

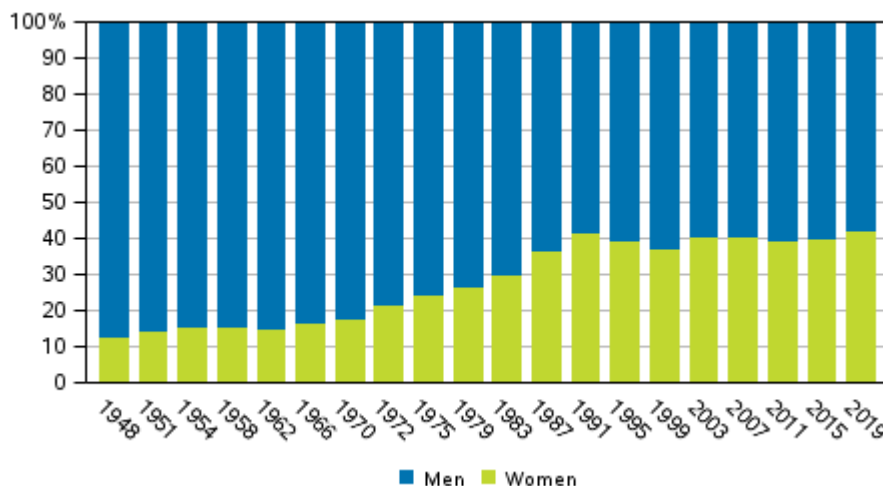
# Parliamentary elections 2019, nomination of candidates

## A total of 2,468 candidates in Parliamentary elections 2019

**Corrected on 30 October 2019.** The corrections are indicated in red.

Altogether 2,468 candidates were nominated for the 2019 Parliamentary elections, which is 322 more than in the previous Parliamentary elections. Of the candidates, 990 are municipal councillors and 165 Members of Parliament in the present Parliament. A total of 19 registered political parties take part in the Parliamentary elections. Four more parties participate in the elections than in the previous Parliamentary elections. More detailed data on the candidates can be found in the review: Background analysis of candidates in the Parliamentary elections 2019.

### Men and women as percentage of candidates in Parliamentary elections 1948 to 2019 (%)



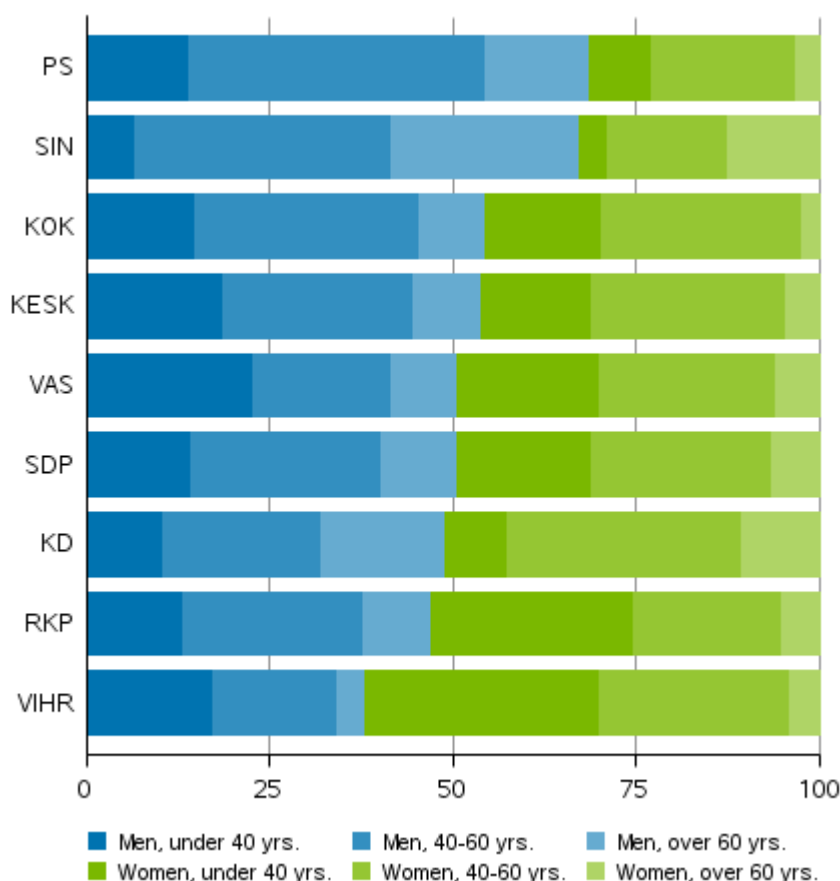
Of all candidates, 70.0 per cent were nominated by the parties elected to the present Parliament (National Coalition Party, Finnish Social Democratic Party, Finns Party, Centre Party of Finland, Swedish People's Party in Finland, Green League, Christian Democrats in Finland) and by the Blue Reform. Of the parties from which no MPs were elected to the present Parliament, the most candidates were nominated by the Seven Star Movement (175 candidates) and least by the Animal Justice Party of Finland (17 candidates). A total of 136 candidates outside any party were nominated in the entire country. The parties that got

candidates elected into parliament in the 2015 Parliamentary elections are called "parliamentary parties". This also includes the Blue Reform.

A majority of the candidates in the Parliamentary elections have always been men. In the Parliamentary elections 2019, altogether 1,432 of the candidates are men and 1,036 women. Women's proportion of candidates is thus 42.0 per cent, which is 2.6 percentage points higher than in the 2015 Parliamentary elections.

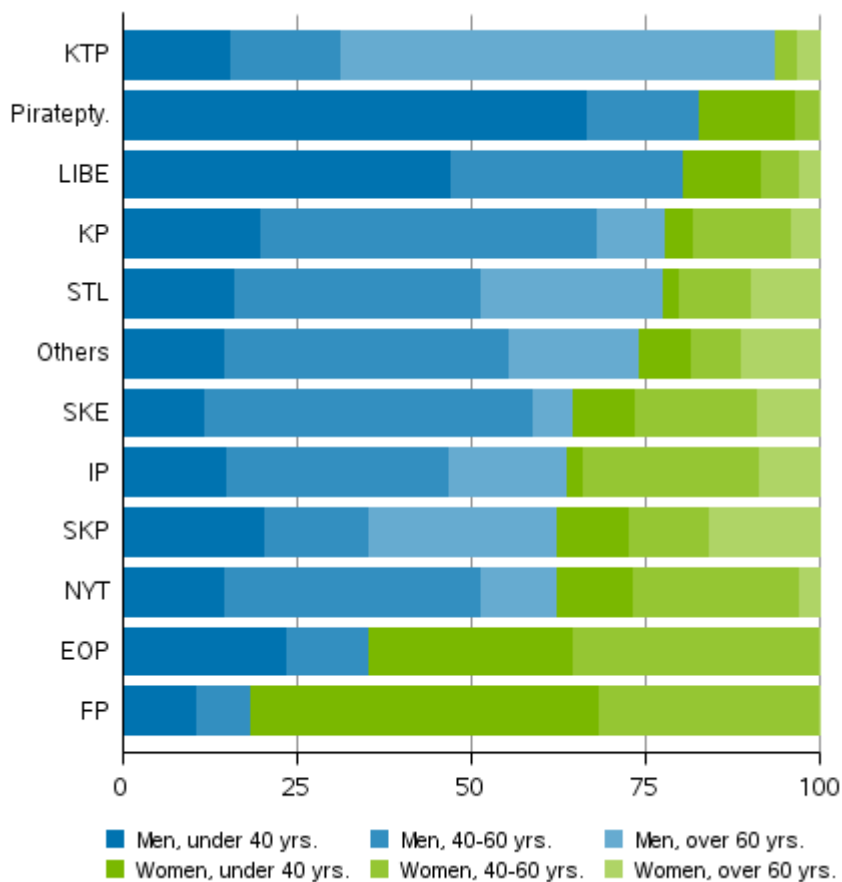
Of the parliamentary party candidates, the proportion of women candidates is smallest for the Finns Party (31.5 per cent) and biggest for the Green League (62.0 per cent). Among all parties, the proportion of female candidates is highest in the Feminist Party (81.6 per cent) and lowest in the Communist Worker's Party (6.3 per cent). Men account for 53.1 per cent of all parliamentary parties' candidates. In parties and constituency associations from which no MPs were elected to the present Parliament, men's share of candidates is 69.5 per cent.

**Share of men and women among candidates by party and age in Parliamentary elections 2019, parliamentary parties (%)**



The average age of all candidates is 46.9 years, that of male candidates is 47.9 and that of female ones 45.5. Of all candidates, 1,675 are aged 40 or over. Of the candidates, 31 are aged 75 or over and 137 are aged 25 or younger.

**Share of men and women among candidates by party and age in Parliamentary elections 2019, other parties and constituency associations (%)**



Among the parliamentary parties, the Swedish People's Party has the most candidates aged under 25 (12.2 per cent) and the Finns Party have least (0.9 per cent). The share of the Swedish People's Party candidates aged under 25 is also biggest among all parties. In relative terms, the Blue Reform has the most candidates aged 65 or over (19.7 per cent) and the Green League has least (3.7 per cent). The age of the candidate is the age on the election day.

**Table 1. Background analysis of candidates by party in the Parliamentary elections 2019**

Party	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	6.7	40.1	46.9	91.2	6.0	2.3	72.9	8.9	18.2	29,111
KESK	17.1	58.8	45.7	95.4	1.9	2.8	90.3	1.9	7.9	39,345
PS	8.0	62.4	48.1	98.1	0.9	0.5	83.6	6.1	10.3	30,257
KOK	17.1	72.5	45.4	97.2	1.4	1.4	91.5	0.9	7.6	47,476
SDP	13.4	71.8	45.6	93.5	2.8	3.7	88.9	4.2	6.9	35,888
VIHR	5.1	60.6	41.3	94.0	2.3	3.7	86.1	5.6	8.3	30,406
VAS	4.6	51.4	44.3	93.5	2.8	3.7	77.8	13.0	9.3	27,866
RKP	7.1	46.9	44.0	7.1	91.8	1.0	83.7	1.0	15.3	36,956
KD	2.6	38.4	51.3	94.7	3.7	1.1	78.4	7.4	14.2	31,119
SKP	-	1.1	53.0	92.0	1.1	5.7	40.9	11.4	47.7	19,208
KTP	-	-	58.1	90.6	3.1	6.3	15.6	12.5	71.9	16,101
LIBE	-	2.8	37.6	88.9	5.6	-	66.7	2.8	30.6	24,809
Piratepty.	-	2.3	35.0	94.3	3.4	2.3	55.2	20.7	24.1	19,376
EOP	-	-	40.0	94.1	5.9	-	64.7	23.5	11.8	15,222
KP	-	8.0	48.6	98.0	-	2.0	64.0	14.0	22.0	18,182
FP	-	2.6	36.7	89.5	2.6	2.6	55.3	18.4	26.3	23,249
IP	-	4.3	50.6	95.7	4.3	-	36.2	29.8	34.0	20,674
SIN	6.6	20.4	54.4	96.1	1.3	2.6	59.9	11.2	28.9	26,308
SKE	-	-	47.9	100.0	-	-	26.5	23.5	50.0	16,034
STL	0.6	3.4	53.5	94.3	1.1	1.7	40.6	17.7	41.7	19,334
NYT	0.9	8.3	47.1	93.6	4.6	0.9	72.5	10.1	17.4	29,650
Others	3.7	14.8	50.4	77.8	18.5	3.7	44.4	14.8	40.7	21,408

Of all candidates in the Parliamentary elections, 990 are municipal councillors, which is 40.1 per cent of all candidates. The share of municipal councillors among candidates is biggest for the Coalition Party, 72.5 per cent of candidates, in absolute numbers the Social Democratic Party has most municipal councillors as candidates, 155. Altogether, 165 of the candidates are Members of Parliament, which is 6.7 per cent of all candidates.

Of all candidates, 91.2 per cent are Finnish or Sami speakers, 6.0 per cent Swedish speakers and 2.3 per cent speak other than national languages as their native language.

