

# How to vote

This is how you vote in the elections to the Swedish Riksdag and to the municipal- and county councils.



## Who can vote?

To be able to vote in these elections you must be at least 18 years of age on Election Day. The information held in the population register of the Swedish Tax Agency (Skatteverket) 30 days before Election Day determines your right to vote.

You are entitled to vote in the election to the Swedish Riksdag if you are:

- a Swedish citizen and are, or have been, registered for population purposes in Sweden.

You are entitled to vote in the elections to the decision-making bodies of municipal and county councils elections if you are:

- a Swedish citizen and have been registered for population purposes in Sweden.
- a citizen of one of the European Union's member states, or a citizen of Iceland or Norway, and are registered for population purposes in Sweden.
- are a citizen of some other country and have been registered for population purposes in Sweden, three years in succession before Election Day.

## If you are entitled to vote you will receive a voting card

If you are entitled to vote you will receive a voting card in the post, about three weeks before the elections. The voting card indicates which elections you are entitled to vote in, together with the name, address and opening hours of your polling station. On the voting card you will also find information about those venues where you can vote in advance. If you are going to vote in advance, you must bring your voting card.

If you have not received your voting card or have lost it, you can order a new one from the municipality or the Swedish Election Authority.

## Ballot papers

The ballot papers are yellow for the Riksdag election, white for the municipal elections and blue for the county council elections. Ballot papers are available at all places where you can vote as well as from the parties themselves. If you vote in advance or vote by messenger, you may need to order or collect ballot papers from the parties or from your municipality.

## Voting for a party

You vote first and foremost for a party. The party's name appears on the ballot paper. If you do not find your party's ballot paper, you can always take a blank ballot paper and write the party's name as clearly as possible on it.



## Preference voting

If your electoral preference is for one person in particular amongst the party's different candidates, you are able to give that person a preference vote by placing a cross in the space next to the candidate's name on the ballot paper. You can only place a cross for one candidate.

## You must be able to prove who you are

In order to vote, you must be able to verify your identity by showing an ID document e.g. driving licence or passport. If you have no ID document, another person may verify your identity, but in that case this person must be able to show an ID document.

## Voting

### Vote in your polling station on Election Day

You can only vote in the polling station that appears on your voting card. The polling station is only open on Election Day. When you vote at your polling station, your name is ticked off on the electoral roll, and your votes are placed in the ballot boxes.

### Vote in advance in your own or another municipality

To vote in advance means that you vote somewhere else than at your polling station. Advance voting starts approximately 3 weeks before Election Day and goes on right up to Election Day itself.

You must bring your voting card when you vote in advance since it is used to send your vote to your polling station. It is there that your vote is counted.

You can obtain information about where you can vote in advance at [www.val.se](http://www.val.se) or from your municipality.

### Vote from abroad

If you are abroad, you can vote by post, or vote at many Swedish embassies and consulates. In order to vote by post, you need material that you order from the Election Authority. You can vote by post as early as 45 days before Election Day, and vote at embassies and consulates as early as 24 days before Election Day.

## Voting by messenger on certain conditions

You can vote by messenger if you because of old age, illness or disability are unable to go yourself to the polling station or an advance voting location. If so, your husband, wife or common-law spouse, or your husband's, wife's or common-law spouse's child, grandchild, parent or sibling may act as messenger. A professional care provider or someone equivalent, or a person who regularly helps you may also act as messenger. You can also vote by messenger if you are in custody or in prison. If so, the staff can help you. If you reside in an area served by a rural postman, then the rural postman can act as messenger for you. If you do not know of anyone who may act as your messenger, your municipality can arrange for a vote recipient to come to your home. Contact your municipality. In order to vote by messenger you will need special material which you can order from the municipality or from the Election Authority.