE)
- Pirate Party of Finland (Pirate p.)
- Animal Justice Party of Finland (EOP)
- Citizens' Party (KP)
- Feminist Party (Femin. p.)
- Blue Reform (SIN)
- Finnish Nation First (SKE)
- Movement Now (LIIKE)
- Open Party (AP)
- Finnish Communist Party (SKP)
- Crystal Party (KRIP)

#### *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 TietoEVRY.

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

According to the Statistics Act (280/2004, amend. 361/2013), the task of the National Statistical Service is to provide for general use statistics describing social conditions and their development. The Act on Statistics Finland (24.1.1992/48) assigns the task to Statistics Finland.

## **2. Methodological description of the survey**

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

1. Basic data and geographical information system that includes, for example, data on constituencies, municipalities and voting districts and election authorities as well as polling stations (polling station register, which include data on general advance polling stations and polling stations on election day);
2. Data on parties and candidates (candidate register) in which the following data on each candidate in the elections are entered: name, candidate number, profession, municipality of residence, party/constituency association that has nominated the candidate, and personal identity code (14 May 2021); The data on candidates also include the party register;
3. Franchise data (voting register), for which data on every person entitled to vote are collected by the Digital and Population Data Services Agency on the 46th day (23 April 2021) prior to the election day. The voting register is formed separately for each election. The voting register includes personal data on each person entitled to vote (name, personal identity code, constituency, municipality of domicile and polling station) included in the Population Information System on the 51st day (23 April 2021) prior to the election day. The voting register gains legal force at 12 noon on the 12th day (25 May 2021) prior to the election day. The voting register is in use in the advance polling stations and every person that votes in advance is marked in the register. After the advance voting, electoral rolls for the polling stations on the election day are printed from the register. The voting register can, however, also be used in the polling stations instead of the electoral rolls on the election day. After the election, the data of the voting register are destroyed;
4. A centralised result calculation system to which the electoral district committees and the central election committees submit their results of the elections;
5. The result service system (statistical and information service system) by means of which the results of the elections and other statistical data are transmitted to the media and to the Statistics Finland.

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

### **Background analysis of candidates and elected councillors**

In connection with the election statistics, a background analysis is produced on persons entitled to vote, candidates nominated by the parties and elected representatives. The population of persons entitled to vote is based on the voting register (data drawn from the Population Information System on 23 April 2021) and the candidates on the candidate register of the Ministry of Justice. The background data on the persons combined with these registers are based on statistical data from Statistics Finland such as population, family and employment statistics, and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees. Of the persons entitled to vote only those resident in Finland are included in the review.

The analysis describes the persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected councillors with regard to certain variables. The background data usually relate to the years 2018 to 2020. More recent data than that have not been available. The person's age is the age on the day of the election in full years.

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

#### *Constituency*

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

#### *Foreign background*

Foreign background is examined by means of two variables, that is, native language or origin. Persons whose native language is not Finnish, Swedish or Sami are regarded by language as coming from a foreign background. Persons whose both parents or the only parent were born abroad are regarded by origin as coming from a foreign background. The data are from the year 2020.

#### *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
- Aged 0 to 14
- 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 2019.

#### *Family status*

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

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

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

The data on the person's family status are from the year 2020.

#### *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 2020.

#### *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 qualifications have 12 years of education. These qualifications include matriculation examination and initial vocational qualifications attained in three years, which also give general eligibility for further studies at universities and universities of applied sciences.

Further and specialist vocational qualifications are further vocational education. In this review, they have been included in the same category as upper secondary level qualifications.

Lowest level tertiary education lasts two to three years after upper secondary level education. Such education includes qualifications of a technician engineer, diploma in business and administration, and diploma in nursing completed at educational institutes prior to the reform of the university of applied sciences.

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

Completion of higher-degree level tertiary education requires as a rule five to six years of full-time studies after upper secondary level education. Higher-degree level tertiary education includes higher university of applied sciences degrees, 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.

Data on a person's education derive from Statistics Finland's Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2019.

#### *Disposable monetary income*

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

The data are from the year 2019.

