

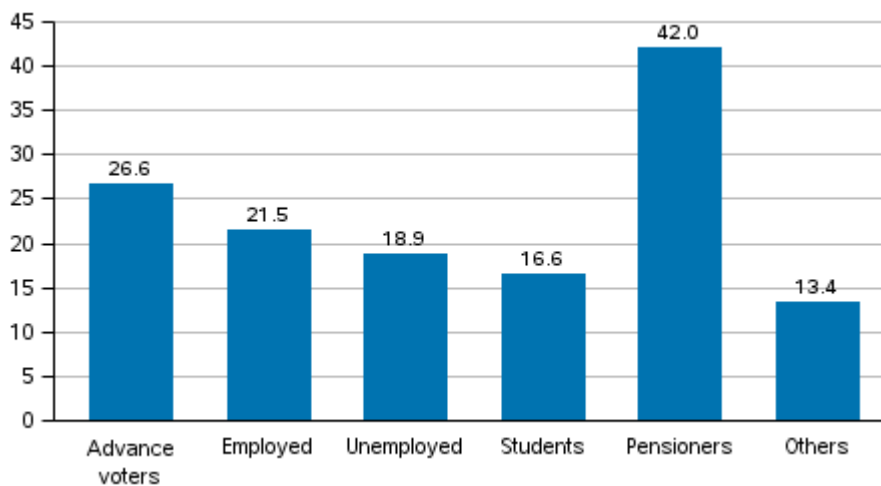
# Municipal elections 2017

## Review of voting

### Majority of advance voters were pensioners

The voting percentage in the Municipal elections 2017 was 58.9 per cent. Of the persons entitled to vote, 1,169,319, or 26.6 per cent of all persons entitled to vote, voted in advance. Of pensioners entitled to vote, 42.0 per cent voted in advance, 21.5 per cent of employed persons and 18.9 per cent of unemployed persons. The share of pensioners in all advance voters was 46.7 per cent, employed persons 41.0 per cent and unemployed persons 6.0 per cent. The data are based on Statistics Finland's statistics on the Municipal elections 2017.

**Share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote by main type of activity group in the Municipal elections 2017, %**

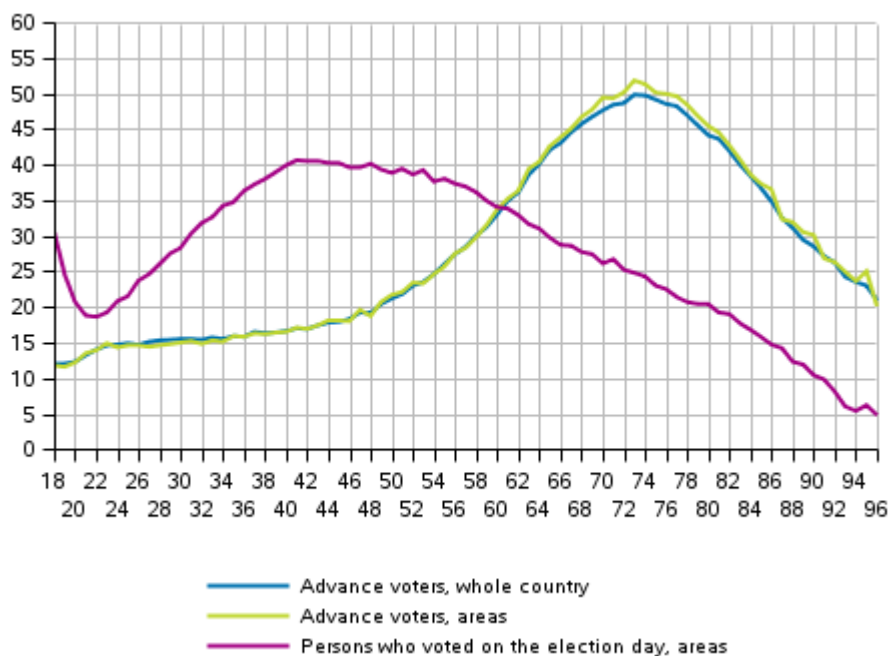


For the first time in connection with the Municipal elections 2017, Statistics Finland also publishes data on persons who voted on the election day. Data on voting on the election day were available from 116 municipalities, of which 59 had data from all voting districts. Data were available from a total of 509 voting districts. These voting districts covered 31.4 per cent of the persons entitled to vote in the Municipal elections 2017.

Of the population aged under 80, the most active advance voters in the whole country were persons aged 73 (49.8%), and those aged 18 and 19 voted the least in advance in relative terms (12.0%). In the voting

areas for which data were available those aged 41 (40.6%) voted most actively on the election day, the voting percentage on the election day was lowest (18.6%) for those aged 22.

**Advance voters in the whole country and advance voters and persons who voted on the election day in the areas by age in the Municipal elections 2017, %**



More detailed data on persons who voted in the Municipal elections can be found in the review: Persons who voted in Municipal elections 2017.

## Statistics Finland's election result services

More detailed election result data are available in Statistics Finland's PX-Web database service.

[Election map service](#)

[Tables in databases](#)

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# 1. Persons who voted in Municipal elections 2017

This review examines persons entitled to vote and those who voted in the Municipal elections 2017 according to various background factors. The data on persons entitled to vote and those who voted derive from the voting register of the Election Information System of the Ministry of Justice. The unit-level background data are based on Statistics Finland's data, such as population, employment and family statistics, and the Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The examined groups are, on one hand, all persons entitled to vote in the Municipal elections 2017 and advance voters, and, on the other, persons entitled to vote in voting districts that used the electronic voting register in the Municipal elections 2017, and advance voters and those who voted on the election day in these districts.

The electronic voting register enables examination of voting turnout also in terms of votes cast on the election day. Thus, voting data including both advance voters and those who voted on the election day are available from areas using the electronic voting register. Data that contain all who voted provides a complete picture of voting turnout as they can reliably help take into account those who did not vote. This is not possible for advance voters. In this review, advance voters refer to all persons that voted in advance throughout the country and all who voted refer to both advance voters and those who voted on the election day in the above-mentioned areas.

It should be noted that the data presented in the review concerning all who voted do not cover the entire country or all persons entitled to vote. In this review, all who voted refer to the actual event of voting, that is, all who voted include the available data on persons who voted on the election day and in advance in defined areas. The data presented in this review have not been edited in any way, for example, by weighting the data based on background factors, the breakdowns are presented as they are in the data. In other words, the data presented on all who voted in a particular area only apply to the municipalities, voting districts and persons entitled to vote for which data are available.

## Analysed data

When examining the analyses presented in this review it should be noted that the analyses examine two separate but partially overlapping voter groups. The following terms are used for these voter groups in the text, tables and figures of the review:

1. Advance voters that cover all persons that voted in advance in the elections, and
2. All who voted in the areas that cover advance voters and persons entitled to vote on the election day in the voting districts that used the electronic voting register.

The voter groups used in the review are not mutually exclusive. The advance voters of the entire country also include the persons entitled to vote who voted in advance in the above-mentioned areas. All who voted in the areas, in turn, also include all persons that voted in advance in those particular areas. Thus the group "advance voters" depicts, just like the name suggests, persons entitled to vote who voted in advance in the entire country, and the group "all who voted in the areas" covers persons who voted on the election day and in advance in a limited number of voting districts.

There were 4,391,558 persons entitled to vote in the Municipal elections 2017. Of these persons entitled to vote, 1,169,319, or 26.6 per cent of all persons entitled to vote, voted in advance. The voting districts where data on voting on the actual election day are available had 1,377,448 persons entitled to vote. So complete voting data are available for 31.4 per cent of persons entitled to vote.

Unit-level background factors could not be linked to all persons entitled to vote so such cases were excluded from the data. Thus, the data that were used for the whole country had 4,391,074 and the examined areas had 1,377,311 persons entitled to vote. It should be noted that in terms of background variables used in individual analysis these numbers may be smaller than the figures mentioned above depending on how extensively the background variables could be linked to the persons entitled to vote. In practice, this is visible, for example, in that the distributions presented in the figures and tables may vary slightly by background variable.