Based on main type of activity, 72.9 per cent of all Parliamentary election candidates are employed, 8.9 per cent are unemployed and 18.2 per cent are in the inactive population. Of the parliamentary parties, the Coalition Party has the most employed persons in relative terms among the candidates, 91.5 per cent and the Blue Reform the least, 59.9 per cent. Of the parliamentary parties, the Blue Reform (28.9%) has in relative terms the most candidates in the inactive population and the Finnish Social Democratic Party the least (6.9%). The inactive population includes students, pensioners and those in military or non-military service.

The median for the disposable monetary income of all candidates is EUR 29,111 per year. Measured by the median, the candidates nominated by the Coalition Party have the highest income, over EUR 47,000. Of the parliamentary parties, the candidates of the Blue Reform have the lowest income, around EUR 26,000.

The data are based on Statistics Finland's statistics on the nomination of candidates for the Parliamentary elections 2019. [The national register of candidates](http://www.vaalit.fi/en/) is published on the Internet pages of the Ministry of Justice ([www.vaalit.fi/en/](http://www.vaalit.fi/en/)).

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# 1. Background analysis of candidates in the Parliamentary elections 2019

The following review examines persons entitled to vote in the Parliamentary elections 2019 and the candidates nominated by the parties according to various background information. The data on persons entitled to vote derive from the voting register established on 22 February 2019 and the data on the candidates from the candidate register set up on 14 March 2019. The background data are based on statistical data from Statistics Finland, such as population, employment and family 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 parties that got candidates elected into parliament in the 2015 Parliamentary elections are presented in the Figures and Tables, and in the analysis they are called "Parliamentary parties". This also includes the Blue Reform that separated from the Finns Party. The data on the candidates of other parties and constituency associations are summed under the group "Others".

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

## 1.1. Summary

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

The total number of candidates nominated in the Parliamentary elections is 2,468, which is 322 more candidates than in the previous elections and more than ever in the 2000s. Of the candidates, 1,432 are men and 1,036 are women. In all elections in the 2000s, women's share of candidates has been just under 40 per cent. Now women's share rose to 42 per cent – the share having risen by 2.6 percentage points from the previous elections. Of the parliamentary parties, the Finns Party (31.5%) and the Blue Reform (32.9%) nominated in relative terms the least female candidates. The share of women candidates is highest in the Green League (62.0%). In addition to the Green League, the Swedish People's Party and the Christian Democrats have more female than male candidates. In constituencies, women's share is biggest in Uusimaa (44%) and smallest in Vaasa (37%).

### **Nearly one third also ran in the previous elections**

Nearly 30 per cent of the candidates were also nominated in the 2015 elections. Among the parliamentary parties, the Finnish Social Democratic Party has most of the same candidates in the elections compared to the previous elections, over 40 per cent. The Swedish People's Party (23.5%) and the Green League (29.6%) have least of the same candidates. Around 16 per cent of the Blue Reform candidates were candidates of the Finns Party in the 2015 elections.

### **Of the parliamentary parties, the Blue Reform has the oldest candidates, the Green League the youngest**

Candidates are, on average, 4.3 years younger than persons entitled to vote. The average age of the candidates is 46.9 years and that of persons entitled to vote 51.2 years. Of the parliamentary parties, the Blue Reform has the oldest candidates: the average age of its candidates is 54.4 years and around 38 per cent of the candidates are aged 60 or over. The candidates of the Green League are in turn youngest in their average age. Around 15 per cent of them are aged under 30, and the average age of the candidates is 41.3 years.

### **In all, 2.4 per cent of the candidates are of foreign origin**

The share of candidates of foreign origin is on the same level as among persons entitled to vote, around 2.5 per cent. The proportion of persons of foreign origin among everyone living in Finland is, however, higher, as only Finnish citizens are entitled to vote and eligible to stand as candidates in the Parliamentary



elections. For example, around seven per cent of the population living in Finland were of foreign origin in 2017. Of the parliamentary parties, the Social Democrats and the Left Alliance have the most candidates of foreign origin, slightly over four per cent and the Finns Party the least, around half a per cent of candidates.

### **Candidates are more highly educated and more often in working life**

Nearly one-half of the candidates have tertiary level qualifications. The corresponding share is slightly under one quarter among persons entitled to vote. Under ten per cent of the candidates have only basic level education, but around one-quarter of persons entitled to vote. This is partly explained by the different age structure of people entitled to vote and the candidates. The candidates of the Green League and the National Coalition Party have the highest level of education, one-half of them have higher tertiary or doctorate level degrees.

The difference in the age structure between the candidates and persons entitled to vote is also reflected in the difference between the labour market position of candidates and persons entitled to vote: over 70 per cent of candidates are employed and slightly over one-half of those entitled to vote. Nearly one-third of persons entitled to vote are pensioners, but only every tenth of the candidates. The employment rate is calculated from the working-age population aged 18 to 64. The employment rate of the candidates is 78 per cent, while that of persons entitled to vote is around ten percentage points lower.

By their socio-economic group, more candidates are salaried employees than persons entitled to vote: 70 per cent of the candidates and around 59 per cent of employed persons entitled to vote belong to salaried employees. For all parliamentary parties, the proportion of salaried employees is higher among candidates than among persons entitled to vote.

Of employed candidates, 43 per cent work in the public sector. Roughly the same proportion of candidates and persons entitled to vote work in the local government sector but the central government sector employs clearly more MP candidates than persons entitled to vote. When slightly over five per cent of all persons entitled to vote are working in the central government sector, this is so for around 18 per cent of the candidates.

### **One-quarter of persons entitled to vote and one-fifth of candidates live alone**

The candidates also differ in their family status from persons entitled to vote: considerably more of them are parents of a family with children and clearly fewer are childless couples than is the case among persons entitled to vote. This is already explained by the younger age groups of candidates compared to persons entitled to vote. Of all persons entitled to vote, 22 per cent are parents of families with children, good one-third of the candidates. One-quarter of persons entitled to vote live alone, but only slightly over one-fifth of the candidates.

Family status does not reveal how many of the candidates have or have had children of their own, because in older families, children may have already moved away from home and in family break-ups, children may live with their other parent. This can, however, be examined based on the number of children recorded in the Finnish Population Information System. Candidates have somewhat more children than average. Of the candidates, 70 per cent have children of their own, whereas the corresponding figure for persons entitled to vote is 66 per cent. The candidates have 1.7 children, on average, and persons entitled to vote have 1.5 children.

### **Highest income level among Coalition Party candidates**

Candidates are more highly educated and a larger share of them are also working than among persons entitled to vote. This largely accounts for the higher income level of candidates than persons entitled to vote. The median disposable income of the candidates is EUR 29,100 and that of all persons entitled to vote EUR 21,500. The candidates' disposable income is about 36 per cent higher than that of persons entitled to vote.

The candidates' income varies by party from around EUR 47,500 in the Coalition Party to EUR 26,300 in the Blue Reform. The highest income decile of the population entitled to vote has at least EUR 39,600 at their disposal and the lowest income decile at most EUR 9,400. Of all candidates, 27 per cent belong to the highest income decile. Of the candidates, those representing the National Coalition Party and the

Centre Party belong to the higher end of the income distribution. Around 62 per cent of the Coalition Party candidates and one-half of the Centre Party candidates belong to the highest income decile.

## 1.2. Candidates and persons entitled to vote by sex

### Women's share of candidates 42 per cent

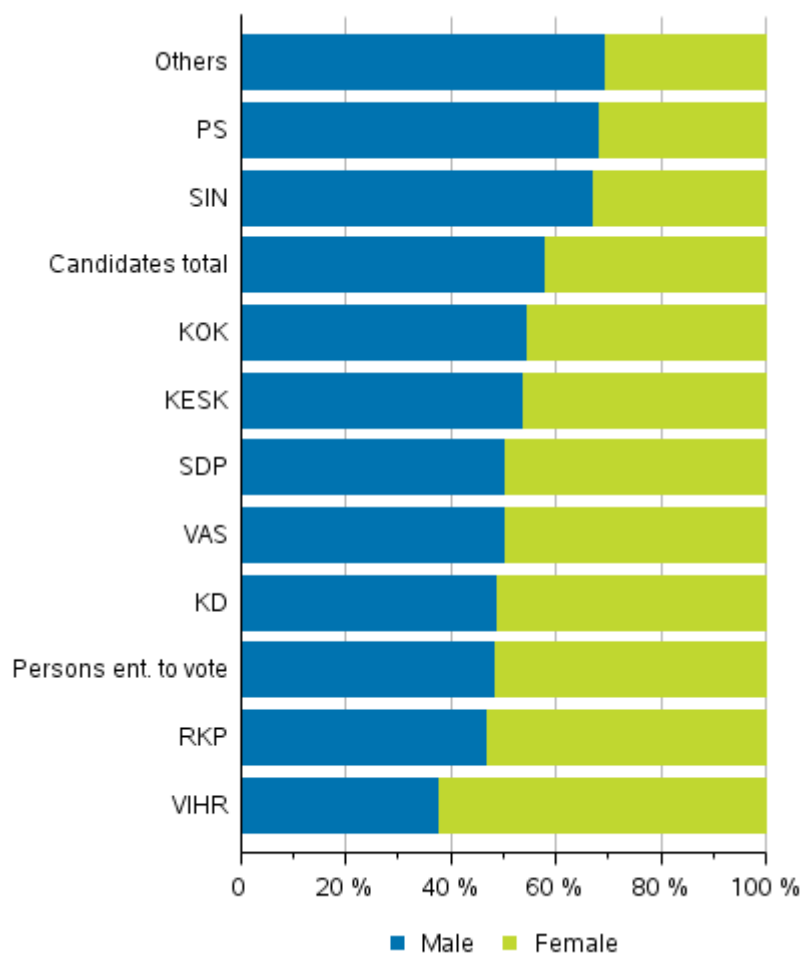
The total number of candidates nominated in the Parliamentary elections is 2,468, which is 322 more candidates than in the previous election and more than ever in the 2000s. Four parties, that is, the Centre Party, the Social Democratic Party, the Left Alliance and the Green League nominated the maximum number of candidates, which is 216. The number of Finns Party candidates was on level with the previous time even though the Blue Reform that separated from the Finns Party now nominated 152 candidates.

**Table 1. Number of candidates by party in Parliamentary elections 2011, 2015 and 2019**

	Number of candidates by party			Change from the previous elections, (%)	
	2011	2015	2019	2015	2019
Candidates total	2,315	2,146	2,468	-7.3	15.0
Centre Party of Finland KESK	233	216	216	-7.3	0.0
Finns Party PS	238	215	213	-9.7	-0.9
National Coalition Party KOK	232	214	211	-7.8	-1.4
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	238	216	216	-9.2	0.0
Green League VIHR	228	208	216	-8.8	3.8
Left Alliance VAS	236	216	216	-8.5	0.0
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	83	104	98	25.3	-5.8
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	191	193	190	1.0	-1.6
Blue Reform SIN	-	-	152	-	-
Others	636	564	740	-11.3	31.2

Of the candidates, 1,432 are men and 1,036 are women. Women's share of candidates is now 42 per cent, the share having grown by 2.6 percentage points from the previous elections. Among the major parliamentary parties, the Finns Party (31.5%) and the Blue Reform (32.9%) nominated the least female candidates in the 2019 elections. The Green League (62.0%) and the Swedish People's Party (53.1%) have the highest shares of female candidates. In addition to them, the Christian Democrats in Finland have more female than male candidates (51.1%). A majority, or 51.4 per cent, of the persons entitled to vote are women.

**Figure 1. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by sex in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**



Women's share of candidates in the Parliamentary elections now rose for the first time in the 2000s to over 40 per cent. Women's share of candidates is higher than in the previous elections for all other parties except the Coalition Party and the Finns Party. The share of female candidates fell in the Coalition Party by 0.8 percentage points and in the Finns Party by 3.8 percentage points. The Blue Reform also nominated fewer women as its candidates (32.9%) than the Finns Party in the 2015 elections. The share of female candidates rose most in the Swedish People's Party (by 8.9 percentage points) and in the Centre Party (by 6.5 percentage points).