#### *Median income*

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

#### *Dual citizenship*

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

#### *Income subject to state taxation*

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

#### *Occupation*

Occupation has been examined with the help of the Classification of Occupations 2010, which describes the occupational structure of society.

The data are from the year 2018.

#### *Socio-economic group*

The socio-economic group refers to a person's position in society. The formation of the socio-economic group for a person is based on information on the person's main type of activity, occupation, occupational status and industry.

The used classification of socio-economic groups is as follows:

- Self-employed persons
- Farmers and forestry entrepreneurs
- Self-employed persons, not in agriculture and forestry
- Upper-level employees
- Lower-level employees
- Workers
- Unknown

The data are from the year 2018.

#### *Employer sector*

The employer sector classification describes the ownership and enterprise form of the workplace. It can be used to make a distinction between the public and private sectors, for example.

The classification used is as follows:

- Private sector (incl. state majority-owned limited companies)
- State
- Municipality
- Other or unknown

Data on the employer sector are based on the data in Statistics Finland's Register of Enterprises and Establishments on the type of owner and legal form of enterprises.

The data are from the year 2018.

### 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 councillors, whereby even their mutual order may change.

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

The first data, or preliminary statistics are published as soon as possible on the Internet, in the StatFin service and on the statistics pages on Municipal elections. Election data by municipality and voting district (from 2004) and the numbers of votes gained by elected councillors are entered in the StatFin service.

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

### 6. Comparability of statistics

The municipal division of the election year is used in the statistics. If municipal elections are held in the year preceding a change in municipal division entering into force, they must be held in accordance with the new municipal division in the municipalities to which the change applies. The 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 considered in the statistics which contain comparative data with the previous elections.

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

## Municipal merges in Municipal elections 1976 to 2021

Abolished municipality	Name of new or expanding municipality	Date
<b>07 Hämeen läänin pohj. constituency</b>	<b>07 Hämeen läänin pohj. constituency</b>	
852 Tottijärvi	536 Nokia	1.1.1976
<b>02 Uudenmaan läänin constituency</b>	<b>02 Uudenmaan läänin constituency</b>	
756 Snappertuna	835 Tammisaari	1.1.1977
836 Tammisaaren mlk	835 Tammisaari	1.1.1977
034 Bromarv, osa	842 Tenhola	1.1.1977
034 Bromarv, osa	835 Tammisaari	1.1.1977
<b>03 Turun läänin eteläinen constituency</b>	<b>03 Turun läänin eteläinen constituency</b>	
222 Karjala	503 Mynämäki	1.1.1977
<b>06 Hämeen läänin eteläinen constituency</b>	<b>06 Hämeen läänin eteläinen constituency</b>	
760 Somerniemi	761 Somero	1.1.1977
<b>08 Kymen läänin constituency</b>	<b>08 Kymen läänin constituency</b>	
201 Karhula	285 Kotka	1.1.1977
311 Kymi	285 Kotka	1.1.1977
<b>12 Vaasan läänin constituency</b>	<b>12 Vaasan läänin constituency</b>	
621 Purmo	599 Pietarsaaren mlk.	1.1.1977
990 Ähtävä	599 Pietarsaaren mlk.	1.1.1977
203 Kaarlela	272 Kokkola	1.1.1977
<b>14 Oulun läänin constituency</b>	<b>14 Oulun läänin constituency</b>	
206 Kajaanin mlk	205 Kajaani	1.1.1977
<b>02 Uudenmaan läänin constituency</b>	<b>02 Uudenmaan läänin constituency</b>	
540 Nummi	540 Nummi-Pusula	1.1.1981
622 Pusula	540 Nummi-Pusula	1.1.1981
<b>03 Turun läänin eteläinen constituency</b>	<b>03 Turun läänin eteläinen constituency</b>	
432 Lokalahti	895 Uusikaupunki	1.1.1981
<b>03 Turun läänin pohjoinen constituency</b>	<b>03 Turun läänin pohjoinen constituency</b>	
238 Keikyä	988 Äetsä	1.1.1981
253 Kiika	988 Äetsä	1.1.1981
<b>08 Kymen läänin constituency</b>	<b>08 Kymen läänin constituency</b>	
539 Nuijamaa	405 Lappeenranta	1.1.1989
<b>02 Uusimaa constituency</b>	<b>02 Uusimaa constituency</b>	
842 Tenhola	835 Tammisaari	1.1.1993
<b>03 Turku etel. constituency</b>	<b>03 Turku etel. constituency</b>	
209 Kalanti	895 Uusikaupunki	1.1.1993
<b>04 Turku pohj. constituency</b>	<b>04 Turku pohj. constituency</b>	
685 Rauman mlk	684 Rauma	1.1.1993
<b>13 Central Finland constituency</b>	<b>13 Central Finland constituency</b>	
274 Konginkangas	992 Äänekoski	1.1.1993
787 Säynätsalo	179 Jyväskylä	1.1.1993
<b>02 Uusimaa constituency</b>	<b>02 Uusimaa constituency</b>	
427 Lohja	444 Lohja	1.1.1997
428 Lohjan kunta	444 Lohja	1.1.1997
612 Porvoo	638 Porvoo	1.1.1997
613 Porvoon mlk	638 Porvoo	1.1.1997
<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	
088 Heinola	111 Heinola	1.1.1997
089 Heinolan mlk	111 Heinola	1.1.1997