## Data coverage

The voting districts and municipalities for which all voting data were received are not divided entirely equally on the level of the whole country. Data on voting on the actual election day were available from 116 municipalities, from 59 municipalities for all voting districts and for 57 municipalities from some voting districts.

Voting data from the election day were available from all constituencies. However, the coverage of the data varies by constituency. The most comprehensive data were available from the constituency of Central Finland, 75.0 per cent of persons entitled to vote in the constituency. Data were also more comprehensive than for the entire country in the constituencies of Lapland (63.2% of persons entitled to vote), Uusimaa (45.1%), Satakunta (38.9%), Pirkanmaa (32.7%), Varsinais-Suomi (32.5%) and Vaasa (31.6%). The coverage for election day voting data was lowest in the Helsinki constituency where data were available only for two voting districts and for 0.9 per cent of persons entitled to vote. In other words, the Helsinki constituency is clearly under-represented in the available data. (See Appendix table 1)

Appendix table 2 examines the background factors of persons entitled to vote in the entire country and in areas with complete voting data. In the Municipal elections 2017, the average age of persons entitled to vote was 50.2. In this respect, the persons entitled to vote in certain areas do not differ from all persons entitled to vote. Of all persons entitled to vote, men represented 48.8 per cent in the whole country, as much as in the areas in relative terms.

The median income of persons entitled to vote in the whole country was slightly higher than for persons entitled to vote in the areas. The difference is EUR 231 per year. The biggest difference between the backgrounds of all persons entitled to vote and those who lived in the areas of the electronic voting register during the Municipal elections 2017 is found in the level of education. In the whole country, persons entitled to vote were, on average, more highly educated than in the examined areas with the electronic voting register. The difference is, in particular, visible in the highest examined group of education, those with higher tertiary level or doctorate level education, of whom there were 1.4 percentage points more in the entire country than in the areas.

There are small differences between all persons entitled to vote and persons entitled to vote living in the areas when it comes to main type of activity categories. There were slightly more employed persons (0.5 percentage points) in the whole country than in the areas, and, correspondingly, the areas had more students (0.3 percentage points) and pensioners (0.4 percentage points). The areas had somewhat more (0.9 percentage points) Finnish-speaking persons than the entire country. The share of persons with Finnish background was 0.4 percentage points higher than in the whole country.

In all areas from which voting data for the actual election day were available, support for the Centre Party was on level with the result for the whole country. Support for the Coalition Party was slightly lower than for the whole country in the areas with the electronic voting register, 1.3 percentage points difference. By contrast, support for the Finns Party was slightly higher in the areas than in the whole country. The difference between the areas and the support for the parties in the election was biggest for the Social Democratic Party, the party's support in the areas was 2.1 percentage points higher than the result for the whole country.

The factors presented in this Section and in Appendix tables 1 and 2 should be considered if the data obtained on all who voted in the areas with an electronic voting register are to be generalised to relate to all persons entitled to vote.

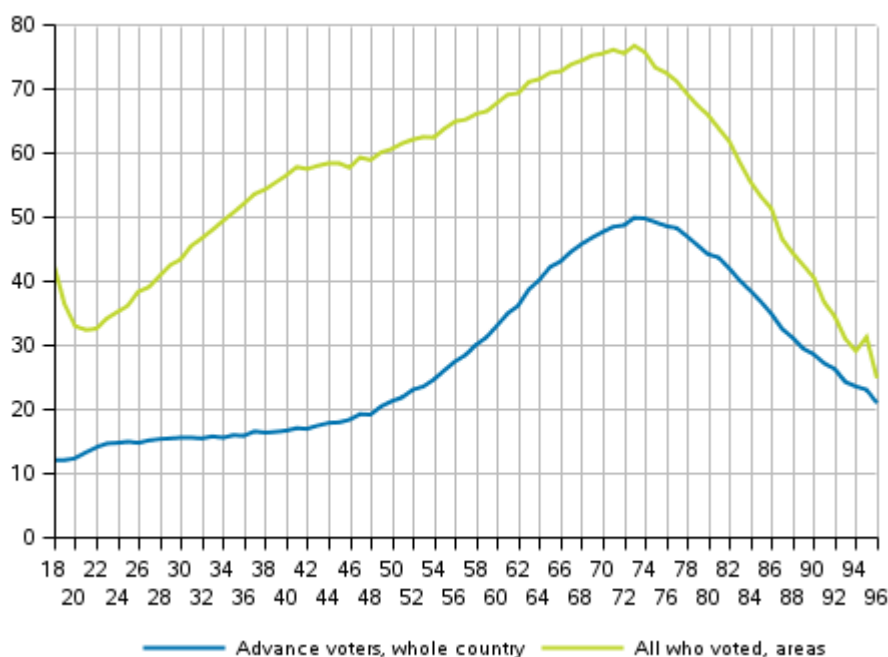
## Age and sex

Altogether, 1,169,319 persons entitled to vote voted in advance in the Municipal election 2017, which is 26.6 per cent of all persons entitled to vote. The advance voting percentage reported by Statistics Finland is 45.2. The advance voting percentage is derived by calculating the share of advance voters among those having voted. In this review, persons who voted are examined in relation to persons entitled to vote, so the percentages given are lower than the advance voting percentage.

In voting areas where all voting data were available, a total of 793,999 persons entitled to vote cast their vote, which was 57.6 per cent of the persons entitled to vote in the areas. In these areas, 27.0 per cent of persons entitled to vote voted in advance and 30.6 per cent persons entitled to vote voted on the election day.

Age clearly has an impact on voting. The share of advance voters among persons entitled to vote exceeds 20 per cent at the age of 49, after which the share grows faster than earlier. Advance voting was most common among persons aged 73, of whom 49.8 per cent voted in advance. The share of advance voters starts to drop after the age of 73 and among persons aged 96 the share of advance voters was 20.9 per cent of persons entitled to vote. (Figure 1.)

**Figure 1. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by age in the Municipal elections 2017, %**



The share of all persons that voted in the areas among persons entitled to vote provides a more detailed picture of the occurrence than only advance voting. The voting percentage of persons who reached the voting age of 18 in 2017 was 42.5 per cent in the areas after which it drops to 33.0 per cent among 20-year-olds. After this, the voting percentage grows quite evenly to 57.6 per cent among persons aged 42. After the 42 age group, the voting percentage grows by age but more slowly than before and is at its highest for the group of 73-year-olds (76.7%). For persons aged over 73, the voting percentage drops relatively quickly but only drops below the level for 20-year-olds by the age of 93. (Figure 1.)

Women voted more actively than men in the Municipal elections 2017 both in advance and in the areas apart from the oldest examined age group. In the whole country, 28.7 per cent of women voted in advance, which was 4.2 percentage points higher than for men. In the examined areas, the voting percentage that takes into account all persons that voted is also higher for women. In the areas, 59.3 per cent of women voted, which was 3.6 percentage points higher than for men. Examined by age group, women voted more actively than men in all age groups except for persons aged 75 or over. (Table 1)

**Table 1. Share of advance voters and all who voted among persons entitled to vote by sex and age in the Municipal elections 2017, %**