**Table 2. Women's proportion of persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) in Parliamentary elections 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019, %**

	2007	2011	2015	2019
Persons ent. to vote	51.6	51.6	51.5	51.4
Candidates total	39.9	39.0	39.4	42.0
Centre Party of Finland KESK	43.8	41.2	39.8	46.3
Finns Party PS	25.0	33.2	35.3	31.5
National Coalition Party KOK	44.0	44.8	46.3	45.5
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	49.1	43.3	47.2	49.5
Green League VIHR	52.5	51.8	56.3	62.0
Left Alliance VAS	45.7	43.6	43.1	49.5
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	45.3	44.6	44.2	53.1
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	39.4	42.9	45.6	51.1
Blue Reform SIN	-	-	-	32.9
Others	28.2	28.5	24.5	30.5

### **Least women among candidates in the constituency of Vaasa**

In the 2019 elections, the smallest share of women candidates are found in the constituency of Vaasa, around 37 per cent. It is the only constituency where women's share of candidates is under 40 per cent. In the constituency of Vaasa, the share of female candidates has remained unchanged since 2007.

In Mainland Finland constituencies, the share of female candidates is highest in Uusimaa, where 44 per cent of the candidates were women. There are also more women than average among candidates in the constituencies of Central Finland, Oulu, Häme and Varsinais-Suomi. Compared with the previous elections, women's share of candidates grew most in Lapland (by 4.6 percentage points), Uusimaa (by 4.5 percentage points) and Pirkanmaa (by 4.4 percentage points):

Two of the five candidates in the constituency of Åland are women, i.e. 40 per cent.

The majority, 51.4 per cent, of the persons entitled to vote are women. The female majority is biggest in the constituency of Helsinki, where 54.2 per cent of the persons entitled to vote are women. The Oulu constituency is the only one where women's share of persons entitled to vote is under 50 per cent.

The underrepresentation of women among candidates is largest in the constituencies of Vaasa and Helsinki, where there are 13 percentage points fewer women candidates than their share of persons entitled to vote. This difference is smallest in the constituencies of Oulu, Central Finland and Uusimaa, six to seven percentage points.

**Table 3. Proportion of women of candidates by constituency in Parliamentary elections, 2011, 2015 and 2019, %<sup>1)</sup>**

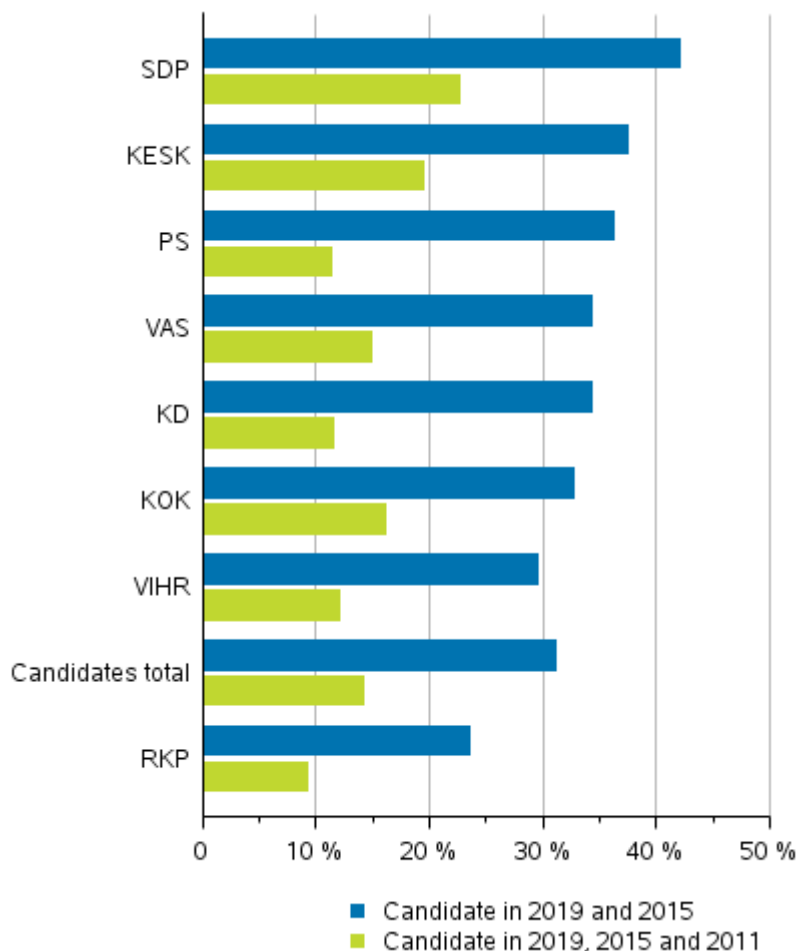
	2011	2015	2019
	Candidates	Candidates	Candidates
Whole country	39.0	39.4	42.0
Helsinki	40.8	41.3	41.3
Uusimaa	40.9	39.6	44.1
Varsinais-Suomi	40.3	41.0	42.4
Satakunta	40.2	38.1	40.2
Häme	38.6	42.5	43.2
Pirkanmaa	36.7	37.4	41.8
Southeast Finland	36.3	38.9	40.8
Savo-Karelia	40.7	38.1	41.2
Vaasa	36.1	35.9	36.9
Central Finland	41.8	40.9	43.8
Oulu	38.5	40.6	43.5
Lapland	33.3	35.6	40.2

1) Åland constituency excluded from the table due to the low number of candidates

### **Nearly one-third of the candidates also ran in 2015**

Of the candidates in the Parliamentary elections 2019, nearly 30 per cent also ran in the 2015 elections and around 13 per cent had been candidates both in the 2015 and 2011 elections. Among the parliamentary parties, the Social Democratic Party (42.1%) has most of the same candidates in the elections compared to the previous elections. The Swedish People's Party (23.5%) and the Green League (29.6%) have least of the same candidates. Around 16 per cent of the Blue Reform candidates were nominated by the Finns Party in the 2015 elections.

**Figure 2. Proportion of the same candidates (by party) in the Parliamentary elections 2011, 2015 and 2019, % of the party's candidates**



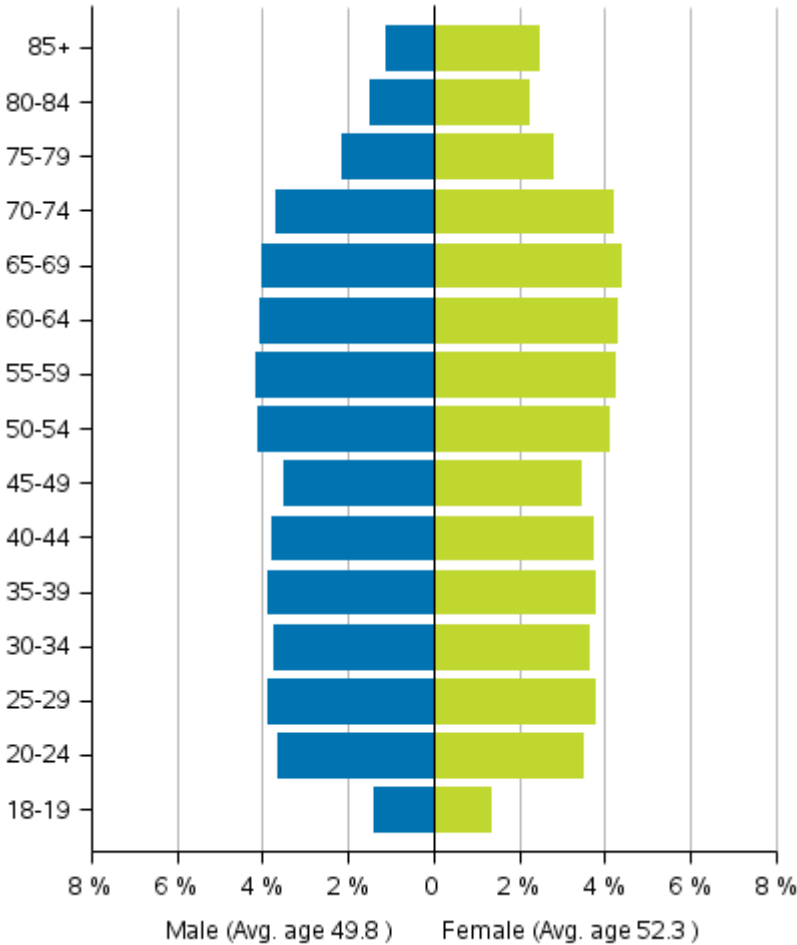
### 1.3. Age structure

#### Candidates are, on average, 4.3 years younger than persons entitled to vote

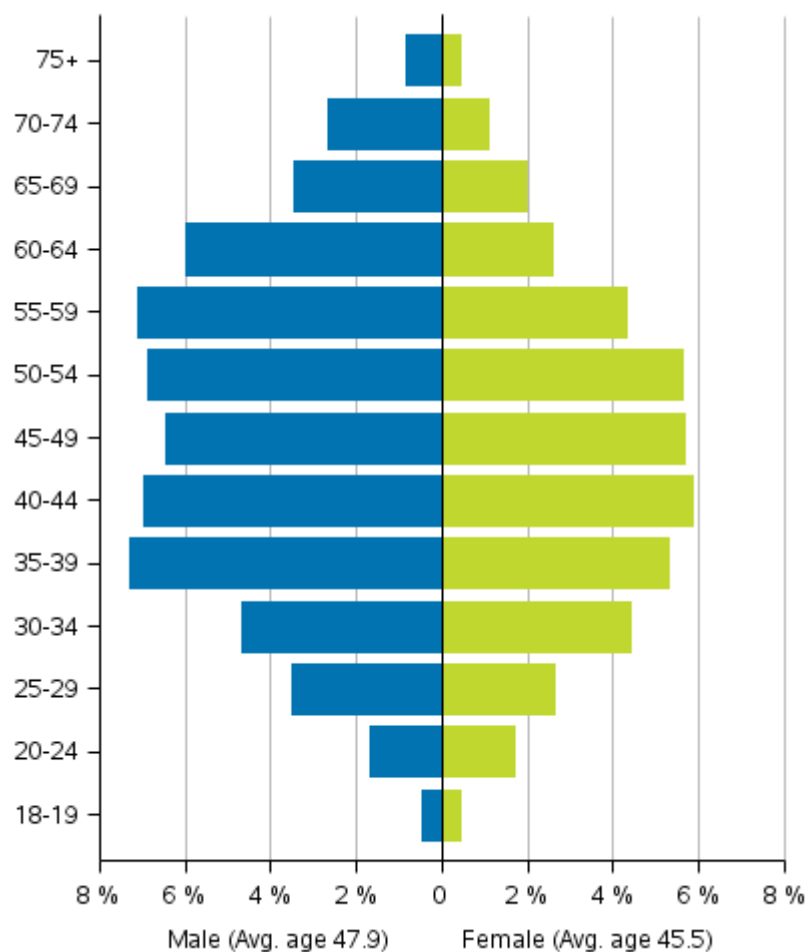
The average age of male candidates is 47.9 years and that of female candidates 45.5 years. On average, female candidates are nearly seven years younger than persons entitled to vote and male candidates around two years younger. The average age of persons entitled to vote has risen by around one year since the previous Parliamentary elections. On the day of the election, the average age of persons entitled to vote is now 49.8 for men and 52.3 for women.

The age structure of the candidates is very different from that of persons entitled to vote. The age pyramid of neither group is no longer a pyramid as the name indicates. The pyramid of persons entitled to vote is fairly uniform up to those aged 74, after which the age groups shrink considerably. The pyramid of the candidates shows the majority of men in all age groups and the fact that the youngest and oldest age groups are missing. There are most male candidates aged 35 to 39 and 55 to 59. For female candidates, the focus is between the ages 40 to 54.

