

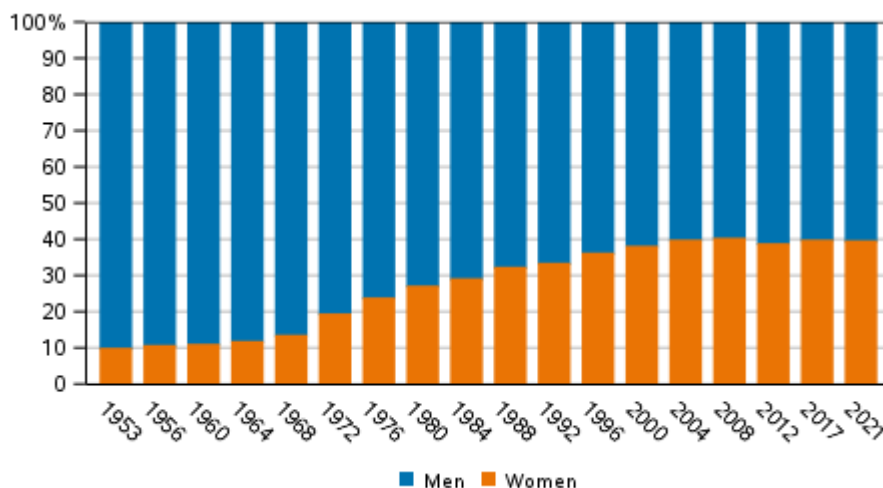
Municipal elections 2021

Nomination of candidates and background analysis of candidates

A total of 35,627 candidates in Municipal elections 2021

Altogether 35,627 candidates were nominated for the 2021 Municipal elections, which is 2,009 (5.6 per cent) more than in the previous Municipal elections. Nineteen of the registered parties nominated candidates, while the number of candidates nominated by constituency associations was 1,126. Of the candidates, 21,480 are men and 14,147 women. Of the candidates nominated, 176 are current Members of Parliament and 6,520 are current municipal councillors. Of the parties, the most candidates were nominated by the Centre Party of Finland, 6,871 candidates and the least candidates were nominated by the Citizens' Party, two candidates. The data are based on Statistics Finland's statistics on the nomination of candidates for the Municipal elections 2021.

Women's and men's proportions of candidates in Municipal elections 1953–2021



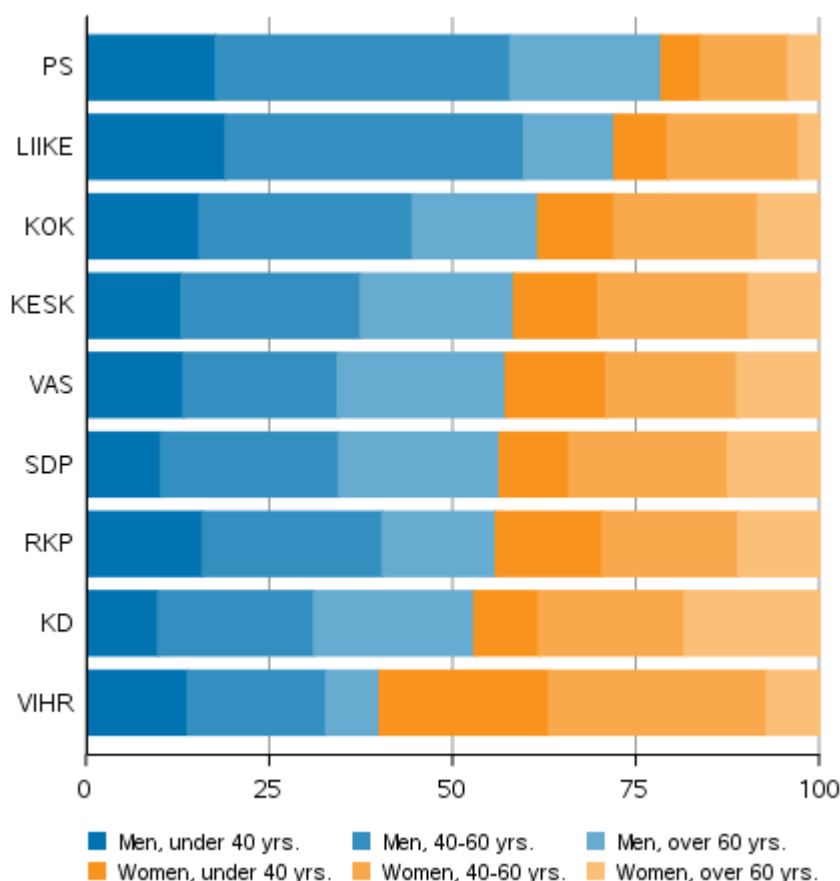
In Municipal elections, candidates can be nominated by registered political parties and constituency associations established by persons entitled to vote. Parties may form electoral alliances and constituency associations may form joint lists. Each party or electoral alliance may nominate at most 1.5 times the number of candidates as the number of councillors elected in the municipality. Of all candidates, 95.6 per cent were nominated by the current parliamentary parties. Of the candidates, 1.2 per cent were nominated by parties that do not have MPs in the present Parliament. Of such parties, the most candidates