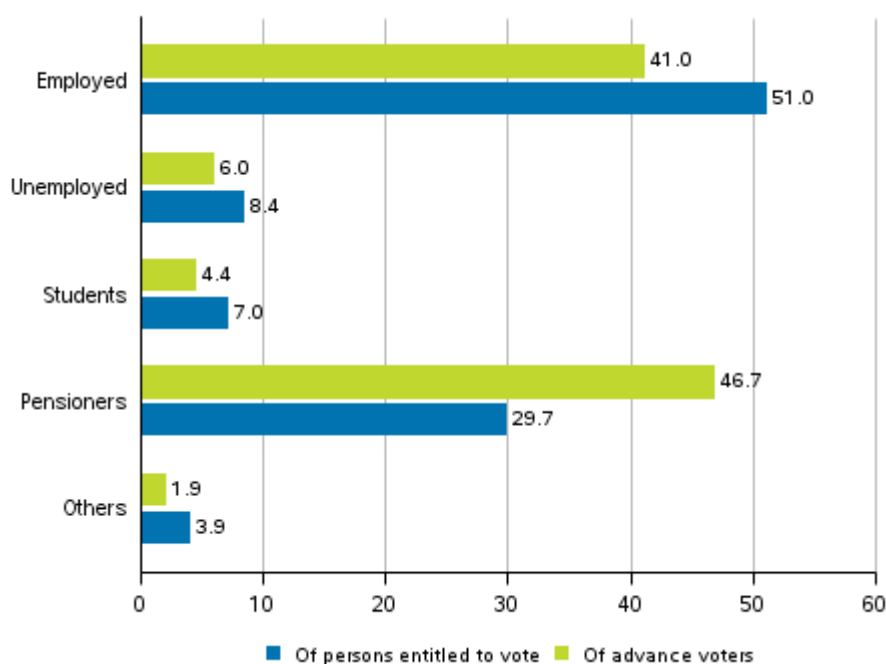
Age group	Total		Men		Women	
	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, areas
Total	26.6	57.6	24.5	55.7	28.7	59.3
18-24	13.3	35.0	11.1	31.6	15.6	38.5
25-34	15.3	42.9	13.7	39.7	17.0	46.5
35-44	16.6	55.3	15.1	52.1	18.2	58.6
45-54	21.0	60.4	19.3	58.3	22.8	62.5
55-64	32.6	67.5	30.2	66.2	34.9	68.7
65-74	46.2	74.6	44.3	74.2	48.0	74.9
75-	41.1	60.3	44.0	66.5	39.3	56.5

### Main type of activity, education and family status

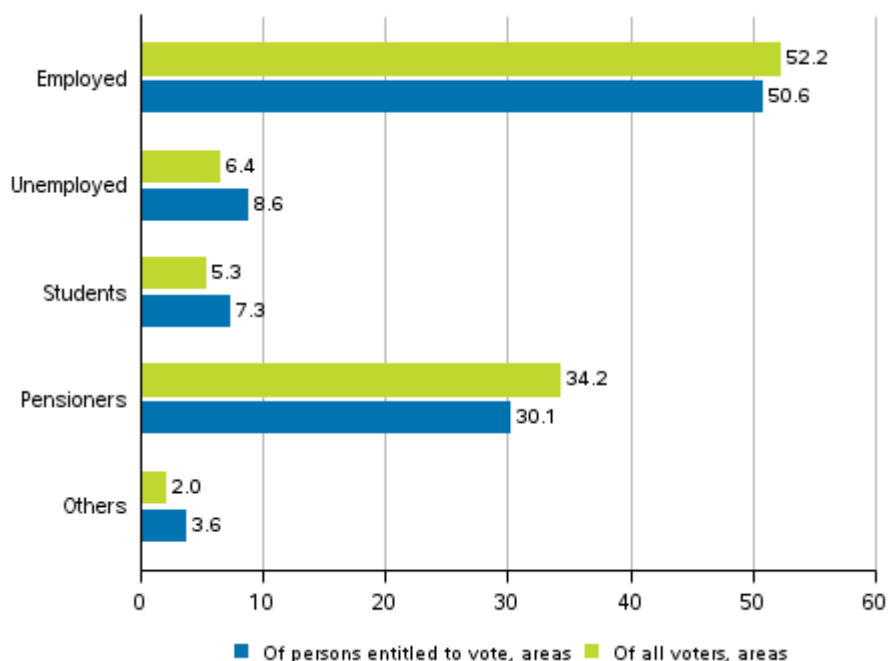
Measured by main type of activity, there were most pensioners among advance voters in relative terms in the Municipal elections 2017, in total 46.7 per cent of all advance voters. Pensioners are clearly over-represented among advance voters. The share of all other groups of main type of activity among advance voters was relatively smaller than among all persons entitled to vote. (Figure 2.)

When examining all who voted in the areas one can see that in two groups, the employed and pensioners, the share of voters in the group was higher than the corresponding share of all persons entitled to vote. By contrast, the share of those who voted belonging to the unemployed, students or other main type of activity in the areas was below the relative size of the group among all persons entitled to vote. (Figure 3.)

**Figure 2. Persons entitled to vote and advance voters by main type of activity in the Municipal elections 2017, %**



**Figure 3. Persons entitled to vote and all who voted in the areas by main type of activity in the Municipal elections 2017, %**



High education increases the probability of voting. Persons entitled to vote with upper secondary or higher educational level voted in advance in Municipal elections more than average. This is also visible for all who voted in the areas, persons with higher tertiary level or doctorate level education voted 23.4 percentage points more actively in the areas than all persons entitled to vote.

Previously (Figure 1) it has been noted that age has a clear connection with voting turnout. This is also visible in educational groups in which, in practice, all voting turnout increases with age, apart from the oldest age group, those aged 75 or over. This is visible both among advance voters and all who voted in the areas. (Table 3)



**Table 2. Share of advance voters and all who voted among persons entitled to vote by age and level of education in the Municipal elections 2017, %**

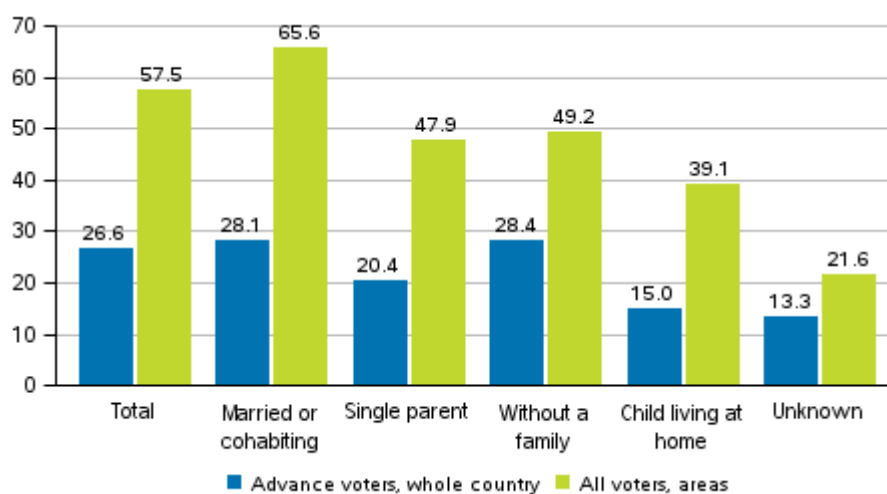
		Total	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Lowest tertiary	Lower tertiary	Higher tertiary, doctorate
Total	Advance voters, whole country	26.6	24.5	23.8	37.1	27.6	32.7
	All who voted, areas	57.5	45.6	53.2	75.2	69.6	80.9
18 to 24	Advance voters, whole country	13.3	10.4	15.3	..	27.8	..
	All who voted, areas	35.0	32.1	36.7	..	58.2	..
25 to 34	Advance voters, whole country	15.3	7.7	12.8	11.5	21.3	27.0
	All who voted, areas	42.9	19.6	38.4	25.1	60.6	72.1
35 to 44	Advance voters, whole country	16.6	9.8	14.4	18.7	19.3	23.2
	All who voted, areas	55.3	27.5	48.7	64.5	67.1	77.7
45 to 54	Advance voters, whole country	21.0	13.3	19.8	24.2	23.2	26.9
	All who voted, areas	60.4	36.2	55.1	69.9	72.1	81.8
55 to 64	Advance voters, whole country	32.6	25.2	31.6	37.7	37.7	38.8
	All who voted, areas	67.5	51.4	64.7	77.3	80.3	85.8
65 to 74	Advance voters, whole country	46.2	39.9	45.8	54.2	55.2	56.5
	All who voted, areas	74.6	66.0	74.5	84.2	87.8	89.8
75 and older	Advance voters, whole country	41.1	35.7	44.5	53.5	56.5	58.9
	All who voted, areas	60.3	53.5	65.6	75.9	78.9	84.0

When interpreting Table 3 it should be noted that lowest tertiary level qualifications decrease in the population and no new qualifications are completed in Finland in this category, so the age structure of the educational group differs clearly from other groups. Lowest tertiary level education covers qualifications above upper secondary level that are not university of applied sciences degrees. Among all persons entitled to vote, those with lowest tertiary level education are, on average, aged 59, while, for example, the average age of people with upper secondary level education is 46.5 and that of persons with lower tertiary level education is 44.3.