Abolished municipality	Name of new or expanding municipality	Date
<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	
014 Anttola	491 Mikkeli	1.1.2001
492 Mikkelin mlk	491 Mikkeli	1.1.2001
<b>13 Central Finland constituency</b>	<b>13 Central Finland constituency</b>	
299 Kuorevesi	182 Jämsä	1.1.2001
<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	
841 Temmes	859 Tyrnävä	1.1.2001
<b>08 Kymi constituency</b>	<b>08 Kymi constituency</b>	
917 Vehkalahti	075 Hamina	1.1.2003
<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	
582 Pattijoki	678 Raahe	1.1.2003
<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	
184 Jäppilä	640 Pieksänmaa	1.1.2004
594 Pieksämäen mlk	640 Pieksänmaa	1.1.2004
937 Virtasalmi	640 Pieksänmaa	1.1.2004
<b>03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b>	<b>03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b>	
431 Loimaan kunta	430 Loimaa	1.1.2005
219 Karinainen	636 Pöytyä	1.1.2005
<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	
293 Kullaa	886 Ulvila	1.1.2005
<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	
730 Sahalahti	211 Kangasala	1.1.2005
<b>08 Kymi constituency</b>	<b>08 Kymi constituency</b>	
728 Saari	580 Parikkala	1.1.2005
891 Uukuniemi	580 Parikkala	1.1.2005
<b>10 North Savo constituency</b>	<b>10 North Savo constituency</b>	
919 Vehmersalmi	297 Kuopio	1.1.2005
212 Kangaslampi	915 Varkaus	1.1.2005
<b>11 North Karelia constituency</b>	<b>11 North Karelia constituency</b>	
251 Kiihtelysvaara	167 Joensuu	1.1.2005
856 Tuupovaara	167 Joensuu	1.1.2005
943 Värtsilä	848 Tohmajärvi	1.1.2005
<b>12 Vaasa constituency</b>	<b>12 Vaasa constituency</b>	
589 Peräseinäjoki	743 Seinäjoki	1.1.2005
<b>15 Lapland constituency</b>	<b>15 Lapland constituency</b>	
699 Rovaniemen mlk	698 Rovaniemi	1.1.2006
<b>13 Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b>	<b>13 Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b>	
490 Mietoinen	503 Mynämäki	1.1.2007
<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	
266 Kodisjoki	684 Rauma	1.1.2007
<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	
439 Luopioinen	635 Pälkäne	1.1.2007
772 Suodenniemi	912 Vammala	1.1.2007
864 Toijala	020 Akaa	1.1.2007
928 Viiala	020 Akaa	1.1.2007
932 Viljakkala	980 Ylöjärvi	1.1.2007
<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	
443 Längelmäki (part of)	562 Orivesi	1.1.2007*