were nominated by the Crystal Party (96 candidates) and the least by the Citizens' Party (2 candidates). Of the candidates, 3.2 per cent were nominated by constituency associations.

A majority of the candidates in the Municipal elections have always been men. In the elections 2021, altogether 21,480 of the candidates are men and 14,147 women. Women's proportion of candidates is thus 39.7 per cent, which is 0.2 percentage points lower than in the 2017 Municipal elections.

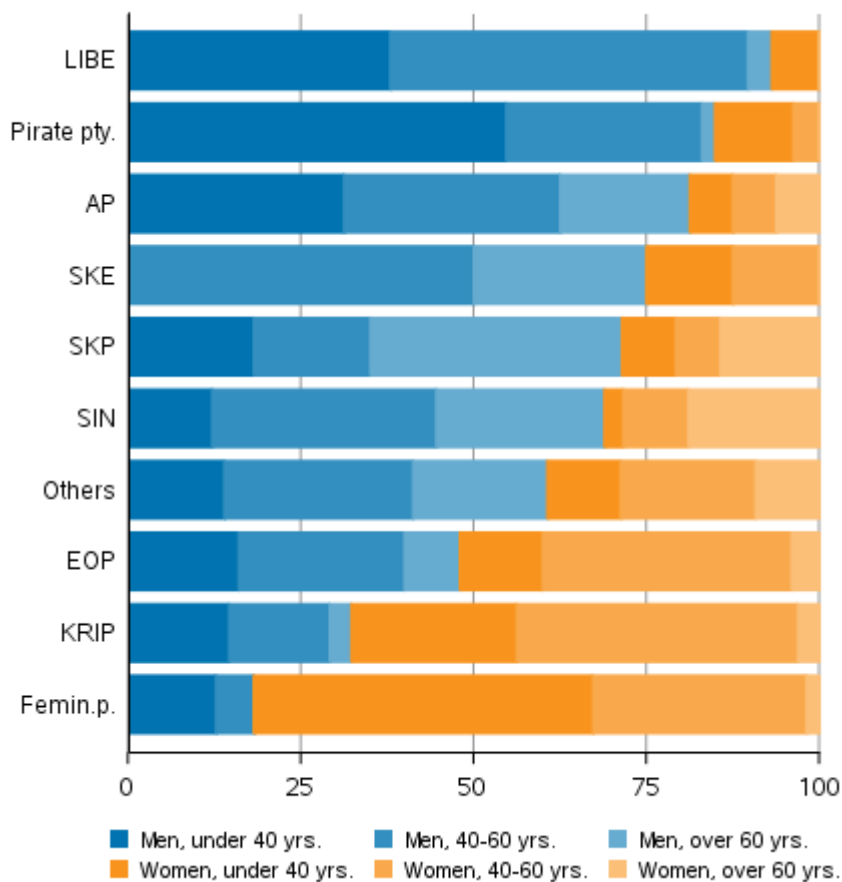
Of the parliamentary party candidates, the proportion of female candidates is smallest for the Finns Party (21.5 per cent) and biggest for the Green League (60.0 per cent). Among all parties that nominated more than five candidates, the proportion of female candidates is highest in the Feminist Party (81.8 per cent) and lowest in the Liberal Party (6.9 per cent). Both of the candidates nominated by the Citizens' Party are men. Men account for 60.3 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 59.8 per cent.