**Figure 3. Age distributions of persons entitled to vote by sex in Parliamentary elections 2019, % of all persons entitled to vote**



**Figure 4. Age distributions of candidates by sex in Parliamentary elections 2019, % of all candidates**

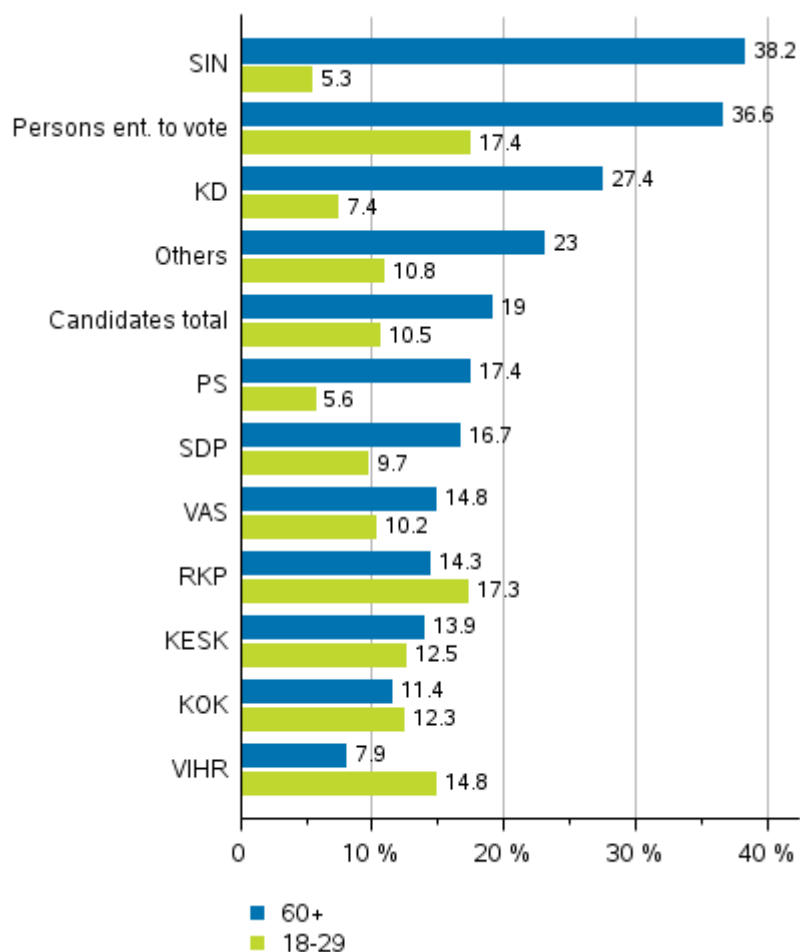


### **Blue Reform candidates oldest**

Of the parliamentary parties, the Blue Reform has the oldest candidates: the average age of their candidates is 54.4 years and around 38 per cent of the candidates are aged 60 or over. The candidates of the Green League are in turn youngest in their average age. Around 15 per cent of them are aged under 30, and the average age of the candidates is 41.3 years. The Swedish People's Party has the most candidates aged under 30, slightly over 17 per cent, which is almost the same as the share of persons aged under 30 among all persons entitled to vote. Around 10 per cent of all candidates are aged under 30 and 19 per cent are aged 60 or over. Only three parties, the Green League, the Swedish People's Party and the National Coalition Party have more candidates aged under 30 than those aged 60 or over.



**Figure 5. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by age group in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**



**Table 4. Average age of persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by sex in Parliamentary elections 2019**

	Male	Female	Total
Persons ent. to vote	49.8	52.3	51.1
Candidates total	47.9	45.5	46.9
Centre Party of Finland KESK	46.4	44.8	45.7
National Coalition Party KOK	46.9	43.6	45.4
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	47.2	43.9	45.6
Left Alliance VAS	44.9	43.7	44.3
Green League VIHR	43.0	40.3	41.3
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	51.7	50.9	51.3
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	47.3	41.2	44.0
Finns Party PS	49.1	45.8	48.1
Blue Reform SIN	54.2	54.7	54.4
Others	47.7	47.7	47.7

## 1.4. Foreign background

### 2.3 per cent of candidates foreign language speakers

The share of foreign-language speakers among the candidates is on the same level as among persons entitled to vote. Of the candidates, 2.3 per cent are foreign-language speakers and 2.4 per cent of the persons entitled to vote speak a foreign language as their native language. The proportion of foreign-language speaking candidates is almost on the same level starting from the 2011 Parliamentary elections, even though the share of foreign-language speakers entitled to vote has grown. In the 2011 elections, the relative share of foreign-language speakers was higher among candidates than among persons entitled to vote. Over 60 per cent of foreign-language speaking candidates are running in the constituencies of Helsinki or Uusimaa.

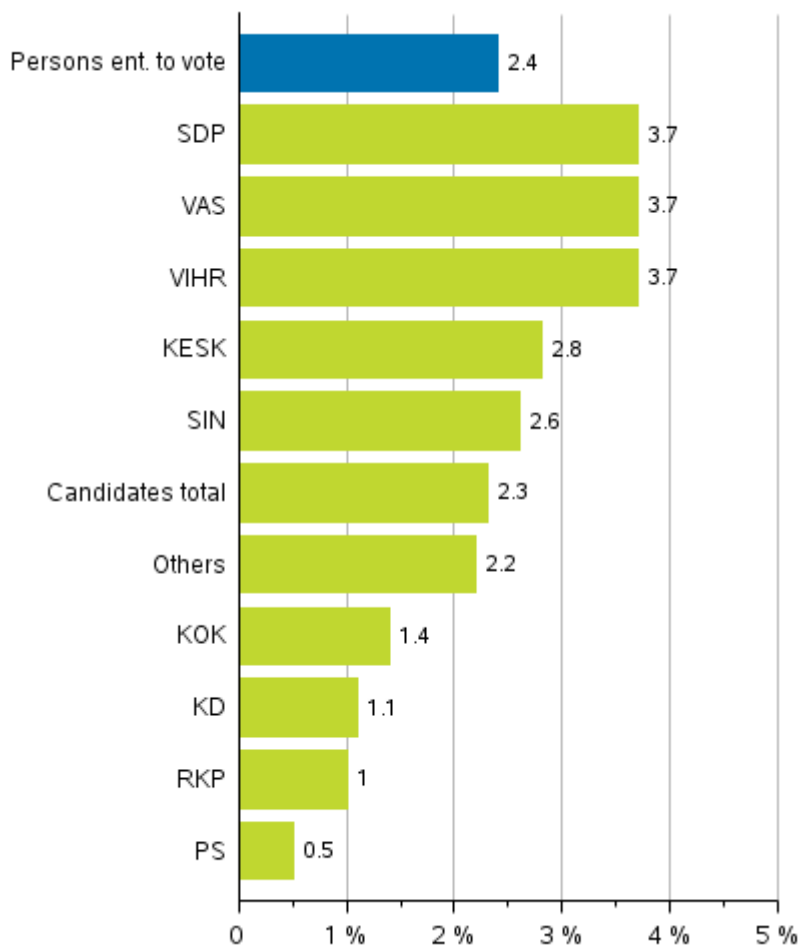
There are also slightly more Swedish-speaking candidates than persons entitled to vote. Of the persons entitled to vote, 5.2 per cent speak Swedish as their native language, while 6.0 per cent of the candidates do. In Mainland Finland, the Swedish-speaking candidates are focused on the constituencies of Vaasa, Helsinki, Uusimaa and Varsinais-Suomi.

**Table 5. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by sex and language in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**

		Male	Female	Total
Persons ent. to vote	Finnish, sami	92.2	92.2	92.2
	Swedish	5.4	5.1	5.2
	Other language	2.3	2.6	2.4
	Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Candidates total	Finnish, sami	91.4	90.8	91.2
	Swedish	5.3	6.9	6.0
	Other language	2.6	1.9	2.3
	Unknown	0.7	0.3	0.5
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

The Green League, the Left Alliance and the Social Democratic Party have the most foreign-language speaking candidates, 3.7 per cent. In turn, the number of foreign-language speaking candidates is lowest in the Finns Party, the Swedish People's Party and the Christian Democrats, around one per cent or lower.

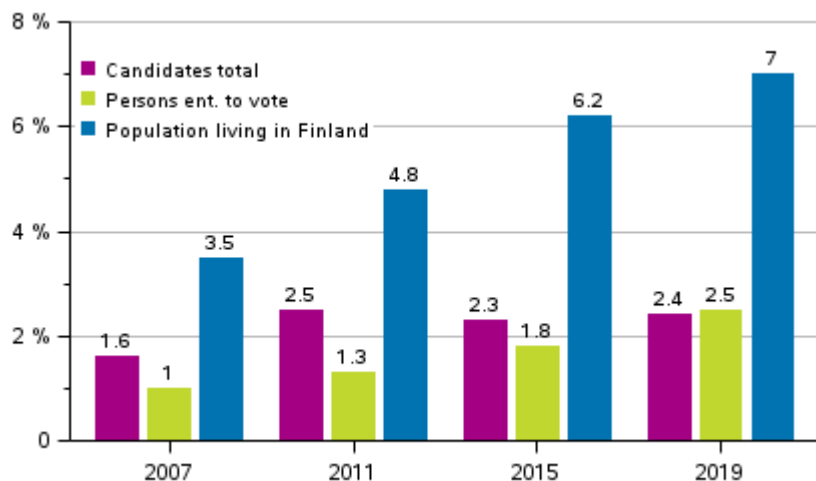
**Figure 6. Foreign-language speakers' proportion of persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**



**In all, 2.4 per cent of the candidates are of foreign origin**

The foreign background of the population can also be examined by the person's origin. Persons, whose both parents (or only parent) have been born abroad, are defined as persons of foreign origin. In the Parliamentary elections 2019, altogether 2.4 per cent of the candidates and 2.5 per cent of persons entitled to vote are of foreign origin. Compared with the previous elections, the proportion of persons of foreign origin has grown among persons entitled to vote, but remained on the same level among the candidates. The proportion of persons of foreign origin among all persons living in Finland is, however, higher, as only Finnish citizens are entitled to vote and eligible to stand as candidates in the Parliamentary elections. For example, around seven per cent of the population living in Finland were of foreign origin in 2017.

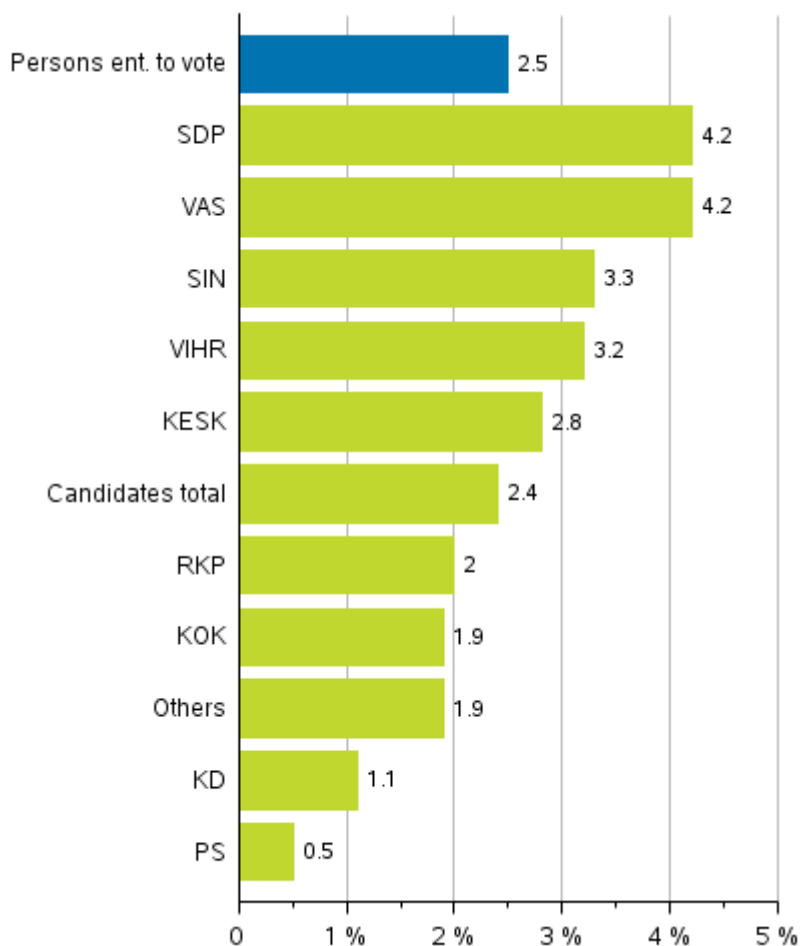
**Figure 7. The proportion of persons of foreign origin among persons entitled to vote and candidates in Parliamentary elections 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019, %**



Latest data concerning the population living in Finland is from at the end of 2017

Of the parliamentary parties, the Social Democratic Party, the Left Alliance (4.2%) have the most candidates of foreign origin. Of the parliamentary parties, the Finns Party has the least candidates of foreign origin, around half a per cent of the nominated candidates.