Examined by family status, the most active advance voters were persons without a family (28.4%) and married or cohabiting couples (28.1%). In this analysis, single parents refer to parents of one-parent families. In this group, advance voting was lower than in the two groups mentioned above (20.4%). In the group children living at home, which refers to adult children living with their parents, 15.0 per cent voted in advance.

Examination of all who voted in the areas does not change the picture of the groups' voting turnout by family status. Measured by family status, married or cohabiting couples were the most active voter group, 65.6 per cent of them voted in the Municipal elections 2017. The voting percentage of other groups was below the level of all persons entitled to vote in the areas, fewer than 50 per cent of those entitled to vote among single parents and adult children living at home voted in the elections. Age group specific examination of all who voted does not change the picture of the effect of family status on voting turnout significantly. As a rule, the voting percentage grows in all family status groups by age, apart from the oldest age group of people aged 75 and over. (Figure 4, Table 3)

**Figure 4. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by family status in the Municipal elections 2017, %**



**Table 3. Share of advance voters and all who voted among persons entitled to vote by family status in the Municipal elections 2017, %**

		Total	Married or cohabiting	Single parent	Without a family	Child living at home	Unknown
Total	Advance voters, whole country	26.6	28.1	20.4	28.4	15.0	13.3
	All voters, in areas	57.5	65.6	47.9	49.2	39.1	21.6
18 to 24	Advance voters, whole country	13.3	12.2	6.8	15.2	12.9	9.7
	All voters, in areas	35.0	33.6	16.0	31.4	38.3	18.1
25 to 34	Advance voters, whole country	15.3	14.8	10.7	16.9	16.2	10.1
	All voters, in areas	42.9	48.7	28.1	37.3	36.6	19.1
35 to 44	Advance voters, whole country	16.6	16.1	15.8	19.1	20.2	10.4
	All voters, in areas	55.3	60.8	45.5	43.1	40.9	20.4
45 to 54	Advance voters, whole country	21.0	20.5	20.6	23.0	25.9	12.8
	All voters, in areas	60.4	66.2	54.3	47.3	47.8	23.3
55 to 64	Advance voters, whole country	32.6	33.3	28.6	32.1	30.9	19.9
	All voters, in areas	67.5	73.3	60.7	56.5	54.4	28.6
65 to 74	Advance voters, whole country	46.2	48.2	37.3	43.3	36.9	25.1
	All voters, in areas	74.6	79.7	63.4	65.5	59.1	32.5
75 and older	Advance voters, whole country	41.1	47.1	28.9	37.6	..	12.6
	All voters, in areas	60.3	71.0	44.4	52.9	..	14.6

## Income level

The income level of those who voted and persons entitled to vote is examined with the help of monetary income subject to state taxation. The income data for 2017 derive from the latest taxation data from 2015. Income subject to state taxation consists of earned income, entrepreneurial income, and other income

subject to state taxation, including such as other earned income, pension income, unemployment benefits and other social security benefits. Income subject to taxation does not include such as grants and awards received from the general government, earned income received from abroad under certain conditions, some of social security benefits received from the public sector, and tax-free interest income.

In the data of the review, the income of persons entitled to vote is divided into deciles. Income deciles are derived by arranging persons entitled to vote by income and by dividing the group into ten equal parts. The groups formed in this way each have around 431,000 persons entitled to vote for all persons entitled to vote in the whole country. In areas from which data were received on voting on the election day as well, the groups have around 136,000 persons entitled to vote each.

For the whole country, income data are missing for 81,957 persons entitled to vote. In the data for areas containing election day votes, the income level was missing for 22,111 persons entitled to vote. The median income subject to state taxation of all persons entitled to vote was EUR 24,811, in the defined areas the corresponding median income was EUR 24,583. The income subject to state taxation of persons entitled to vote in the whole country belonging to the highest income decile was at least EUR 54,532 and in the examined areas it was EUR 52,945 per year. The income for those belonging to the lowest income decile was EUR 8,223 for the whole country and EUR 8,204 per year in the areas. (Table 4)

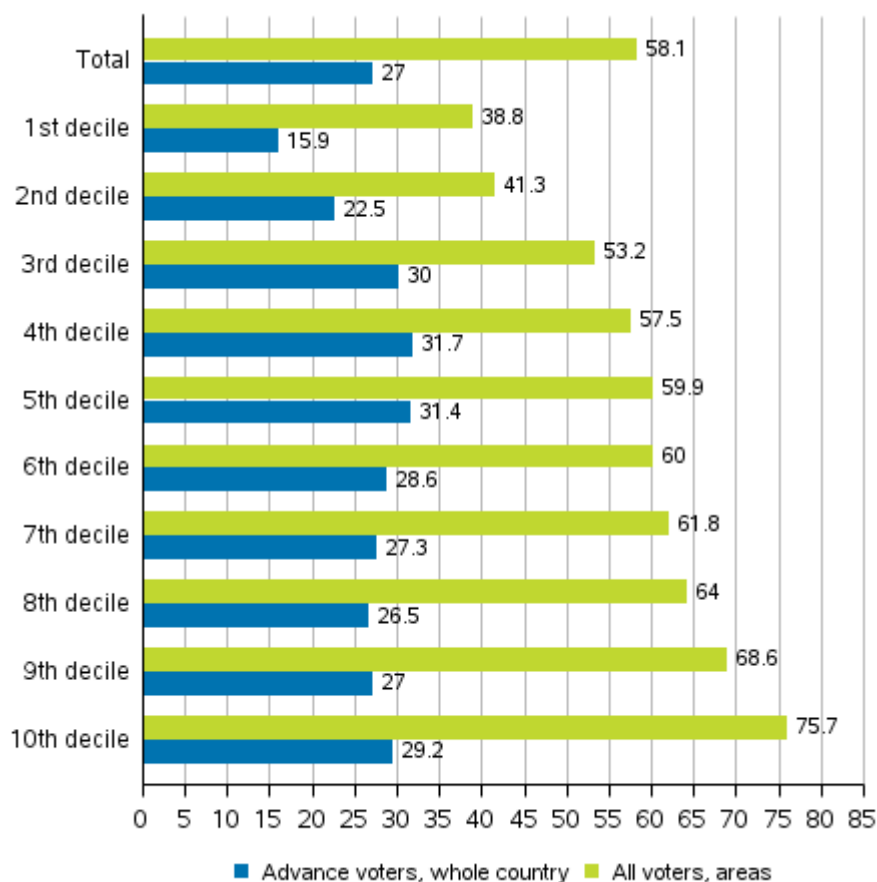
**Table 4. Lowest limits for the income deciles of persons entitled to vote in the Municipal elections 2017, EUR**

Decile	All persons entitled to vote	Persons entitled to vote in areas
1st decile	0	0
2nd decile	8.223	8.204
3rd decile	11.578	11.565
4th decile	15.567	15.521
5th decile	20.016	19.913
6th decile	24.814	24.583
7th decile	29.604	29.262
8th decile	34.746	34.274
9th decile	41.696	40.911
10th decile	54.532	52.945

The effect of the income of persons who voted in advance is not that large as a whole. In the two lowest deciles, advance voting is relatively lower than in the higher income brackets. Starting from the third income decile, there are no major changes in the rate of advance voting, the share of advance voting in these categories varies from 26.5 to 31.7 per cent of persons entitled to vote. (Figure 5.)