Share of men and women among candidates by party and age in Municipal elections 2021, parliamentary parties (%)



The average age of all candidates is 50.0 years, that of male candidates is 51.0 and that of female ones 48.3. Of all candidates, 26,721 are aged 40 or over. Of the candidates, 951 are aged 75 or over and 1,724 are aged 25 or younger.

Share of men and women among candidates by party and age in Municipal elections 2021, other parties and constituency associations (%)



Among the parliamentary parties, the Swedish People’s Party has the most candidates aged under 25 (9.6 per cent) and the Christian Democrats have the least (3.2 per cent). In relative terms, the Feminist Party has the most candidates aged at most 25 (10.9 per cent). In relative terms, the Christian Democrats have the most candidates aged 65 or over (27.8 per cent) and Movement Now has the least (7.2 per cent). In relative terms, the Communist Party of Finland has the most candidates aged at least 65 (48.1 per cent). The age of the candidate is the age on the day of the election.

Table 1. Background analysis of candidates by party in the Municipal elections 2021

	Memb. of Parl. (%)	Counc. in municipal councils (%)	Average age	Finn. or Sami speakers (%)	Swedish speakers (%)	Other lang. speakers (%)	Employed (%)	Unemployed (%)	In inactive pop. (%)	Avg. income
Candidates										
total	0.5	18.3	50.0	91.9	5.4	2.7	69.9	6.0	24.2	28,400
SDP	0.7	22.2	52.2	93.5	3.7	2.8	69.5	5.5	25.1	28,700
PS	0.6	10.1	49.9	97.7	0.9	1.4	63.1	10.7	26.2	25,400
KOK	0.5	18.3	49.1	95.8	1.7	2.5	76.1	3.3	20.6	34,000
KESK	0.4	27.2	50.4	97.8	0.3	1.8	75.0	3.4	21.7	30,000
VIHR	0.6	13.2	44.6	92.5	2.4	5.1	74.5	6.7	18.9	28,700
VAS	0.5	16.3	50.7	95.0	1.8	3.2	61.5	8.0	30.5	25,100
RKP	0.6	24.1	48.1	9.3	86.0	4.7	75.6	3.2	21.2	31,500
KD	0.3	12.2	53.9	87.8	8.6	3.6	61.2	4.9	33.9	25,800
LIIKE	0.2	3.4	47.1	94.0	4.1	1.9	76.8	8.5	14.7	29,000
LIBE	-	-	40.8	93.1	3.4	3.4	62.1	10.3	27.6	19,200
Pirate pty.	-	-	36.9	90.6	1.9	7.5	50.9	20.8	28.3	18,800
EOP	-	-	45.9	96.0	-	4.0	52.0	28.0	20.0	18,200
Femin.p.	-	1.8	36.5	89.1	1.8	9.1	63.6	7.3	29.1	23,300
SIN	-	16.2	56.2	100.0	-	-	44.6	16.2	39.2	21,700
SKE	-	-	52.0	100.0	-	-	25.0	12.5	62.5	17,700
AP	-	-	44.7	87.5	6.3	6.3	56.3	6.3	37.5	20,300
SKP	-	2.6	56.2	96.1	1.3	2.6	24.7	11.7	63.6	18,200
KRIP	-	1.0	43.6	93.8	3.1	3.1	66.7	13.5	19.8	22,300
Others	0.1	20.7	50.3	93.7	3.5	2.8	67.2	7.1	25.7	27,000

Of the candidates 18.3 per cent are current municipal councillors. Among the parliamentary parties, of Centre Party candidates the most are councillors in relative terms (27.2 per cent) and of the Movement Now candidates the least (3.4 per cent).

Of the candidates, 91.9 per cent are Finnish or Sami speakers, 5.4 per cent are Swedish speakers and 2.6 per cent of the candidates have other than national languages as their native language. Among the parliamentary parties, the Green League (5.1 per cent), the Swedish People's Party (4.5 per cent) and the Christian Democrats (3.5 per cent) have the highest proportion of candidates speaking other languages.

Based on main type of activity, 69.9 per cent of all candidates are employed, 6.0 per cent are unemployed and 24.2 per cent are in the inactive population. In relative terms, most employed candidates were nominated by the Movement Now (76.8 per cent). Among the parliamentary parties, the proportion of candidates in the inactive population is highest in the Christian Democrats (33.9 per cent).