**Figure 8. Proportion of persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) of foreign origin in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**



## 1.5. Educational level

### More and more highly educated people are seeking entry to the Parliament

Highly educated people are seeking entry to the Parliament. The education level of candidates has risen from one election to another. In the 2007 elections, around 14 per cent of candidates had only basic level education and in the 2015 elections, slightly under 10 per cent and now in the 2019 elections, 8.5 per cent have only basic level education. Correspondingly, the share of candidates with tertiary level qualifications has increased from the 2007 elections by around nine percentage points, from 39 to 48 per cent.

Of persons entitled to vote, around 23 per cent have tertiary level qualifications and 24 per cent have only basic level education.

The candidates of the Green League and the Coalition Party have the highest level of education, one-half of them have higher tertiary or doctorate level degrees. The number of candidates with this level of education is lowest among the candidates of the Finns Party (17.4%), the Blue Reform and the Left Alliance (in both around 23%).

**Table 6. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by educational level in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**

	Basic level	Upper secondary level	Lowest level tertiary	Lower-degree tertiary	Higher-degree level tertiary, doctorate	Total
Persons ent. to vote	24.0	43.5	10.0	11.8	10.7	100.0
Candidates						
Candidates total	8.5	34.0	9.4	16.1	32.1	100.0
Centre Party of Finland KESK	2.3	22.7	13.4	19.0	42.6	100.0
Finns Party PS	10.8	43.7	10.3	17.8	17.4	100.0
National Coalition Party KOK	2.8	18.5	10.9	15.2	52.6	100.0
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	6.0	29.2	11.6	19.0	34.3	100.0
Green League VIHR	3.7	19.9	4.6	17.1	54.6	100.0
Left Alliance VAS	5.1	44.4	5.1	22.2	23.1	100.0
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	5.1	26.5	4.1	18.4	45.9	100.0
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	5.8	22.1	12.6	15.8	43.7	100.0
Blue Reform SIN	11.2	37.5	17.1	11.2	23.0	100.0
Others	14.9	44.6	8.0	12.8	19.7	100.0

## 1.6. Labour market position

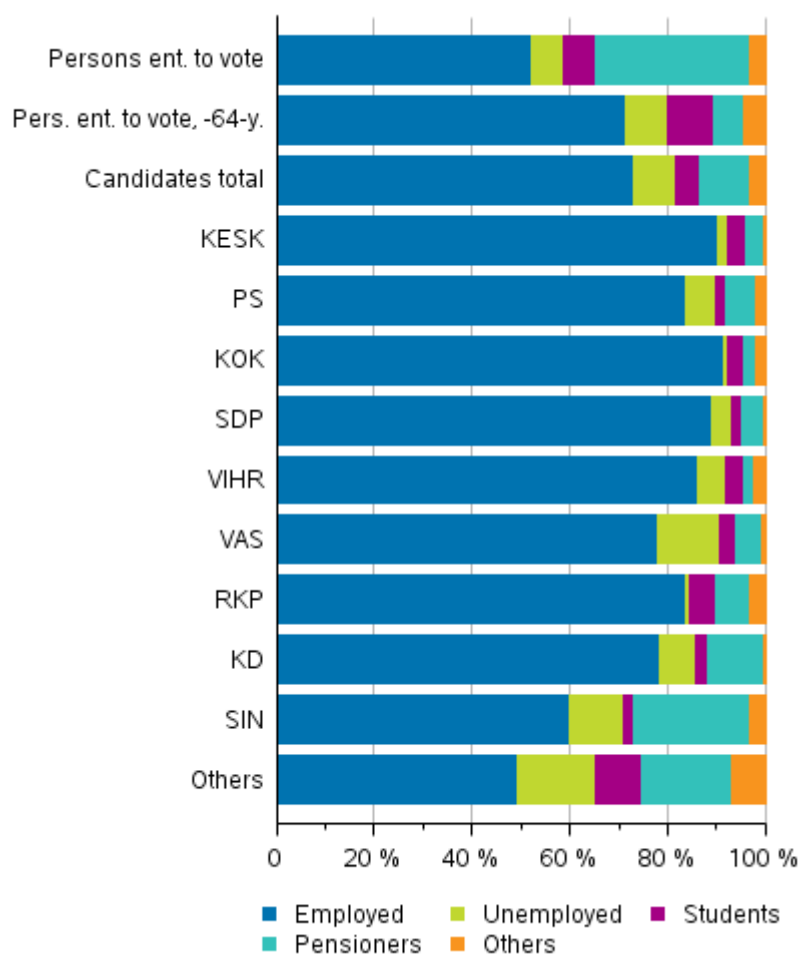
### A majority of candidates are in working life

The biggest difference in the main activity of candidates and persons entitled to vote is found in the share of employed persons and pensioners. The latest statistical data on the population's main type of activity are from the end of 2017. At that time, a little over one-half of all persons entitled to vote were employed, while over 70 per cent of the candidates were employed. There are, in turn, clearly more pensioners among persons entitled to vote than among candidates, i.e. around 32 per cent. Around one in ten of the candidates are pensioners. The difference is mainly caused by the age structure. Of the candidates, around ten per cent are aged 65 or over, while 28 per cent of the persons entitled to vote have turned 65. If the candidates are compared with the persons entitled to vote aged under 65, the difference between the candidates and persons entitled to vote decreases.

Over 90 per cent of the Coalition Party and Centre Party candidates are employed. In addition, over 80 per cent of the Social Democratic Party, Green League, Swedish People's Party and Finns Party candidates are working. Of the parliamentary parties, the share of employed persons is lowest for the candidates of the Blue Reform, where around 60 per cent were employed at the end of 2017. The share of pensioners is nearly triple for candidates outside the parliamentary parties (18.5%) compared with the parliamentary parties (6.7%). Of the parliamentary parties, the Blue Reform (23.7%) and the Swedish People's Party (11.1%) have the most pensioner candidates.

The number of students is slightly higher among persons entitled to vote and that of unemployed persons slightly lower than among the candidates. The Swedish People's Party has the most student candidates and the Left Alliance and the Blue Reform have the most unemployed candidates.

**Figure 9. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by main type of activity in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**



**Table 7. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by main type of activity in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**

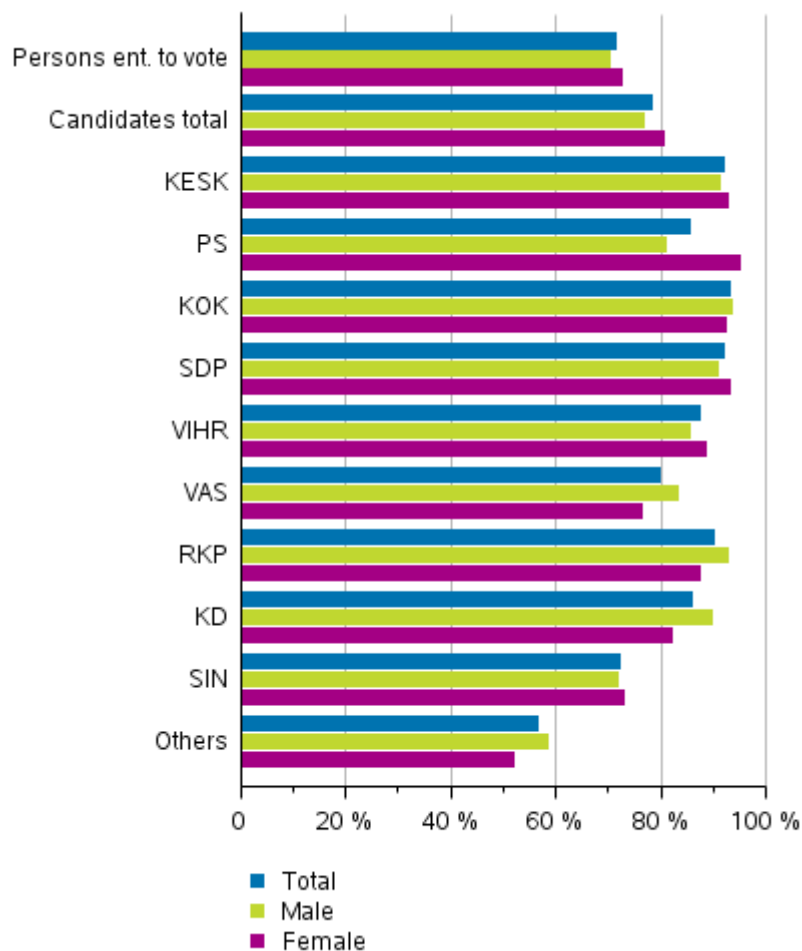
	Employed	Unemployed	Students	Pensioners	Others	Total
Persons ent. to vote	52.3	6.3	6.5	31.6	3.3	100.0
Pers. ent. to vote, -64-y.	71.5	8.7	9.1	6.3	4.5	100.0
Candidates total	72.9	8.9	4.8	10.3	3.2	100.0
Centre Party of Finland KESK	90.3	1.9	3.7	3.7	0.5	100.0
Finns Party PS	83.6	6.1	2.3	6.1	1.9	100.0
National Coalition Party KOK	91.5	0.9	3.3	2.4	1.9	100.0
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	88.9	4.2	1.9	4.6	0.5	100.0
Green League VIHR	86.1	5.6	3.7	2.3	2.3	100.0
Left Alliance VAS	77.8	13.0	3.2	5.1	0.9	100.0
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	83.7	1.0	5.1	7.1	3.1	100.0
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	78.4	7.4	2.6	11.1	0.5	100.0
Blue Reform SIN	59.9	11.2	2.0	23.7	3.3	100.0
Others	49.3	16.1	9.1	18.5	7.0	100.0

**Employment rate highest among candidates of the Centre Party of Finland, the Finnish Social Democratic Party, and the National Coalition Party**

The employment rate refers to the ratio of employed persons to the population of a particular age, usually the age group 15 to 64 is used. Here, the employment rate has been calculated for the age group 18 to 64. The employment rate of persons entitled to vote is 71.5 per cent. The employment rate of the candidates is clearly higher. The employment rate of all candidates is 78.6 per cent. The employment rate is highest among the candidates of the Coalition Party, the Centre Party and the Social Democratic Party: their employment rate is around 93 per cent. The Blue Reform candidates have the lowest employment rate among the parliamentary parties, 71.3 per cent.

Women's employment rate is usually higher. The employment rate of women entitled to vote is 2.4 percentage points higher than that of men, and the rate of women candidates is four percentage points higher than that of men candidates. There are, however, differences between the parties. Women's employment rate is higher than men's for the candidates of the Finns Party, the Green League, the Centre Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Blue Reform. The employment rate is highest of all for the women candidates of the Finns Party, 95 per cent.

**Figure 10. Employment rate of persons entitled to vote and candidates by party in Parliamentary elections 2019, share of employed persons aged 18 to 64, %**



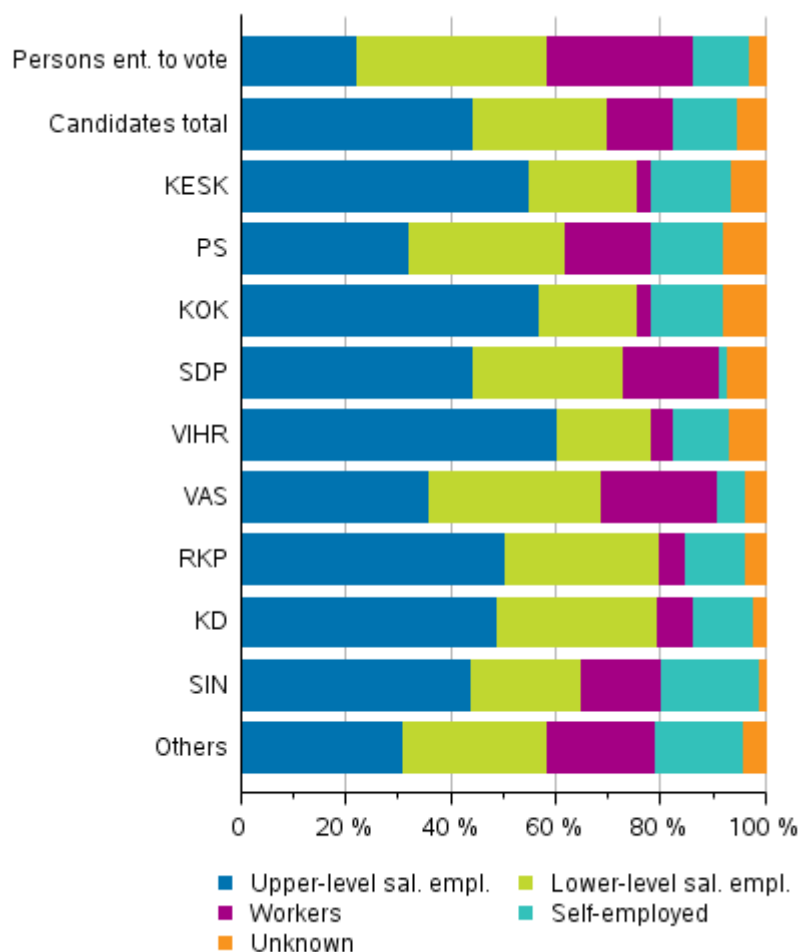
**Majority of employed candidates salaried employees**

Seventy per cent of employed candidates are salaried employees. Around 59 per cent of employed persons entitled to vote belong to this group. The Swedish People's Party and the Christian Democrats have the most salaried employees (around 80 per cent) as candidates. For all parliamentary parties, the proportion of salaried employees is higher among candidates than among persons entitled to vote. However, the number of salaried employees among candidates of parties outside the parliament and constituency associations is clearly lower than in the parliamentary parties.