When examining all who voted in the areas for which complete voting data were available, the effect of income on voting turnout is clearly more evident. In higher income groups, voting is, as a rule, more common than in lower income groups. Of persons belonging to the highest income decile, 75.7 per cent voted and in the lowest income decile voting turnout was only 38.8 per cent. (Figure 5.)

**Figure 5. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by income decile in the Municipal elections 2017, %**



## Foreign background

In this review, the background of persons entitled to vote and persons who voted is viewed by means of language and origin. Voting turnout for persons with national languages as their native language was higher than for all persons entitled to vote both among advance voters and all who voted in the areas. In the whole country, 1.1 percentage points more of Finnish and Sami speakers and 0.6 percentage points more of Swedish speakers voted in advance than among all persons entitled to vote. When examining all who voted in the areas, 1.4 percentage points more of Finnish and Sami speakers and 13.4 percentage points more of Swedish speakers voted compared to all persons entitled to vote.

**Table 5. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by sex and language in the Municipal elections 2017, %**

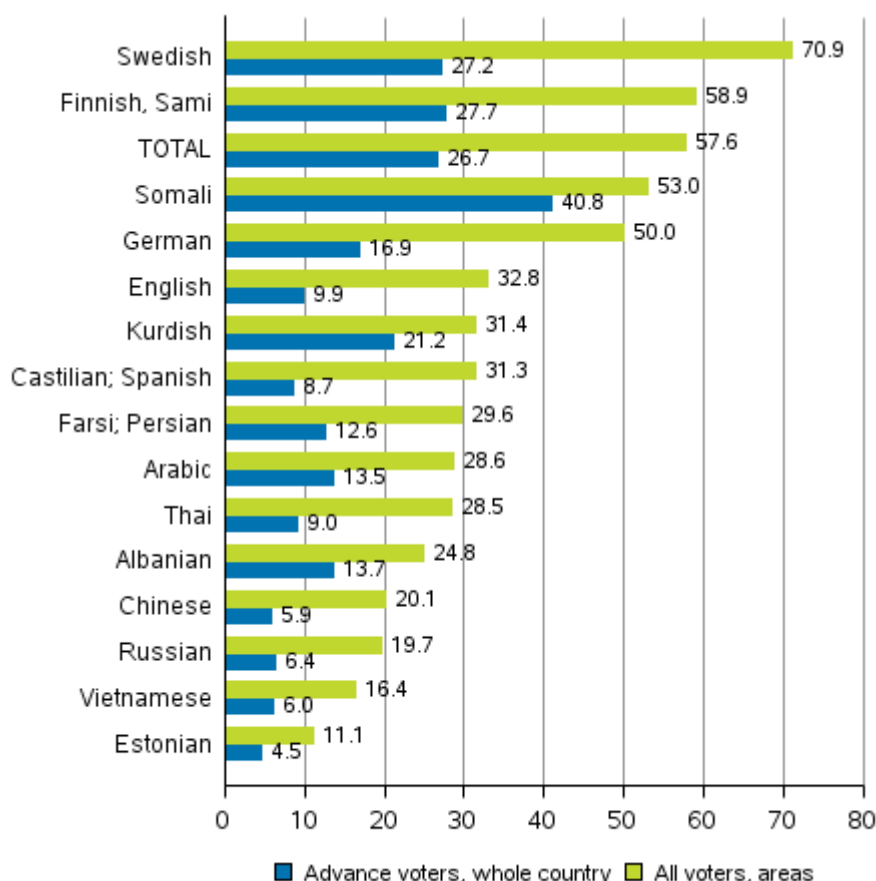
Sex	Total		Finnish, Sami		Swedish		Other language	
	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, in areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, in areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, in areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, in areas
Total	26.6	57.5	27.7	58.9	27.2	70.9	10.3	23.9
Men	24.5	55.7	25.5	57.0	24.6	69.3	10.3	22.8
Women	28.7	59.3	29.8	60.6	29.7	72.4	10.2	25.1

The voting turnout of foreign-language speakers was clearly lower than for persons with national languages as their native language. Of all foreign-language speakers entitled to vote, 10.3 per cent voted in advance,

which was 16.3 percentage points below the level of all persons entitled to vote. Correspondingly, among all who voted in the areas, 23.9 per cent of foreign-language speakers voted, which was 33.6 percentage points fewer than for all persons entitled to vote. (Table 5)

A more detailed examination of the voting turnout of different language groups shows that the highest voting percentage among all votes cast in the areas was found among Swedish speakers (70.9%). Correspondingly, the voting percentage of Finnish and Sami speakers was 58.9 per cent. Figure 6 includes the largest language groups measured by absolute numbers in the areas for which data are available for election day voting. With this limitation, the voting percentage for foreign-language speakers was highest for Somali speakers, 53.0 per cent of persons entitled to vote. Advance voting in the whole country was also exceptionally active in this language group. In the areas, 46.6 per cent of those entitled to vote belonging to the language group voted in advance and 6.4 per cent voted on the election day. For other foreign-language speaking groups, only German speakers' voting turnout reaches 50 per cent. (Figure 6.)

**Figure 6. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by language group in the Municipal elections 2017, %**



Examined by age group and origin, young people's voting turnout was lower than in older age groups both among persons of Finnish background and of foreign background. This is visible both among advance voters and all who voted in the areas. Among persons of Finnish background, 27.6 per cent voted in advance and 11.0 per cent of persons with foreign background. Even a bigger difference is seen when examining all who voted in the areas. In the areas, the difference between voting turnout among persons of Finnish and foreign background was 34.5 percentage points. (Table 6)

**Table 6. Share of those who voted among persons entitled to vote by origin and age in the Municipal elections 2017, %**

Age group	Total population		Persons with Finnish background		Persons with foreign background	
	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, in areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, in areas	Advance voters, whole country	All who voted, in areas
Total	26.7	57.6	27.6	59.4	11.0	24.9
18 to 24	13.3	35.0	13.5	35.9	10.7	17.9
25 to 34	15.3	43.0	16.1	45.5	8.9	19.3
35 to 44	16.7	55.3	17.5	58.5	9.4	24.6
45 to 54	21.1	60.4	21.8	62.5	10.8	27.9
55 to 64	32.6	67.5	33.4	68.8	12.9	30.7
65 to 74	46.3	74.6	46.7	75.1	21.4	43.1
75 and older	41.2	60.3	41.4	60.6	24.2	40.7

# Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Information on voting on election day: proportion of those entitled to vote and voting districts in the Municipal elections 2017, %**

		Of those entitled to vote (%)	Of voting districts (%)
<b>Helsinki constituency</b>	<b>Constituency, total</b>	0.9	1.2
	Helsinki	0.9	1.2
<b>Uusimaa constituency</b>	<b>Constituency, total</b>	45.1	40.9
	Espoo	4.1	4.2
	Vantaa	100.0	100.0
	Kerava	10.1	7.6
	Kirkkonummi	100.0	100.0
	Lohja	100.0	100.0
	Nurmijärvi	84.3	68.7
	Porvoo	68.4	50.0
	Sipoo	100.0	100.0
	Tuusula	38.1	33.3
	Vihti	100.0	100.0
<b>Varsinais-Suomi constituency</b>	<b>Constituency, total</b>	32.5	26.4
	Kaarina	100.0	100.0
	Kustavi	100.0	100.0
	Kemiönsaari	100.0	100.0
	Parainen	14.6	60.0
	Masku	35.2	33.3
	Naantali	77.3	66.6
	Paimio	100.0	100.0
	Raisio	100.0	100.0
	Salo	84.0	57.1
	Somero	44.9	25.0
	Taivassalo	100.0	100.0
	Uusikaupunki	69.7	50.0
<b>Satakunta constituency</b>	<b>Constituency, total</b>	38.9	31.6
	Eurajoki	83.9	66.6
	Harjavalta	100.0	100.0
	Karvia	100.0	100.0
	Pomarkku	100.0	100.0
	Pori	77.9	61.2