The average disposable monetary income of candidates is EUR 28,425 per year. On average, the candidates of the Coalition Party have the highest income, EUR 33,932 per year, and the candidates of the Left Alliance, Finns Party and Christian Democrats have the lowest income of parliamentary parties, under EUR 26,000 per year.

The national register of candidates is published on the web pages of the Ministry of Justice (www.vaalit.fi/en/). More detailed data on the candidates of the Municipal elections can be found in the review: Background analysis of candidates in the Municipal elections 2021.

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1. Background analysis of candidates in the Municipal elections 2021

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

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

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

1.1. Summary

Number of candidates higher than in the previous elections

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

The proportion of female candidates has remained at around 40 per cent already for a long time. Only the Green League has more female than male candidates. Around 60 per cent of its candidates are women. Among the parliamentary parties, the Finns Party has the least female candidates, 22 per cent.

Candidates are, on average, one year younger than persons entitled to vote. Female candidates are, on average, four years younger than women entitled to vote, whereas male candidates are slightly over one year older than men entitled to vote. Female candidates are nearly three years younger than male candidates. The average age of male candidates is 51,0 years and that of female candidates 48.3.

One-half of the candidates were also candidates in the previous elections

Over one-half of all the candidates nominated by the parties were also candidates in the 2017 Municipal elections. Forty-seven per cent of the candidates were in the same party as in the previous elections and around three per cent were candidates on the list of some other party or constituency association. Since the previous elections, the Finns Party has renewed its list of candidates most, 60 per cent of their candidates were not candidates in the previous Municipal elections. Around 16 per cent of the candidates nominated by the new party, Movement Now, were candidates for some other party or constituency association in the 2017 elections.

Nearly one-fifth of the candidates are current councillors. The Centre Party has the most current councillors on its list, around 27 per cent of the party's candidates. Altogether, 176 of the candidates are Members of Parliament.

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

Persons with foreign background under-represented

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

Examined by native language, the result is similar. Clearly fewer candidates than persons entitled to vote speak a foreign language as their native language. There are 953 foreign-language speaking candidates. The largest group of foreign-language speaking candidates is formed by Russian speakers, 191 candidates, and the second largest by Estonian speakers, 95 candidates.

There are citizens from over 60 different countries among the candidates even though the share of foreign citizens among all candidates is under one per cent. In all, 4.5 per cent of all persons entitled to vote are foreign citizens. Of the candidates, 331 persons are foreign citizens. A person can have more than one nationality. There are 637 candidates that are Finnish citizens with citizenship in another country as well. They represent 1.8 per cent of all candidates. Among all persons entitled to vote, around 2.4 per cent have dual citizenship.

Candidates are more highly educated and more in working life

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

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: 70 per cent of candidates are employed and slightly over one-half of those entitled to vote. In turn, 31 per cent of those entitled to vote are retired, while this is the case for 18 per cent of candidates. The employment rate is calculated as the share of employed persons in working-age population aged 18 to 64. The employment rate of the candidates is 81 per cent, while that of persons entitled to vote is around ten percentage points lower, i.e. 72 per cent.

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

The public sector employs candidates more than persons entitled to vote. Nearly one-third of employed candidates work as wage and salary earners in the public sector, 27 per cent of employed persons entitled to vote do so. The public sector employs candidates most in the largest municipalities with over 50,000 inhabitants. In these municipalities, especially the share of those working in the central government sector is higher than in smaller municipalities. In small municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants, the share of self-employed persons among employed candidates is over one quarter.

Good one-third of candidates live in a family with children

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

The current family status does not reveal how many of the candidates and of those entitled to vote have or have had children of their own. This can, however, be examined based on the number of children recorded in the Finnish Population Information System. Candidates have more children than average. Of

the candidates, 78 per cent have children of their own, whereas the corresponding figure for persons entitled to vote is 65 per cent. The candidates have 2 children, on average, and persons entitled to vote have 1.5 children. The number of children is highest among Christian Democrats, 2.5 children and lowest among Green League candidates, 1.6 children.

Highest income level among Coalition Party candidates

Candidates are more highly educated and a larger share of them are also working. This also partially explains that the candidates' income level is higher than that of persons entitled to vote. The median for disposable monetary income among candidates in 2019 was EUR 28,400, while that of all persons entitled to vote was EUR 6,100 lower. Disposable monetary income refers to the monetary income after taxes that consists of earned income, property income, and transfer income.

