



# If you don't use your voice, someone else will use your silence!

## How does a Swedish election work?

Sweden holds general elections every fourth year. On election day we vote in the parliamentary, communal and regional elections. Everyone has one vote in each election. In parliament there are 349 seats which are distributed according to the outcome of the election. Every person qualified to vote gets a voting card sent home in the mail.

## Who gets to vote?

Every person who has turned 18 before or on election day, is a Swedish citizen and has ever been registered in Sweden has a right to vote for parliament. If you live abroad you have to renew your right to vote every tenth year. In communal and regional elections you have to have been registered in Sweden for three years before election day to vote, but you don't have to be a Swedish citizen.

## How does it work in the voting station?

Every person belongs to a district and there is at least one voting station in every district. On your voting card it says where you are supposed to vote and how the opening hours look. The voting stations are most likely open from 08:00 - 20:00.

### Three steps of voting:

1. At the entrance there is a table of ballots. You can take ballots from several parties so that no one knows which party you are voting for.
2. You go into the voting booth. Thereafter you put the ballots of the parties you want to vote for in the three different envelopes. There is only supposed to be one ballot in every envelope. If you want to vote for a certain person you put a mark before the candidate you choose.
3. Give your envelopes to the people who work the desk. You are going to have to be able to prove who you are, so bring your ID.

## **Which parties can you vote for?**

You can vote for the parties whose ballots you find at the voting station, but you're also able to write a party name on a blank ballot if their ballot isn't available. Your vote counts if your party has declared participation in the election. You can write a candidate's name plus the party name if the candidate has declared participation in the election. If you turn in a blank ballot it counts as invalid.

## **What happens after the election?**

After the election all votes are counted twice. On election night the preliminary outcome and mandate distribution is presented. Usually that happens between 22:00 - 23:00 at night. When the election results are final the "Talman", which leads and plans the work of parliament, proposes a new prime minister. Parliament then holds a so-called "Negative vote". The proposed prime minister is chosen if not more than half of parliament opposes. If the proposed prime minister gets opposed by parliament the Talman has to propose a new one.

# For how long have we had universal suffrage?

In Sweden the right to vote for both men and women has existed for almost 100 years. It was introduced in 1919. In 1921 five women was voted into parliament for the first time.

## The Election in Dates

30 of July: Voters abroad can vote by mail.

20 of August: Voters abroad can vote via an embassy.

26 of August: Preliminary voting in Sweden begins.

13 of September: Election day.

14 of September: Regional parliament begins a final count of votes.

14 of September: The electoral board begins a count of the preliminary votes, which wasn't counted of election day.

Source: Valmyndigheten