Abolished municipality	Name of new or expanding municipality	Date
<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	<b>13 Keski-Suomi constituency</b>	
443 Längelmäki (part of)	182 Jämsä	1.1.2007*
*In the election statistics time series tables in the comparison with the 2004 elections, Längelmäki has been fully merged into Jämsä.		
<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	
085 Haukivuori	491 Mikkeli	1.1.2007
640 Pieksänmaa	593 Pieksämäki	1.1.2007
<b>12 Vaasa constituency</b>	<b>12 Vaasa constituency</b>	
944 Vöyri	945 Vöyri-Maksamaa	1.1.2007
479 Maksamaa	945 Vöyri-Maksamaa	1.1.2007
<b>13 Keski-Suomi constituency</b>	<b>13 Keski-Suomi constituency</b>	
774 Suolahti	992 Äänekoski	1.1.2007
770 Sumiainen	992 Äänekoski	1.1.2007
<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	
292 Kuivaniemi	139 Ii	1.1.2007
940 Vuolijoki	205 Kajaani	1.1.2007
708 Ruukki	748 Siikajoki	1.1.2007
<b>13 Keski-Suomi constituency</b>	<b>13 Keski-Suomi constituency</b>	
415 Leivonmäki	172 Joutsa	1.1.2008
<b>02 Uusimaa constituency</b>	<b>02 Uusimaa constituency</b>	
737 Sammatti	444 Lohja	1.1.2009
220 Karjaa	7101 Raasepori	1.1.2009
606 Pohja	7101 Raasepori	1.1.2009
835 Tammisaari	7101 Raasepori	1.1.2009
<b>03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b>	<b>03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b>	
602 Piikkiö	202 Kaarina	1.1.2009
006 Alastaro	430 Loimaa	1.1.2009
482 Mellilä	430 Loimaa	1.1.2009
017 Askainen	481 Masku	1.1.2009
419 Lemu	481 Masku	1.1.2009
705 Rymättylä	529 Naantali	1.1.2009
485 Merimasku	529 Naantali	1.1.2009
920 Velkua	529 Naantali	1.1.2009
636 Pöytyä	636 Pöytyä	1.1.2009
979 Yläne	636 Pöytyä	1.1.2009
906 Vahto	704 Rusko	1.1.2009
040 Dragsfjärd	322 Kemiönsaari	1.1.2009
243 Kemiö	322 Kemiönsaari	1.1.2009
923 Västanfjärd	322 Kemiönsaari	1.1.2009
101 Houtskari	445 Länsi-Turunmaa	1.1.2009
150 Iniö	445 Länsi-Turunmaa	1.1.2009
279 Korppoo	445 Länsi-Turunmaa	1.1.2009
533 Nauvo	445 Länsi-Turunmaa	1.1.2009
573 Parainen	445 Länsi-Turunmaa	1.1.2009
073 Halikko	734 Salo	1.1.2009
252 Kiikala	734 Salo	1.1.2009
259 Kisko	734 Salo	1.1.2009
308 Kuusjoki	734 Salo	1.1.2009