		Of those entitled to vote (%)	Of voting districts (%)
<b>Häme constituency</b>	<b>Constituency, total</b>	26.9	27.0
	Asikkala	67.8	25.0
	Forssa	81.1	85.7
	Hausjärvi	100.0	100.0
	Hollola	43.6	37.5
	Hämeenlinna	18.3	14.2
	Janakkala	64.1	50.0
	Jokioinen	100.0	100.0
	Lahti	21.1	29.0
	Sysmä	100.0	100.0
	Tammela	79.4	50.0
<b>Pirkanmaa constituency</b>	<b>Constituency, total</b>	32.7	26.5
	Hämeenkyrö	100.0	100.0
	Kangasala	12.9	7.1
	Orivesi	25.5	16.6
	Parkano	100.0	100.0
	Pälkäne	95.0	83.3
	Sastamala	51.6	30.0
	Tampere	44.4	44.1
	Valkeakoski	87.3	83.3
<b>Southeast Finland constituency</b>	<b>Constituency, total</b>	13.9	11.2
	Kouvola	3.3	4.3
	Luumäki	100.0	100.0
	Mikkeli	45.7	28.5
	Pertunmaa	100.0	100.0
	Pieksämäki	100.0	100.0
	Pyhtää	100.0	100.0
	Sulkava	87.9	50.0
	Virolahti	85.3	66.6
<b>Savo-Karelia constituency</b>	<b>Constituency, total</b>	30.0	23.3
	Ilomantsi	100.0	100.0
	Joensuu	97.5	88.4
	Keitele	100.0	100.0
	Kontiolahti	47.1	18.1
	Outokumpu	100.0	100.0
	Lapinlahti	53.4	33.3
	Lieksa	97.8	80.0
	Liperi	32.5	33.3
	Pielavesi	66.5	33.3
	Siilinjärvi	18.1	11.1

		Of those entitled to vote (%)	Of voting districts (%)
<b>Vaasa constituency</b>	<b>Constituency, total</b>	31.6	19.9
	Alajärvi	100.0	100.0
	Alavus	100.0	100.0
	Halsua	100.0	100.0
	Isojoki	100.0	100.0
	Kaskinen	100.0	100.0
	Kristiinankaupunki	66.1	20.0
	Kuortane	100.0	100.0
	Lappajärvi	64.7	33.3
	Maalahti	82.9	50.0
	Mustasaari	66.1	30.4
	Närpiö	17.7	7.6
	Perho	100.0	100.0
	Seinäjoki	8.8	6.6
	Soini	100.0	100.0
	Toholampi	83.9	50.0
	Vaasa	100.0	100.0
Vöyri	28.5	33.3	
<b>Central Finland constituency</b>	<b>Constituency, total</b>	75.0	56.1
	Jyväskylä	99.2	93.3
	Jämsä	100.0	100.0
	Karstula	100.0	100.0
	Kivijärvi	100.0	100.0
	Konnevesi	100.0	100.0
	Laukaa	100.0	100.0
	Petäjävesi	76.2	50.0
	Saarijärvi	100.0	100.0
	Toivakka	100.0	100.0
	Viitasaari	84.9	66.6

		Of those entitled to vote (%)	Of voting districts (%)
<b>Oulu constituency</b>	<b>Constituency, total</b>	23.9	14.8
	Alavieska	100.0	100.0
	Haapajärvi	100.0	100.0
	Haapavesi	33.2	14.2
	Hailuoto	100.0	100.0
	Kajaani	61.0	40.0
	Kempele	52.0	50.0
	Kuusamo	11.2	25.0
	Liminka	100.0	100.0
	Lumijoki	100.0	100.0
	Nivala	100.0	100.0
	Pudasjärvi	66.3	16.6
	Puolanka	100.0	100.0
	Pyhäjärvi	100.0	100.0
	Reisjärvi	100.0	100.0
	Sotkamo	100.0	100.0
	Vaala	100.0	100.0
Utajärvi	100.0	100.0	
Ylivieska	100.0	100.0	
<b>Lapland constituency</b>	<b>Constituency, total</b>	63.2	39.5
	Inari	59.0	16.6
	Kemi	98.4	90.9
	Posio	100.0	100.0
	Ranua	100.0	100.0
	Rovaniemi	100.0	100.0
	Tervola	100.0	100.0
	Tornio	78.5	55.5

**Appendix table 2. Background factors of persons entitled to vote in the Municipal elections 2017**

	Persons entitled to vote/ whole country	Voting areas with complete voting data	Municipalities with voting data for all voting districts	Voting districts in municipalities with voting data for some voting districts
Age, average	50.2	50.3	50.4	50.1
Sex, men (%)	48.8	48.8	49.4	48.3
Income, median (EUR)	24.814.0	24.583.0	25.658.0	23.600.0
<b>Level of education</b>				
lower secondary (%)	27.2	27.5	29.0	26.1
upper secondary (%)	41.9	42.8	42.1	43.4
lowest tertiary (%)	10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3
lower tertiary (%)	10.9	10.8	10.4	11.1
higher university, doctorate (%)	10.0	8.6	8.2	9.0
<b>Main type of activity</b>				
Employed (%)	51.0	50.5	52.7	48.4
Unemployed (%)	8.4	8.6	8.0	9.2
Students (%)	7.0	7.3	6.3	8.1
Pensioners (%)	29.7	30.1	29.3	30.8
Other inactive population (%)	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.5
<b>Language</b>				
Finnish-speaking (%)	89.4	90.3	88.3	92.1
Swedish-speaking (%)	4.7	4.4	5.3	3.5
Other language speaking (%)	5.8	5.2	6.4	4.4
<b>Foreign background</b>				
Finnish background (%)	94.2	94.6	93.5	95.6
Foreign background (%)	5.8	5.4	6.5	4.4
<b>Support</b>				
Centre Party of Finland (%)	17.5	17.8	19.8	15.9

	Persons entitled to vote/ whole country	Voting areas with complete voting data	Municipalities with voting data for all voting districts	Voting districts in municipalities with voting data for some voting districts
Coalition Party (%)	20.7	19.4	19.2	19.6
Finns Party (%)	8.8	9.4	10.3	8.6
Finnish Social Democratic Party (%)	19.4	21.5	20.1	22.7
Green League (%)	12.5	11.4	10.5	12.3
Left Alliance (%)	8.8	8.6	8.0	9.1
Swedish People's Party in Finland (%)	4.9	5.0	6.3	3.8
Christian Democrats in Finland (%)	4.1	4.1	3.5	4.7
Others (%)	3.3	2.9	2.3	3.4