One in ten persons entitled to vote and slightly more of the candidates (12%) are self-employed. Among the parliamentary parties, the most candidates with entrepreneurial background can be found in the Blue Reform and the Centre Party. The socio-economic group of 28 per cent of persons entitled to vote is manual worker. A clearly smaller proportion of candidates belong to this group (12.4%). The Left Alliance (22%) and the Social Democratic Party have most worker (18.4%) candidates.



**Figure 11. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by socio-economic group in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**

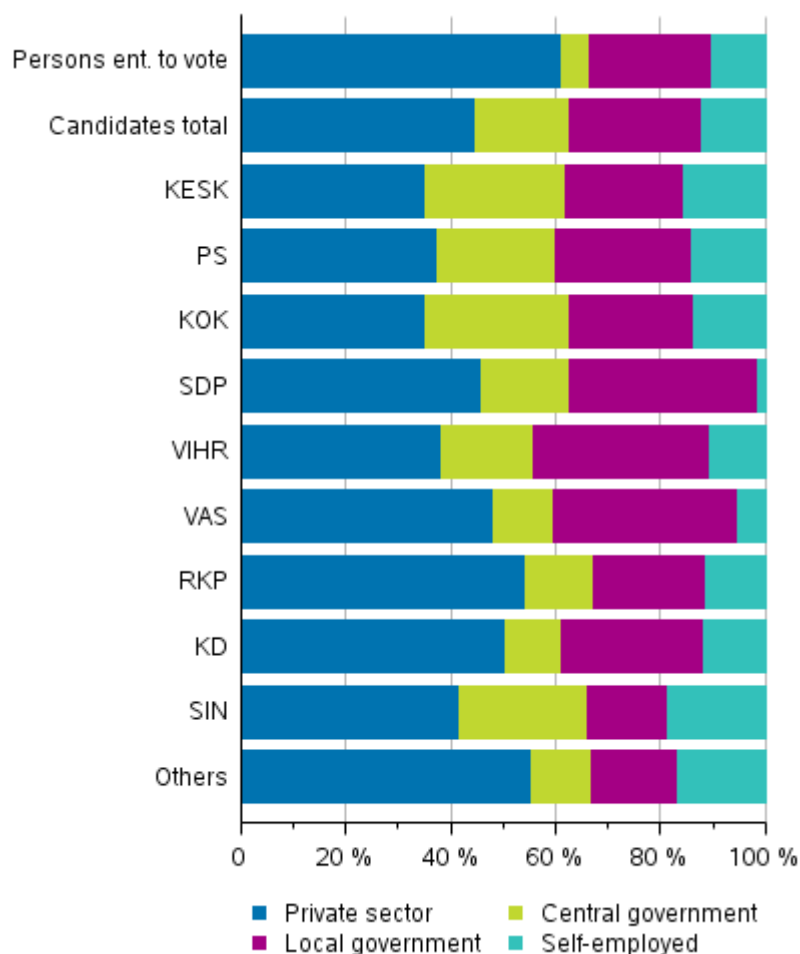


**The central government sector employs candidates more than persons entitled to vote**

Of employed candidates, 43 per cent work in the public sector. Roughly the same proportion of candidates and persons entitled to vote work in the local government sector but the central government sector employs clearly more MP candidates than persons entitled to vote. When around five per cent of all persons entitled to vote work in the central government sector, among candidates their proportion is nearly one-fifth. This is largely explained by the fact that 165 of the candidates are Members of Parliament who are thus employed by the central government sector. If we only examine candidates who are not Members of Parliament at the moment, the proportion of employees in the central government sector is still emphasised among candidates: 10.6 per cent of new candidates work in the central government sector.

The employer sector of the candidates varies significantly by party. The National Coalition Party and the Centre Party of Finland have the most candidates, around 27 per cent, working in the central government sector and the Christian Democrats in Finland (11.0%) and Left Alliance (11.6%) have least. The most local government sector employees can be found among the candidates of the Finnish Social Democratic Party, the Left Alliance and the Green League, good one-third of the candidates. The most private sector employees among candidates can be found in the Swedish People's Party and the **Christian Democrats** (was: Left Alliance), more than half of the candidates. The Blue Reform (18.7%) and the Centre Party of Finland (15.5%) have the most self-employed candidates.

**Figure 12. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by employer sector in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**



## 1.7. Family status

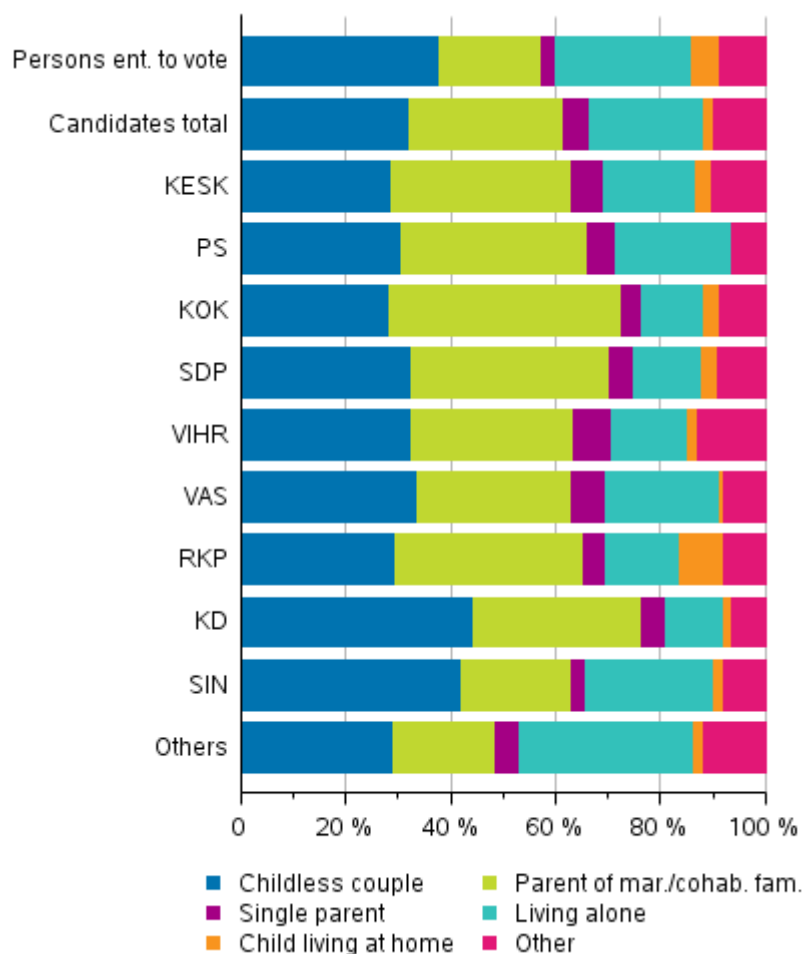
### One-quarter of persons entitled to vote and one-fifth of candidates live alone

The candidates also differ in their family status from persons entitled to vote: considerably more of them are parents of a family with children and clearly fewer are childless couples than is the case among persons entitled to vote. This is of course explained by that the age structure of candidates is younger than among persons entitled to vote. For a majority of those entitled to vote, children have already moved from home, while most candidates are at an age when children are still living at home.

Of all persons entitled to vote, around 20 per cent are parents living in two-parent families. Nearly three per cent of all persons entitled to vote are single parents. Of persons entitled to vote, approximately 38 per cent are childless couples, close on 26 per cent live alone without a family, and around five per cent are young adults living at home with their parents. The remaining roughly nine per cent are persons without a family living together with some others, are homeless or in the institutional population.

The National Coalition Party (44.1%) and the Social Democratic Party (38%) have the most candidates that are parents living in two-parent families. The Blue Reform has the least candidates who are parents of a married/cohabiting family, only one-fifth of their candidates belong to this group. Of all candidates, 5.0 per cent are single parents. Their share is biggest among the Green League (7.4%) and Left Alliance candidates (6.5%).

**Figure 13. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by family status in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**

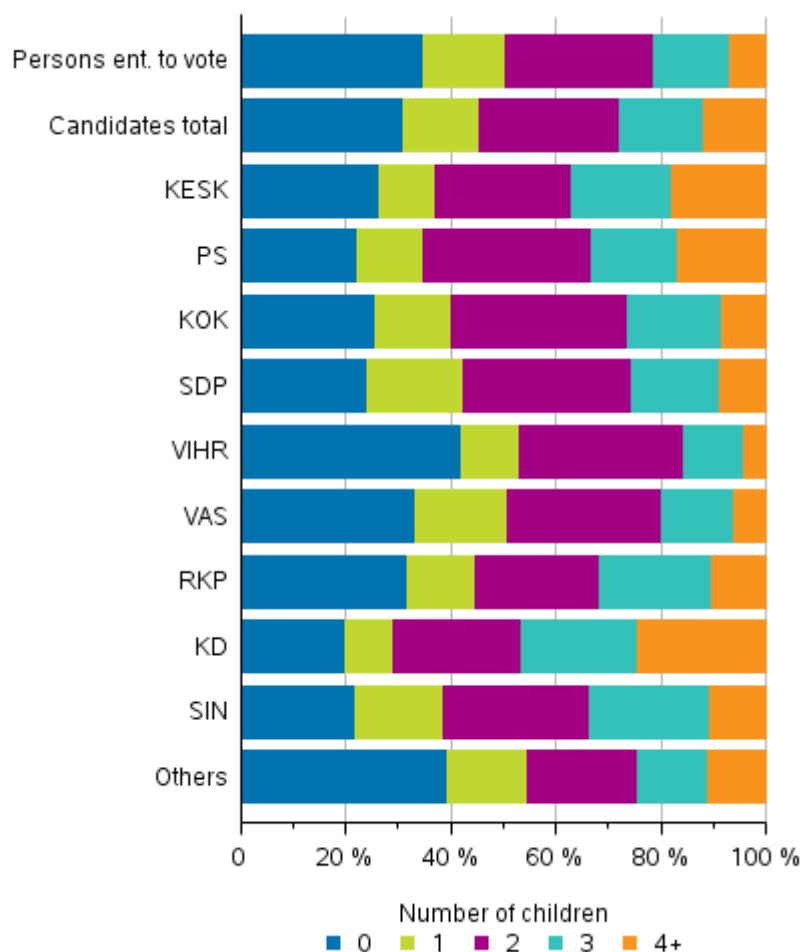


The Swedish People's Party in Finland (8.2%) has the most candidates that are young adults living at home with their parents. The Blue Reform has the highest number of candidates living alone without a family, around one quarter or the same number as people living alone among persons entitled to vote.

**Candidates of the Christian Democrats in Finland have most children**

Although the majority of persons entitled to vote and many candidates are not at the moment going through the everyday life of a family with children, it does not mean that they do not have experiences of it. Thirty-four per cent of persons entitled to vote have never had or do not yet have children of their own, while about 30 per cent of the candidates are completely childless. The Christian Democrats have the lowest proportion of candidates without children, around 20 per cent.