Abolished municipality	Name of new or expanding municipality	Date
501 Muurla	734 Salo	1.1.2009
586 Perniö	734 Salo	1.1.2009
587 Pertteli	734 Salo	1.1.2009
734 Salo	734 Salo	1.1.2009
776 Suomusjärvi	734 Salo	1.1.2009
784 Särkisalo	734 Salo	1.1.2009
<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	
262 Kiukainen	050 Eura	1.1.2009
913 Vampula	102 Huitinen	1.1.2009
406 Lappi	684 Rauma	1.1.2009
<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	
083 Hauho	109 Hämeenlinna	1.1.2009
210 Kalvola	109 Hämeenlinna	1.1.2009
401 Lammi	109 Hämeenlinna	1.1.2009
692 Renko	109 Hämeenlinna	1.1.2009
855 Tuulos	109 Hämeenlinna	1.1.2009
<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	
506 Mänttä	508 Mänttä-Vilppula	1.1.2009
933 Vilppula	508 Mänttä-Vilppula	1.1.2009
493 Mouhijärvi	790 Sastamala	1.1.2009
912 Vammala	790 Sastamala	1.1.2009
988 Äetsä	790 Sastamala	1.1.2009
303 Kuru	980 Ylöjärvi	1.1.2009
<b>08 Kymi constituency</b>	<b>08 Kymi constituency</b>	
044 Elimäki	286 Kouvola	1.1.2009
163 Jaala	286 Kouvola	1.1.2009
286 Kouvola	286 Kouvola	1.1.2009
306 Kuusankoski	286 Kouvola	1.1.2009
754 Anjalankoski	286 Kouvola	1.1.2009
909 Valkeala	286 Kouvola	1.1.2009
173 Joutseno	405 Lappeenranta	1.1.2009
<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	
741 Savonranta	740 Savonlinna	1.1.2009
<b>11 North Karelia constituency</b>	<b>11 North Karelia constituency</b>	
045 Eno	167 Joensuu	1.1.2009
632 Pyhäselkä	167 Joensuu	1.1.2009
<b>12 Vaasa constituency</b>	<b>12 Vaasa constituency</b>	
414 Lehtimäki	005 Alajärvi	1.1.2009
004 Alahärmä	233 Kauhava	1.1.2009
233 Kauhava	233 Kauhava	1.1.2009
281 Korttesjärvi	233 Kauhava	1.1.2009
971 Ylihärmä	233 Kauhava	1.1.2009
315 Kälviä	272 Kokkola	1.1.2009
429 Lohtaja	272 Kokkola	1.1.2009
885 Ullava	272 Kokkola	1.1.2009
175 Jurva	301 Kurikka	1.1.2009
544 Nurmo	743 Seinäjoki	1.1.2009
743 Seinäjoki	743 Seinäjoki	1.1.2009

Abolished municipality	Name of new or expanding municipality	Date
975 Ylistaro	743 Seinäjoki	1.1.2009
<b>13 Keski-Suomi constituency</b>	<b>13 Keski-Suomi constituency</b>	
182 Jämsä	182 Jämsä	1.1.2009
183 Jämsänkoski	182 Jämsä	1.1.2009
179 Jyväskylä	179 Jyväskylä	1.1.2009
180 Jyväskylän mlk	179 Jyväskylä	1.1.2009
277 Korpilahti	179 Jyväskylä	1.1.2009
633 Pylkönmäki	729 Saarijärvi	1.1.2009
<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	
247 Kestilä	791 Siikalatva	1.1.2009
603 Piippola	791 Siikalatva	1.1.2009
617 Pulkkila	791 Siikalatva	1.1.2009
682 Rantsila	791 Siikalatva	1.1.2009
973 Ylikiiminki	564 Oulu	1.1.2009
<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	
609 Pori	609 Pori	1.1.2010
537 Noormarkku	609 Pori	1.1.2010
<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	
208 Kalajoki	208 Kalajoki	1.1.2010
<b>12 Vaasa constituency</b>	<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	
095 Himanka	208 Kalajoki	1.1.2010
<b>08 Kymi constituency</b>	<b>08 Kymi constituency</b>	
405 Lappeenranta	405 Lappeenranta	1.1.2010
978 Ylämaa	405 Lappeenranta	1.1.2010
<b>02 Uusimaa constituency</b>	<b>02 Uusimaa constituency</b>	
434 Loviisa	434 Loviisa	1.1.2010
424 Liljendal	434 Loviisa	1.1.2010
585 Pernaja	434 Loviisa	1.1.2010
701 Ruotsinpyhtää	434 Loviisa	1.1.2010
<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	
015 Artjärvi	560 Orimattila	1.1.2011
560 Orimattila	560 Orimattila	1.1.2011
<b>10 North Savo constituency</b>	<b>10 North Savo constituency</b>	
227 Karttula	297 Kuopio	1.1.2011
297 Kuopio	297 Kuopio	1.1.2011
916 Varpaisjärvi	402 Lapinlahti	1.1.2011
402 Lapinlahti	402 Lapinlahti	1.1.2011
<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	
289 Kuhmalahdi	211 Kangasala	1.1.2011
211 Kangasala	211 Kangasala	1.1.2011
310 Kylmäkoski	020 Akaa	1.1.2011
020 Akaa	020 Akaa	1.1.2011
<b>12 Vaasa constituency</b>	<b>12 Vaasa constituency</b>	
945 Vöyri-Maksamaa	946 Vöyri	1.1.2011
559 Oravainen	946 Vöyri	1.1.2011
<b>03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b>	<b>03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b>	
445 Länsi-Turunmaa	445 Parainen	1.1.2012
<b>12 Vaasa constituency</b>	<b>12 Vaasa constituency</b>	