**Appendix table 3. Voting turnout by sex and constituency in Municipal elections in 1976–2017, %**

Constituency	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1996	2000	2004	2008	2012	2017
<b>MAINLAND FINLAND</b>	78.5	78.1	74.0	70.5	70.9	61.3	55.9	58.6	61.2	58.3	58.9
Female	78.5	78.0	74.3	71.9	72.1	62.8	57.7	60.7	63.0	59.8	60.7
Male	78.6	78.2	73.7	69.0	69.6	59.8	53.9	56.4	59.3	56.7	56.9
HELSINKI	74.6	72.1	66.3	63.3	66.4	58.1	50.9	57.1	58.9	57.4	61.8
Female	75.0	72.8	67.1	64.9	68.0	59.8	53.3	59.5	60.6	59.3	63.7
Male	73.9	71.1	65.2	61.2	64.3	55.9	48.1	54.2	56.8	55.2	59.6
UUSIMAA	77.4	76.6	71.6	67.3	69.5	59.9	53.3	57.7	59.4	57.1	57.8
Female	77.6	76.7	72.0	69.3	71.2	61.4	55.3	59.8	61.3	58.9	60.2
Male	77.3	76.4	71.2	65.2	67.7	58.2	51.1	55.3	57.5	55.1	55.4
VARSINAIS-SUOMI	78.8	79.2	75.4	73.3	73.4	63.4	56.9	60.0	62.5	59.1	60.1
Female	78.8	79.1	75.3	75.1	74.6	64.4	58.1	61.5	64.1	60.1	61.7
Male	78.8	79.3	75.6	71.4	72.1	62.3	55.5	58.5	60.9	58.0	58.3
SATAKUNTA	81.1	81.7	78.3	75.0	75.0	64.0	59.8	61.3	64.9	61.1	59.9
Female	81.0	81.2	78.1	76.0	76.2	65.1	61.2	63.1	66.1	62.3	61.5
Male	81.2	82.1	78.4	73.9	73.7	62.8	58.2	59.4	63.6	59.9	58.3
HÄME	78.9	79.1	74.4	70.2	70.9	60.8	55.4	57.7	59.9	57.4	57.9
Female	78.8	79.3	75.3	73.2	72.2	62.3	57.2	59.5	61.7	58.7	59.6
Male	79.1	79.0	73.4	66.8	69.5	59.1	53.5	55.6	58.1	55.9	56.0
PIRKANMAA	80.3	79.5	75.3	70.7	72.7	61.7	57.3	59.2	62.4	59.1	60.1
Female	80.2	79.4	75.7	72.0	73.8	63.0	59.1	60.9	64.3	60.5	62.0
Male	80.5	79.5	74.9	69.3	71.5	60.2	55.2	57.3	60.4	57.7	58.0
<b>SOUTHEAST FINLAND</b>											
<b>FINLAND</b>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56.4
Female	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58.1
Male	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54.7
KYMI	77.6	77.0	73.1	69.9	70.3	60.0	54.9	57.7	60.9	57.2	..
Female	77.7	76.9	73.6	71.2	71.2	61.6	56.9	59.8	63.1	58.6	..
Male	77.4	77.1	72.7	68.6	69.4	58.3	52.8	55.6	58.7	55.8	..
SOUTH SAVO	76.8	76.4	73.1	69.9	68.7	59.9	56.5	58.3	62.8	59.6	..
Female	77.1	76.5	73.0	71.2	70.1	61.2	58.2	60.2	64.7	61.3	..
Male	76.5	76.3	73.2	68.6	67.1	58.4	54.7	56.2	60.8	57.7	..
<b>SAVO-KARELIA</b>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54.8
Female	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56.4
Male	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53.2
NORTH SAVO	76.8	76.0	72.8	69.0	67.5	58.3	53.8	56.0	59.9	55.6	..
Female	76.9	75.7	73.6	68.7	68.8	59.7	55.8	58.3	61.8	57.1	..
Male	76.7	76.4	71.9	69.2	66.1	56.8	51.7	53.6	57.9	54.0	..
NORTH KARELIA	75.8	75.5	71.3	68.6	68.9	57.9	53.5	55.4	57.1	55.4	..
Female	75.2	74.2	71.4	68.8	69.8	59.3	55.1	57.5	59.2	56.8	..
Male	76.4	76.9	71.2	68.3	67.8	56.4	51.8	53.2	55.0	54.0	..
VAASA	80.9	80.9	79.5	77.3	75.9	69.0	64.4	65.6	67.5	63.3	63.8
Female	80.9	80.5	79.8	78.0	76.6	70.2	66.0	67.3	68.9	64.5	65.2
Male	81.0	81.3	79.3	76.6	75.0	67.7	62.7	63.9	66.1	62.2	62.3

Constituency	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1996	2000	2004	2008	2012	2017
CENTRAL FINLAND	80.8	80.3	75.9	72.6	70.3	60.9	56.3	57.7	62.3	58.3	58.0
Female	80.5	80.1	76.5	75.0	71.8	62.6	58.2	59.8	64.2	59.9	59.8
Male	81.0	80.4	75.3	70.0	68.7	59.1	54.2	55.6	60.4	56.6	56.1
OULU	80.1	80.7	75.8	71.2	70.4	60.1	55.1	56.0	58.7	56.5	56.9
Female	80.0	80.4	76.2	72.4	71.3	61.7	57.1	58.8	60.8	57.9	58.5
Male	80.1	81.0	75.4	70.0	69.4	58.6	53.0	53.3	56.6	55.0	55.3
LAPLAND	83.4	83.5	79.3	75.4	73.9	65.2	59.8	60.9	62.8	60.6	58.0
Female	83.1	83.5	80.1	77.0	75.4	66.8	61.8	63.2	64.8	62.1	59.5
Male	83.6	83.4	78.5	73.8	72.5	63.6	57.8	58.5	60.8	59.1	56.4

**Appendix table 4. Persons entitled to vote and those who voted by nationality in Municipal elections 1996–2017**

Mainland Finland	Total	Finnish citizens	Other EU-citizens, citizens of Iceland and Norway	Other foreign citizens
<b>Persons entitled to vote</b>				
1996	3,941,019	3,896,450	11,734	32,835
2000	4,014,611	3,956,450	14,516	43,645
2004	4,099,864	4,024,820	29,634	45,410
2008	4,191,662	4,095,291	43,296	53,075
2012	4,303,064	4,166,110	61,617	75,337
2017	4,391,558	4,217,897	81,892	94,769
<b>Persons who voted</b>				
1996	2,417,057	2,407,809	3,754	5,494
%	61.3	61.8	32.0	16.7
2000	2,242,811	2,230,683	4,418	7,707
%	55.9	56.4	30.4	17.7
2004	2,403,260	2,391,800	5,307	6,153
%	58.6	59.4	17.9	13.5
2008	2,565,413	2,546,513	9,033	9,867
%	61.2	62.2	20.9	18.6
2012	2,507,244	2,480,428	11,748	15,068
%	58.3	59.5	19.1	20.0
2017	2,585,210	2,551,701	14,560	18,949
%	58.9	60.5	17.8	20.0

# Municipal elections, quality description

## 1. Relevance of statistical information

### 1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

Statistics Finland produces official statistics on municipal elections containing key data on the candidates, elected councillors, those entitled to vote, those who voted and support gained by the parties. Statistics Finland's statistics pages on municipal elections also provide analyses on the backgrounds of the candidates and the elected, on those who voted in advance, and as separate services the election map service and the StatFin service (database tables / most detailed regional level is voting district).

### 1.2 Essential concepts

#### *General information*

Councillors to municipal councils are elected in the municipal elections. At the beginning of 2017, the number of municipalities is 295 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 (2017) (the voting district division came into effect on 31 October 2016). \*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 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.

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, the time for holding the elections was changed (in 2012, the fourth Sunday in October every four years). Municipal elections are held every four years on the third Sunday of April (9 April 2017). 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, but at a different time than those in Mainland Finland, next time in October 2019 ([www.val.ax](http://www.val.ax)).

Elections are held in accordance with the Election Act in force, (Election Act in force <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.

#### *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 main principles of holding elections*

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

- **The elections are direct.** Electors (those entitled to vote) vote direct for the person they want to be elected.
- **The elections are proportional.** In proportional elections each party or other group gains seats in relation to the votes cast for it compared with the votes cast for other groups (not in presidential elections). In Finland, so called d'Hondt method is applied as the calculation method for proportional 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. However, an assistant can be used in the actual voting situation under certain conditions.
- **Voting must take place in front of election authorities.** The purpose of this is to ensure overall reliability of the elections, the voter's right to express his or her free will and to ensure the secrecy of the ballot. The selection of election authorities and their actions in their duties are set in the Election Act.
- The Finnish election system is a combination of voting for individuals and parties, where a vote goes to both a party and a person (not in presidential elections).

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

##### *Right to vote*

Entitled to vote in municipal elections are:

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 Member State of the European Union or Iceland and Norway, whose municipality of residence is the municipality in question on the 51st day before election day; or
2. Citizens of other countries, whose municipality of residence is the municipality in question on the 51st day before election day, and who at that time have had a municipality of residence in Finland for an uninterrupted period of two years; 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 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 the local register office of their willingness to exercise the right to vote in the municipal election in writing no later than on the 52nd day before the election day.