**Figure 14. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by number of children in Parliamentary elections 2019, %**



On average, female candidates have 1.8 children and male candidates 1.7 children. Women entitled to vote have, on average, 1.6 children and men 1.4. These figures include all biological and adopted children of the person regardless of their age or whether they still live at home.

## 1.8. Income level

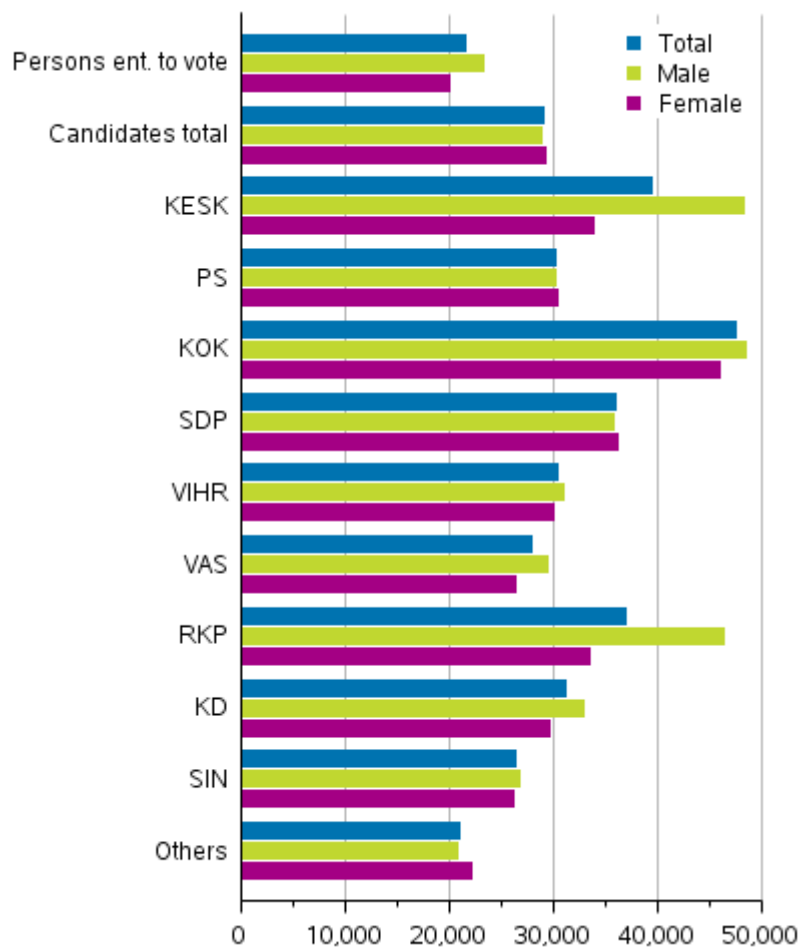
### Candidates' income level higher than that of persons entitled to vote

The following examines the persons entitled to vote and the candidates by their disposable income. The income data derive from the latest taxation data from 2017. Disposable monetary income refers to the monetary income after taxes that consists of earned income, property income, and transfer income.

Candidates are more highly educated and a larger share of them are also working than among persons entitled to vote. This largely explains why their income level is also higher than that of persons entitled to vote. The median disposable income of the candidates is EUR 29,100 and that of all persons entitled to vote EUR 21,500. The candidates' disposable income is about 36 per cent higher than that of persons entitled to vote.

The National Coalition Party candidates have the biggest income difference with persons entitled to vote, as their disposable income is over two times higher compared with persons entitled to vote. The income of candidates in the Centre Party of Finland, the Swedish People's Party and the Social Democratic Party is also at least 70 to 80 per cent higher than that of those entitled to vote. Of the parliamentary parties, the Blue Reform is closest to the voters with a disposable income of EUR 26,300.

**Figure 15. Median disposable income of persons entitled to vote, candidates (by party) and elected MPs in Parliamentary elections 2019, EUR per year**

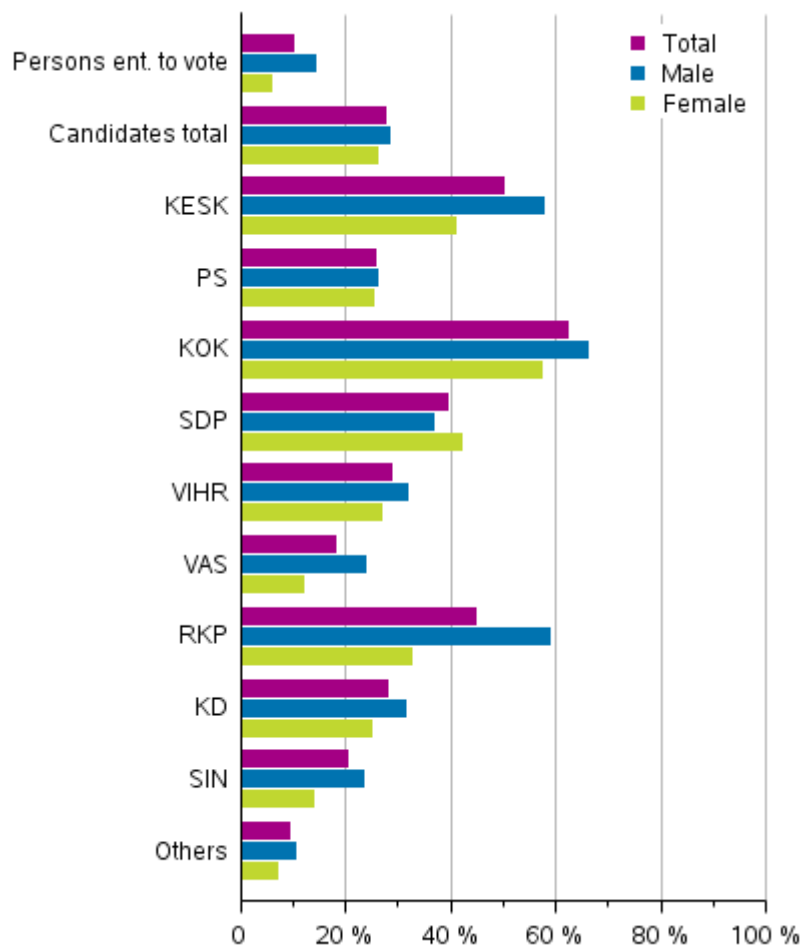


**Candidates from the National Coalition Party have the highest income**

When the population entitled to vote is arranged according to the income of 2017 and divided into ten equal parts, the income deciles of the population entitled to vote are generated. Each decile contains around 425,000 persons. The highest income decile of the population entitled to vote has at least EUR 39,600 at their disposal and the lowest income decile at most EUR 9,400.

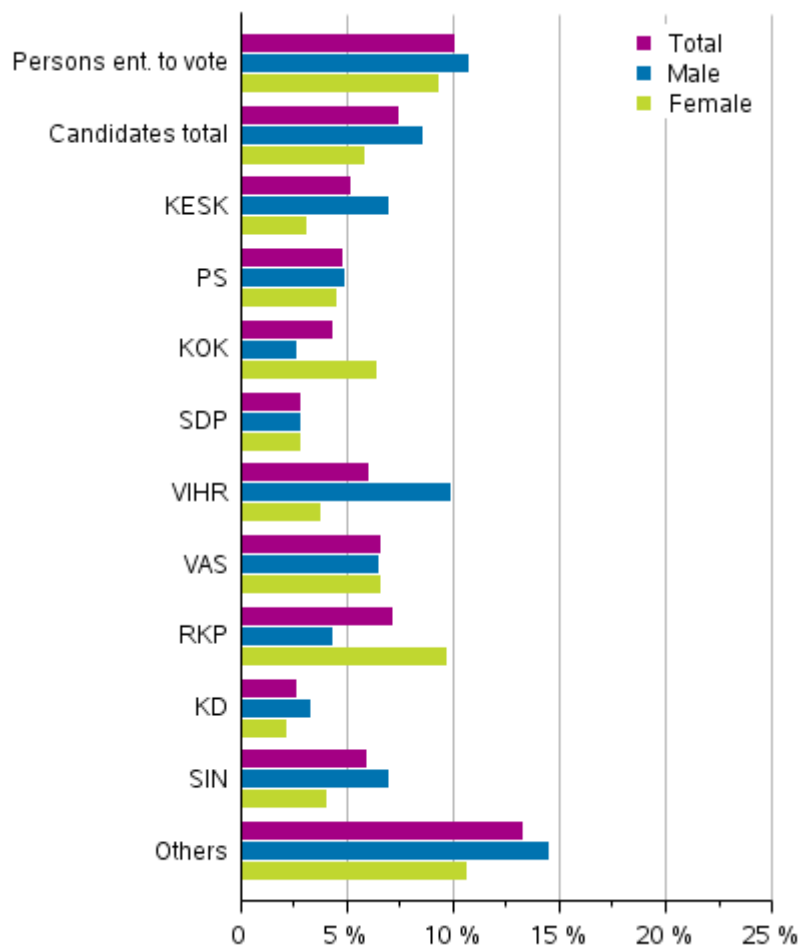
Of all candidates, 27 per cent belong to the highest income decile. Of the candidates, those representing the National Coalition Party and the Centre Party belong to the higher end of the income distribution. Sixty-six per cent of male candidates and 57 per cent of female candidates in the National Coalition Party belong to the highest income decile. Among the candidates of the Centre Party, around 58 per cent of men and 41 per cent of women belong to the highest income decile.

**Figure 16. Candidates (by party) belonging to the highest income decile in Parliamentary elections 2019, % of the party's candidates (disposable monetary income)**



There are fewer women in the highest income decile both among persons entitled to vote and candidates. The biggest difference between sexes is found among the Swedish People's Party, Centre Party and Left Alliance candidates. In these parties, there are over ten percentage points more men in the highest income decile than women. Only the Social Democratic Party has an opposite setting: 42 per cent of its female candidates and 37 per cent of its male candidates belong to the highest income decile.

**Figure 17. Candidates (by party) belonging to the lowest income decile in Parliamentary elections 2019, % of the party's candidates (disposable monetary income)**



There are also more men than women in the lowest income decile, but the differences between women and men are smaller than among those belonging to the highest income bracket. Female candidates in the Swedish People's Party and the National Coalition Party are an exception here: More of them belong to the lowest income bracket than their parties' male candidates.

**Table 8. Candidates belonged to the highest and lowest-income decile by party in Parliamentary elections 2019, % of the party's candidates**

	Lowest-income decile			Highest-income decile		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Persons ent. to vote	10.7	9.3	10.0	14.2	6.0	10.0
Candidates total	8.5	5.8	7.4	28.4	26.2	27.4
Centre Party of Finland KESK	6.9	3.0	5.1	57.8	41.0	50.0
Finns Party PS	4.8	4.5	4.7	26.0	25.4	25.8
National Coalition Party KOK	2.6	6.3	4.3	66.1	57.3	62.1
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	2.8	2.8	2.8	36.7	42.1	39.4
Green League VIHR	9.8	3.7	6.0	31.7	26.9	28.7
Left Alliance VAS	6.4	6.5	6.5	23.9	12.1	18.1
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	4.3	9.6	7.1	58.7	32.7	44.9
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	3.2	2.1	2.6	31.2	24.7	27.9
Blue Reform SIN	6.9	4.0	5.9	23.5	14.0	20.4
Others	14.4	10.6	13.2	10.3	7.1	9.3



## Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Number of candidates by age group and party in Parliamentary elections 2019**

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Total	2,468	107	375	627	608	493	258
Centre Party of Finland KESK	216	11	36	48	61	46	14
Finns Party PS	213	2	23	55	78	41	14
National Coalition Party KOK	211	11	32	53	61	43	11
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	216	11	35	64	51	39	16
Green League VIHR	216	12	50	74	52	20	8
Left Alliance VAS	216	6	46	73	40	38	13
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	98	12	14	25	25	13	9
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	190	7	15	35	42	62	29
Communist Party of Finland SKP	88	2	13	15	10	21	27
Communist Worker's Party KTP	32	3	2	1	4	5	17
Liberal Party LIBE	36	2	12	13	8	-	1
Pirate Party of Finland	87	7	37	31	12	-	-
Animal Justice Party of Finland EOP	17	1	6	4	3	3	-
Citizens? Party KP	50	1	3	14	14	13	5
Feminist Party FP	38	3	12	17	5	1	-
Independence Party IP	47	-	2	14	17	6	8
Blue Reform SIN	152	4	10	16	39	53	30
Finnish People First SKE	34	2	3	7	11	7	4
Seven Star Movement STL	175	3	12	35	36	45	44
Liike Nyt NYT	109	5	10	28	33	28	5
Others	27	2	2	5	6	9	3