Abolished municipality	Name of new or expanding municipality	Date
863 Töysä	010 Alavus	1.1.2013
942 Vähäkylä	905 Vaasa	1.1.2013
<b>02 Uusimaa constituency</b>	<b>02 Uusimaa constituency</b>	
223 Karjalohja	444 Lohja	1.1.2013
540 Nummi-Pusula	444 Lohja	1.1.2013
<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	
246 Kerimäki	740 Savonlinna	1.1.2013
618 Punkaharju	740 Savonlinna	1.1.2013
<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	
084 Haukipudas	564 Oulu	1.1.2013
255 Kiiminki	564 Oulu	1.1.2013
564 Oulu	564 Oulu	1.1.2013
567 Oulunsalo	564 Oulu	1.1.2013
972 Yli-ii	564 Oulu	1.1.2013
<b>11 North Karelia constituency</b>	<b>11 North Karelia constituency</b>	
248 Kesälahti	260 Kitee	1.1.2013
<b>10 North Savo constituency</b>	<b>10 North Savo constituency</b>	
534 Nilsiä	297 Kuopio	1.1.2013
<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	
696 Ristiina	491 Mikkeli	1.1.2013
<b>08 Kymi constituency</b>	<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	
775 Suomenniemi	491 Mikkeli	1.1.2013
<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	<b>14 Oulu constituency</b>	
926 Vihanti	678 Raahe	1.1.2013
<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	
254 Kiikoinen	790 Sastamala	1.1.2013
<b>10 North Savo constituency</b>	<b>09 Savo-Karelia constituency</b>	
297 Kuopio	297 Kuopio	1.1.2015
476 Maaninka	297 Kuopio	1.1.2015
<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	
609 Pori	609 Pori	1.1.2015
413 Lavia	609 Pori	1.1.2015
<b>03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b>	<b>03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b>	
423 Lieto	423 Lieto	1.1.2015
838 Tarvasjoki	423 Lieto	1.1.2015
<b>10 Vaasa constituency</b>	<b>10 Vaasa constituency</b>	
164 Jalasjärvi	301 Kurikka	1.1.2016
<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	
283 Hämeenkoski	098 Hollola	1.1.2016
<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	
319 Köyliö	783 Säkyliä	1.1.2016
<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	
532 Nastola	398 Lahti	1.1.2016
<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	
442 Luvia	051 Eurajoki	1.1.2017
<b>09 Savo-Karelia constituency</b>	<b>09 Savo-Karelia constituency</b>	
174 Juankoski	297 Kuopio	1.1.2017
<b>09 Savo-Karelia constituency</b>	<b>09 Savo-Karelia constituency</b>	

Abolished municipality	Name of new or expanding municipality	Date
911 Valtimo	541 Nurmes	1.1.2020
<b>08 Southeast Finland constituency</b>	<b>09 Savo-Karelia constituency</b>	
090 Heinävesi	090 Heinävesi	1.1.2021
<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	
099 Honkajoki	214 Kankaanpää	1.1.2021
<b>08 Southeast Finland constituency</b>	<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	
142 Iitti	142 Iitti	1.1.2021
<b>08 Southeast Finland constituency</b>	<b>09 Savo-Karelia constituency</b>	
171 Joroinen	171 Joroinen	1.1.2021
<b>11 Central Finland constituency</b>	<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	
291 Kuhmoinen	291 Kuhmoinen	1.1.2021

**Municipalities that have changed constituencies and changes to the names of constituencies in the Municipal elections 1976 to 2021**