##### *Voting register*

The Population Register Centre compiles a register of everyone entitled to vote (voting register) 46 days before the election day. This register contains certain information on the voters (including the voters' name, identity code, constituency, municipality of residence, and polling station) as this information appears in the Population Information System 51 days before the election day. The voting register is established on 22 February 2017 based on the information included in the Population Information System on 17 February 2017.

The voting register is publicly available at the local register offices (maistraatti) from 41 days before the election day onwards (i.e. from 27 February 2017). In addition, everyone in the register is sent a notice of his or her right to vote (notification card) not later than 24 days before the election day (16 March 2017). The card states among other things the election day, the days for advance voting, the address of the polling station of the recipient and the addresses and telephone numbers of the election authorities. The voting register is later used to print out electoral rolls for the polling stations on the election day.

Claims for correction of the register have to be submitted to the local register offices not later than 16 days (24 March 2017) before the election day and the local register office will decide the claims not later than 13 days before the election day.

The voting register becomes legally valid at noon 12 days prior to the election day, that is, on Tuesday 28 March 2017 at noon.

##### *Voting*

Persons with a right to vote can vote either 1) during advance voting, or 2) on the election Sunday (9 April 2017).

Advance votes in Finland (29 March to 4 April 2017) are cast in general advance polling stations, in institutions and at voters' homes under certain conditions. General advance polling stations in Finland are offices, post offices and other locations specified by municipalities. Advance votes abroad (29 March to 1 April 2017) are cast at Finnish embassies and their trade missions and on Finnish vessels. General advance polling stations abroad are the Finnish embassies and their trade missions specified in a Government decree. Each person entitled to vote can vote in advance in general advance polling stations in Finland and abroad at Finnish embassies. 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. Advance voting commences on the 11th day (29 March 2017) and ends abroad on the 8th day (1 April 2017) and in Finland on the 5th day (4 April 2017) before the election day.

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

*Calculation of the result of the municipal elections*

Counting the advance votes

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

Counting the votes 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.

## *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 Register Centre's Population Information System 51 days prior to the day of the election (in the 2017 Municipal elections by Friday 17 February 2017). 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 2017 Municipal election by Wednesday 8 March 2017), 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 list of candidates (candidate application) to the central election committee of the municipality 40 days before the elections (by 28 February 2017 by 4 pm at the latest). 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 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 (9 March 2017).

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

The number of councillors elected depends on the population of the municipality (data at the end of 30 November 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
over 500,000	79

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

Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities concerning elections of different years are presented on the Internet in the appendix table of the statistical release (the home page for Municipal elections).

Municipalities are placed into constituencies according to the constituency division in force. At the beginning of 2017, the number of municipalities is 295 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 (2017) (the voting district division came into effect on 31 October 2016). \*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. In the statistical grouping of municipalities, municipalities are divided by the proportion of the population living in urban settlements and by the population of the largest urban settlement into urban, semi-urban and rural municipalities. The classification is based on the definition of urban settlements made in 2016 and the population of the municipality in 2015. The definition of urban settlements is produced yearly by the Finnish Environment Institute.*

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

### *Classifications used*

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

*Candidates have been nominated in the Municipal elections 2017 by the following registered parties (15/16):*

- 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)
- The Communist Party of Finland (SKP)
- Communist Worker's Party (Finland) – For Peace and Socialism (KTP)
- Liberal Party – Freedom for Choice (LIBE)
- Pirate Party of Finland (Piraattip.)
- Animal Justice Party of Finland (EOP)
- Feminist Party (Femin.p.)
- Independence Party (IP)

### *Data collection methods and data sources*

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

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

The function of Statistics Finland is to compile statistics describing conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). These also include election statistics. Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure define the Population and Social Statistics department as the producer of election statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-580-16).

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

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

1. Basic data, including data on constituencies, municipalities, voting districts and election authorities;
2. Data on polling stations (polling station register), which include data on general advance polling stations and polling stations on the election day;
3. Franchise data (voting register), for which data on every person entitled to vote are collected by the Population Register Centre 46 days before the election day. This register contains certain information on the voters (including the voters' name, identity code, constituency, municipality of residence, and polling station) as this information appears in the Population Information System 51 days before the election day. The voting register becomes legally valid at noon 12 days prior to the election day;
4. Data on candidates (candidate register) in which the following data on each candidate in the elections are entered: name, candidate number, profession, municipality of residence, party/voters' association that has nominated the candidate, and personal identity code;
5. A centralised calculation system to which the electoral district committees and the central election committees submit their results of the elections;
6. A statistical and information service system by means of which the results of the elections and other statistical data are transmitted to the media and to Statistics Finland.

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

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

In connection with the election statistics, a background analysis is produced on persons entitled to vote, candidates nominated by the parties and elected representatives. The population of persons entitled to vote is based on the voting register established on 22 February 2017 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 2014 to 2016. 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 Population Register Centre'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 2015.

### *Main type of activity*

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

The classification of main type of activity is as follows:

- Employed
- Unemployed
- 0 to 14-year-olds
- Students, pupils
- Pensioners
- Conscripts, conscientious objectors
- Other inactive population

The information used in the analysis describes the person's activity during the last week of 2015.

### *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 2015.

#### *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 2015.

#### *Level of education*

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

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

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

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 leads to master's degrees and specialist's degrees in medicine, for instance.

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

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

The data on education are derived from Statistics Finland's Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2015.

#### *Disposable cash 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 2015.*

#### *Median income*

When income receivers are put in the order of size by income, median income is the income of the middle income receiver. An equal number of income earners 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 be a citizen of more than one country (see Nationality Act, 359/2003 and Nationality Decree, 699/1985). Persons with both Finnish and foreign citizenship will be entered in the statistics as Finnish nationals. If a foreign national living in Finland has several nationalities, that person will be entered in the register 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 and awards received from the general government.

### **Background analysis of persons who voted**

In connection with the election statistics, a background analysis is produced on the persons who voted in relation to the persons entitled to vote. The population of persons entitled to vote in Municipal elections 2017 is based on the voting register established on 22 February 2017. Information is entered in the voting register on the voting of all advance voters. Information is entered in the voting register also on the voting on the election day provided the voting district used the electronic voting register. The background data on the persons combined with these registers are based on Statistics Finland's statistical data, 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 advance voters and the persons entitled to vote with regard to certain variables. The background data used with Municipal elections 2017 usually relates to the year 2015. 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.

#### **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 having a foreign background. Persons whose both parents were born abroad are regarded by origin as having a foreign background. The data is from 2016.

#### **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.

In this analysis, main type of activity is as follows:

- employed
- unemployed
- students
- pensioners
- other inactive population

In the analysis, the group of pensioners is formed by those on old-age, unemployment and disability pension. Conscripts and those in non-military service are included in the inactive population. The information used in the analysis describes the person's activity during the last week of 2015.

#### *Family status*

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

- married / cohabiting
- single parent
- without a family
- (adult) child living at home
- unknown



Married include all those living in marriage or registered same-sex partnership. Persons who have the status of a parent in single parent families are defined as single parents. Persons living with their own parents/parent or adopted parents/parent having the status of a child in the family are defined as children.

The data on the person's family status are from the year 2015.

#### *Level of education*

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

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

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

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

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

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

The data on education are derived from Statistics Finland's Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2015.

#### *Income subject to state taxation*

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

The data are based on the National Board of Taxes' data in the tax database concerning income subject to state taxation. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2015.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 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 (starting from 2004) and the numbers of votes gained by candidates and elected representatives are entered into the StatFin online service.

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

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

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

## 6. Comparability of statistics

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

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

## 7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity and documentation

The Ministry of Justice publishes exhaustive information about different elections and the national candidate register and election result data on its web pages ([www.vaalit.fi](http://www.vaalit.fi)). The statistics on advance voters published by the Ministry of Justice differ from Statistics Finland's statistics on advance voters, because they are defined on different grounds:

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

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

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Source: Municipal Elections 2017, Review of voting, Statistics Finland