**Appendix table 2. Number of candidates by party and constituency in Parliamentary elections 2019**

	Whole country	Helsinki	Uusimaa	Varsinais-Suomi	Satakunta	Häme	Pirkanmaa	Southeast Finland	Savo-Karelia	Vaasa	Central Finland	Oulu	Lapland	Åland
Tot.	2,468	286	492	191	117	155	251	179	165	168	153	184	122	5
KESK	216	22	36	17	14	14	19	17	15	16	14	18	14	-
PS	213	22	36	14	14	14	19	17	15	16	14	18	14	-
KOK	211	22	36	17	13	14	19	17	15	16	14	17	11	-
SDP	216	22	36	17	14	14	19	17	15	16	14	18	14	-
VIHR	216	22	36	17	14	14	19	17	15	16	14	18	14	-
VAS	216	22	36	17	14	14	19	17	15	16	14	18	14	-
RKP	98	22	36	17	1	3	1	-	-	16	-	1	1	-
KD	190	22	36	3	14	14	19	17	15	16	14	18	2	-
SKP	88	16	19	10	5	-	7	2	7	2	11	3	6	-
KTP	32	5	10	1	3	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	-
LIBE	36	5	18	2	-	3	5	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Piratepty.	87	7	18	9	3	7	14	5	3	4	9	5	3	-
EOP	17	3	6	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
KP	50	1	4	-	-	1	7	6	11	8	5	7	-	-
FP	38	7	13	3	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	2	2	-
IP	47	3	12	9	-	-	15	1	2	2	-	2	1	-
SIN	152	14	36	10	-	8	19	16	15	8	10	9	7	-
SKE	34	7	8	3	-	2	4	4	3	-	1	2	-	-
STL	175	21	31	12	5	13	19	14	12	11	9	15	13	-
NYT	109	20	24	7	1	6	19	10	4	-	6	7	5	-
Const. asc.	22	1	5	2	1	7	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	-
Others	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5

# Parliamentary elections, quality description

## 1. Relevance of statistical information

### 1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

Statistics Finland produces Finland's official statistics from parliamentary elections containing key data on the following:

- Votes gained by parties and their proportions divided into votes gained during advance voting and votes gained on the election day by constituency, municipality and voting district.
- Votes gained by candidates and shares according to gender by party, constituency, municipality and voting district
- The number of persons entitled to vote and persons who voted by gender and municipality both during advance voting and on the election day;
- The number of candidates and elected representatives by party and gender, and the number of votes to all candidates and the comparative figures by constituency;

The data are available in Statistics Finland's free database, the StatFin online service starting from 1983 (from 2003 onwards also by voting district).

### 1.2 Essential concepts

#### *Holding of elections*

According to the Finnish Constitution, the powers of the state are vested in the people who are represented by the parliament. Members of Parliament are elected in direct and proportional elections according to the Government's decision on how the seats in parliament are allocated to constituencies. Parliamentary elections are held every four years and the election day is the third Sunday in April of the election year. If the third Sunday in April is Easter Sunday, the election day is the Sunday preceding Easter.

#### *Legislation*

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. Elections are held according to the election legislation in force. More detailed information is available on the Internet pages of the Ministry of Justice at [www.vaalit.fi](http://www.vaalit.fi) and at [www.finlex.fi/en/](http://www.finlex.fi/en/), Election Act (714/1998).

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. Voting by post can be used for the first time in the 2019 Parliamentary elections.

Government proposal for an act on amendment to the Election Act (HE 101/2017).

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

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 secrecy 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 takes place in front of election authorities.** An exception is voting by post 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*

Every Finnish citizen is entitled to vote in parliamentary elections provided the person has reached the age of 18 no later than on the day of the election.

Persons with a right to vote can vote either 1) during advance voting, or 2) on the Election Day. Amendment to the Election Act (939/2017), which allows voting by post for Finnish citizens not resident in Finland and other voters staying abroad at the time of the elections came into force on 1 November 2018. Voting by post is used for the first time in the 2019 Parliamentary elections.

#### *Eligibility*

All persons entitled to vote and who are not incompetent, i.e. under guardianship can stand as candidates in parliamentary elections. A military official cannot, however, be elected as a member of parliament. In addition, the following high officials cannot act as members of parliament: Chancellor of Justice of the Government, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Justices of the Supreme Court and of the Supreme Administrative Court nor the Prosecutor General. They can stand as candidates but if they are elected they must resign from their office.

Eligibility in the parliamentary elections is independent of the candidate's municipality of residence, so the candidate can stand as candidate in any constituency, however only in one constituency.

#### *Nomination of candidates*

A party entered in the register of political parties has the right to nominate 14 candidates in each constituency or, if the number of parliamentary seats for a constituency exceeds 14, at most as many candidates as there are seats. In addition to parties, a constituency association founded by at least 100 enfranchised persons in the same constituency (in Mainland Finland) has the right to nominate a candidate in parliamentary elections. One person may stand as a candidate in a single election only for one party or constituency association and in only one constituency.

In the constituency of Åland, a constituency association founded by at least 30 enfranchised persons has the right to nominate a candidate in parliamentary elections.

In the constituency of Åland, the joint electoral list can have at most four candidates.

The candidate application, as well as the notification of an electoral alliance and of a joint electoral list, must be given to the Electoral District Committee 40 days before the elections (5 March 2019)

Compilation of a combined list of candidates 31 days before the elections (14 March 2019) and entering the candidates and their ages on the day of the elections and personal identity codes in the national candidate register.

#### *Voting percentage = proportion of voters of enfranchised persons*

Statistics on general elections include four different voting percentages:

1. The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident in Finland.
2. The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident abroad.
3. The total voting percentage which includes both of the above.
4. A separate percentage for persons belonging to group 2 above and living in Sweden.

#### *Calculating of election results*

#### **Counting the advance votes**

As a rule, counting of advance votes starts at 3 pm on the actual election Sunday. 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**

When the doors of the polling stations have been closed at 8 pm the election boards 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 election committee before 9 am on Monday morning.

### **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 are listed in order from best to worst according to their comparative index, and as many members of parliament are chosen from this list as are to be elected from the constituency.

### **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 at 6 pm at which time the Electoral District Committees confirm the final election results in the constituencies and write the proxies for the persons that have been elected as members of parliament.

#### *Constituencies*

For the purpose of parliamentary elections, the country is divided into 13 constituencies based on regions. In parliamentary elections the seats in parliament are allocated to the constituencies according to a Government decision.

According to law, one representative is elected from the constituency of Åland and the remaining 199 seats are allocated proportionally to the other constituencies according to the size of their population of Finnish citizens.

Apart from the constituency of Åland, the allocation of seats among constituencies is made based on the number of those Finnish citizens who according to the data of the Population Information System have a municipality of residence in Finland in the constituency in question on the last day of the sixth calendar month preceding the election day.

The allocation, where changes in the division of municipalities entering into force at the beginning of the election year are taken into consideration, is made by dividing the number of Finnish citizens in each constituency by the total number of Finnish citizens in constituencies and by multiplying the figure obtained by 199. Each constituency will have the number of seats corresponding to the integer shown by the calculation. If all seats do not become allocated in this manner, the remaining seats are divided among constituencies in the order shown by the size of the decimals of the figures in the calculation. (21 Dec. 2007/1263)

The number of seats in parliament will change for two constituencies (electoral districts) in the Parliamentary elections of 14 April 2019. The constituency of Uusimaa gains one seat and the constituency of Savo-Karelia loses one seat. The figure derived from the Population Information System on 31 October 2018. On 8 November 2018, the Government issued a decree on the allocation of seats in parliament among constituencies. Seats in Parliamentary elections 2019 are proportionally divided as follows:

- 01 Helsinki constituency 22
- 02 Uusimaa constituency 36 (+1)
- 03 Varsinais-Suomi constituency 17
- 04 Satakunta constituency 8
- 06 Häme constituency 14
- 07 Pirkanmaa constituency 19
- 08 Southeast Finland constituency 17
- 09 Savo-Karelia constituency 15 (-1),
- 10 Vaasa constituency 16
- 11 Central Finland constituency 10
- 12 Oulu constituency 18
- 13 Lapland constituency 7
- 05 Åland constituency 1

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

Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities are presented on the website of Parliamentary elections, in the Classifications section [http://www.stat.fi/til/evaa/luo\\_en.html](http://www.stat.fi/til/evaa/luo_en.html).

The division into constituencies was changed in the act on amending the Election Act (271/2013) that entered into force on 1 September 2013 and the act was applied for the first time in the Parliamentary elections 2015 (19 April 2015). In the amendment of the Election Act, the constituencies of Kymi (08) and South Savo (09) were combined into the new Southeast Finland constituency (08) and the constituencies of North Savo (10) and North Karelia (11) were combined into the new Savo-Karelia constituency (09).

Municipalities are placed into constituencies according to the constituency division in force. At the beginning of 2019, 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). 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 2018 and the population of the municipality in 2017. 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 MPs.

*Candidates have been nominated in the Parliamentary elections 2019 by the following registered parties:*

- The Finnish Social Democratic Party (SDP)
- Centre Party of Finland (KESK)
- National Coalition Party (KOK)
- Swedish People's Party in Finland (RKP)
- Christian Democrats in Finland (KD)
- Green League (VIHR)
- The Left Alliance (VAS)
- The Finns Party (PS)
- The Communist Party of Finland (SKP)
- Communist Workers Party (Finland) - For Peace and Socialism (KTP)
- Liberal Party – Freedom for Choice (LIBE)
- Pirate Party of Finland (Piratepy.)
- Liberal Party - Freedom for Choice (LIBE)
- Animal Justice Party of Finland (EOP)
- Citizens' Party (KP)
- Feminist Party (FP)
- Independence Party (IP)
- Blue Reform (Sin)
- Finnish People First (SKE)
- Seven Star Movement (STL)

#### *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 Oyj. Statistics Finland collects data with a separate form on advance voting from municipalities that do not use an electronic voting register (municipalities in the constituency of Åland).

### **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-00-954-18).

## **2. Methodological description of 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 as well as election authorities (polling station register, which include data on general advance polling stations and polling stations on the 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 March 2019). 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 Population Register Centre on the 46th day (27 February 2019) 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 (22 February 2019) prior to the election day. The voting register gains legal force at 12:00 noon on the 12th day (2 April 2019) 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.
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 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 persons entitled to vote, candidates and elected MPs**

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 27 February 2019 (data drawn from the Population Information System on 22 February 2019) 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 representatives with regard to certain variables. The background data usually relate to the years 2016 to 2017. 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 2017.

#### *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 2017.

#### *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 the youth living at home. The group "Other" includes persons without a family living together with others (for example, a 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 2017.

#### *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 2017.

#### *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 polytechnic degrees and lower university degrees.

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

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

The data on education are derived from Statistics Finland's Register of Completed Education and Degrees. The data used in the analysis concern the year 2017.

#### *Disposable money 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 2017.

#### *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.

#### *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.

### **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 can 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 on the Internet, in the StatFin service and on the statistics pages on Parliamentary elections as soon as possible. Election data by municipality and voting district (starting from 2003) and the numbers of votes gained by candidates and elected representatives are entered into the StatFin online service.

Reviews 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 Parliamentary 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 Parliamentary elections are published in the election map service.

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

The municipal division of the election year is used in the statistics. The new statistical grouping of municipalities (urban, semi-urban and rural) was introduced starting from the year 1999. 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 as time series tables starting from 1908 on the statistics pages on Parliamentary elections. Preliminary statistics on Parliamentary elections have been released on the Internet since 1995.

In addition, the StatFin online service contains a time series on Parliamentary elections starting from 1983 (NB! From 2003 onwards also data by voting district).

## 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 homepages.

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Source: Parliamentary Elections 2019, nomination of candidates. Statistics Finland