Constituency before the change	New constituency	Date
<b>06 Häme south constituency</b>	<b>03 Turku South constituency</b>	1990
761 Somero	761 Somero	
<b>06 Häme South constituency</b>	<b>06 Häme North constituency</b>	1990
310 Kylmäkoski	310 Kylmäkoski	
864 Toijala	864 Toijala	
908 Valkeakoski	908 Valkeakoski	
928 Viiala	928 Viiala	
<b>04 Turku North constituency</b>	<b>06 Häme North constituency</b>	1993
108 Hämeenkyrö	108 Hämeenkyrö	
143 Ikaalinen	143 Ikaalinen	
250 Kihniö	250 Kihniö	
493 Mouhijärvi	493 Mouhijärvi	
581 Parkano	581 Parkano	
932 Viljakkala	932 Viljakkala	
<b>02 Uusimaa constituency</b>	<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	1998
015 Artjärvi	015 Artjärvi	
560 Orimattila	560 Orimattila	
<b>03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b>	<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	1998
266 Kodisjoki	266 Kodisjoki	
<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	1998
772 Suodenniemi	772 Suodenniemi	
912 Vammala	912 Vammala	
988 Äetsä	988 Äetsä	
<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	1998
887 Urjala	887 Urjala	
<b>09 Mikkeli constituency</b>	<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	1998
081 Hartola	081 Hartola	
111 Heinola	111 Heinola	
781 Sysmä	781 Sysmä	
<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	<b>10 North Savo constituency</b>	2002
212 Kangaslampi	212 Kangaslampi	
<b>04 Satakunta constituency</b>	<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	2005
619 Punkalaidun	619 Punkalaidun	
The amendment of the Election Act (271/2013) from 1 September 2013 will be applied for the first time in the Parliamentary elections 2015 (19 April 2015), the constituencies of Kymi (08) and South Savo (09) were combined into the new Southeast Finland constituency (new 08) and the constituencies of North Savo (10) and North Karelia (11) were combined into the new Savo-Karelia constituency (new 09). The numbers of the constituencies change consecutively.		
<b>08 Kymi constituency</b>	<b>08 Southeast Finland constituency</b>	1.9.2013/1.1.2015
075 Hamina	075 Hamina	
142 Iitti	142 Iitti	
153 Imatra	153 Imatra	
285 Kotka	285 Kotka	
286 Kouvola	286 Kouvola	
405 Lappeenranta	405 Lappeenranta	
416 Lemi	416 Lemi	
441 Luumäki	441 Luumäki	
489 Miehikkälä	489 Miehikkälä	
580 Parikkala	580 Parikkala	

Constituency before the change	New constituency	Date
624 Pyhtää	624 Pyhtää	
689 Rautjärvi	689 Rautjärvi	
700 Ruokolahti	700 Ruokolahti	
739 Savitaipale	739 Savitaipale	
831 Taipalsaari	831 Taipalsaari	
935 Virolahti	935 Virolahti	
<b>09 South Savo constituency</b>	<b>08 Southeast Finland constituency</b>	1.9.2013/1.1.2015
046 Enonkoski	046 Enonkoski	
090 Heinävesi	090 Heinävesi	
097 Hirvensalmi	097 Hirvensalmi	
171 Joroinen	171 Joroinen	
178 Juva	178 Juva	
213 Kangasniemi	213 Kangasniemi	
491 Mikkeli	491 Mikkeli	
507 Mäntyharju	507 Mäntyharju	
588 Pertunmaa	588 Pertunmaa	
593 Pieksämäki	593 Pieksämäki	
623 Puumala	623 Puumala	
681 Rantasalmi	681 Rantasalmi	
740 Savonlinna	740 Savonlinna	
768 Sulkava	768 Sulkava	
<b>10 North Savo constituency</b>	<b>09 Savo-Karelia constituency</b>	1.9.2013/1.1.2015
140 Iisalmi	140 Iisalmi	
174 Juankoski	174 Juankoski	
204 Kaavi	204 Kaavi	
239 Keitele	239 Keitele	
263 Kiuruvesi	263 Kiuruvesi	
297 Kuopio	297 Kuopio	1.1.2015
402 Lapinlahti	402 Lapinlahti	
420 Leppävirta	420 Leppävirta	
476 Maaninka	297 Kuopio	1.1.2015
595 Pielavesi	595 Pielavesi	
686 Rautalampi	686 Rautalampi	
687 Rautavaara	687 Rautavaara	
749 Siilinjärvi	749 Siilinjärvi	
762 Sonkajärvi	762 Sonkajärvi	
778 Suonenjoki	778 Suonenjoki	
844 Tervo	844 Tervo	
857 Tuusniemi	857 Tuusniemi	
915 Varkaus	915 Varkaus	
921 Vesanto	921 Vesanto	
925 Vieremä	925 Vieremä	
<b>11 North Karelia constituency</b>	<b>09 Savo-Karelia constituency</b>	1.9.2013/1.1.2015
146 Ilomantsi	146 Ilomantsi	
167 Joensuu	167 Joensuu	
176 Juuka	176 Juuka	
260 Kitee	260 Kitee	
276 Kontiolahti	276 Kontiolahti	
309 Outokumpu	309 Outokumpu	

Constituency before the change	New constituency	Date
422 Lieksa	422 Lieksa	
426 Liperi	426 Liperi	
541 Nurmes	541 Nurmes	
607 Polvijärvi	607 Polvijärvi	
707 Rääkkylä	707 Rääkkylä	
848 Tohmajärvi	848 Tohmajärvi	
911 Valtimo	911 Valtimo	
<b>08 Southeast Finland constituency</b>	<b>09 Savo-Karelia constituency</b>	
090 Heinävesi	090 Heinävesi	1.1.2021
<b>08 Southeast Finland constituency</b>	<b>06 Häme constituency</b>	
142 Iitti	142 Iitti	1.1.2021
<b>08 Southeast Finland constituency</b>	<b>09 Savo-Karjalan constituency</b>	
171 Joroinen	171 Joroinen	1.1.2021
<b>11 Central Finland constituency</b>	<b>07 Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	
291 Kuhmoinen	291 Kuhmoinen	1.1.2021

### Changes of names and/or numbers of constituencies in Municipal elections 1976 to 2021

Change constituency	New name of constituency	Date
01 Helsinki city constituency	01 Helsinki constituency	1997
02 Uudenmaa province constituency	02 Uusimaa constituency	1997
03 Turku South constituency	03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency	1997
04 Turku North constituency	04 Satakunta constituency	1997
06 Häme South constituency	06 Häme constituency	1997
07 Häme North constituency	07 Pirkanmaa constituency	1997
08 Kymi province constituency	08 Kymi constituency	1997
09 Mikkeli province constituency	09 Mikkeli constituency	1997
10 North Karelia province constituency	11 North Karelia constituency	1997
11 Kuopio province constituency	10 Kuopio constituency	1997
12 Central Finland province constituency	13 Central Finland constituency	1997
13 Vaasa province constituency	12 Vaasa constituency	1997
14 Oulu province constituency	14 Oulu constituency	1997
15 Lapland province constituency	15 Lapland constituency	1997
09 Mikkeli constituency	09 South Savo constituency	2002
10 Kuopio constituency	10 North Savo constituency	2002
08 Kymi constituency	08 Southeast Finland constituency	2013/2015
09 South Savo constituency	08 Southeast Finland constituency	2013/2015
10 North Savo constituency	09 Savo–Karelia constituency	2013/2015
11 North Karelia constituency	09 Savo–Karelia constituency	2013/2015
12 Vaasa constituency	10 Vaasa constituency	2013/2015
13 Central Finland constituency	11 Central Finland constituency	2013/2015
14 Oulu constituency	12 Oulu constituency	2013/2015
15 Lapland constituency	13 Lapland constituency	2013/2015

## 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 web pages.

## Inquiries

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[http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/kvaa/index\\_en.html](http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/kvaa/index_en.html)

Source: Municipal Elections 2021, background analysis of candidates and elected councillors, Statistics Finland