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

Of all candidates, 18 per cent belong to the highest income decile. Of the candidates, those representing the National Coalition Party and the Swedish People's Party in Finland belong to the higher end of the income distribution. Thirty-six per cent of the male candidates and 25 per cent of female candidates in the National Coalition Party belong to the highest income decile. Among the candidates of the Swedish People's Party, around 32 per cent of men and 19 per cent of women belong to the highest income decile.

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

1.2. Candidates and persons entitled to vote by sex

Finns Party increased its number of candidates most

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

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

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

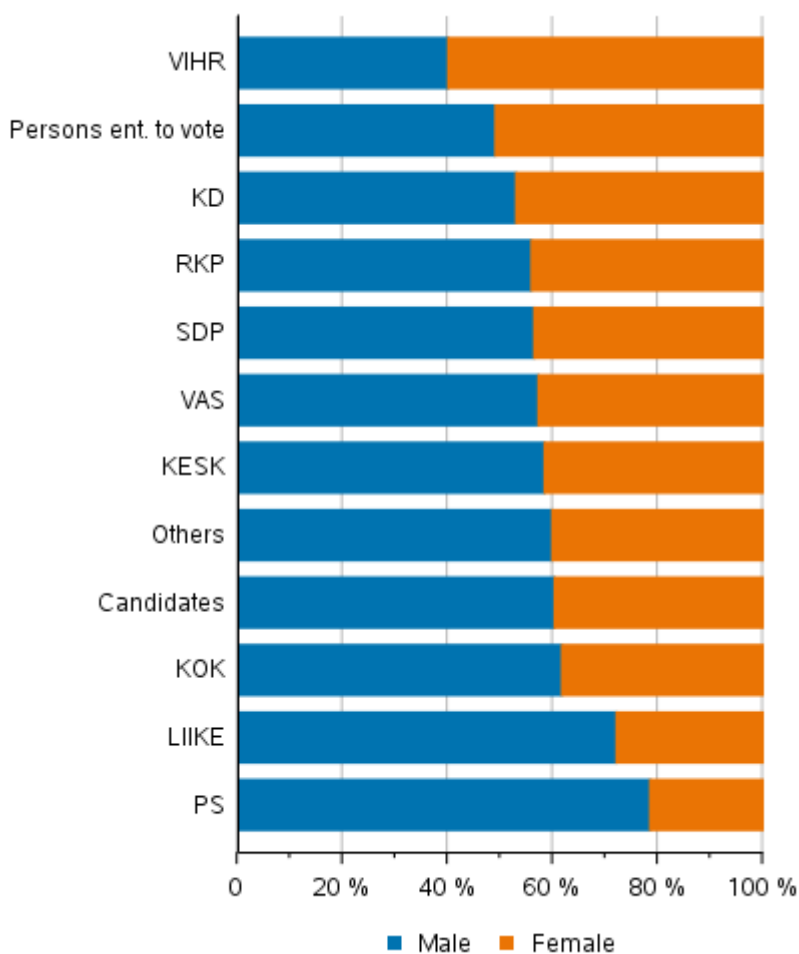
Table 1. Number of candidates by party in Municipal elections 2012, 2017 and 2021

	Number of candidates			Change from the previous elections, %		
	2012	2017	2021	2012	2017	2021
Candidates	37,124	33,618	35,627	-3.6	-9.4	6.0
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	6,987	6,132	5,620	-9.3	-12.2	-8.3
The Finns Party PS	4,393	3,831	5,953	138.8	-12.8	55.4
National Coalition Party KOK	6,874	5,739	6,010	-9.9	-16.5	4.7
Centre Party of Finland KESK	8,401	7,461	6,871	-15.8	-11.2	-7.9
Green League VIHR	2,299	2,600	2,803	4.9	13.1	7.8
Left Alliance VAS	3,506	3,203	3,010	-14.7	-8.6	-6.0
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	1,350	1,324	1,385	-4.1	-1.9	4.6
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	1,870	1,971	1,945	-2.7	5.4	-1.3
Movement Now LIIKE	-	-	469	-	-	-
Others	1,444	1,357	1,561	-16.4	-6.0	15.0

Women's share of the candidates remains at 40 per cent

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

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



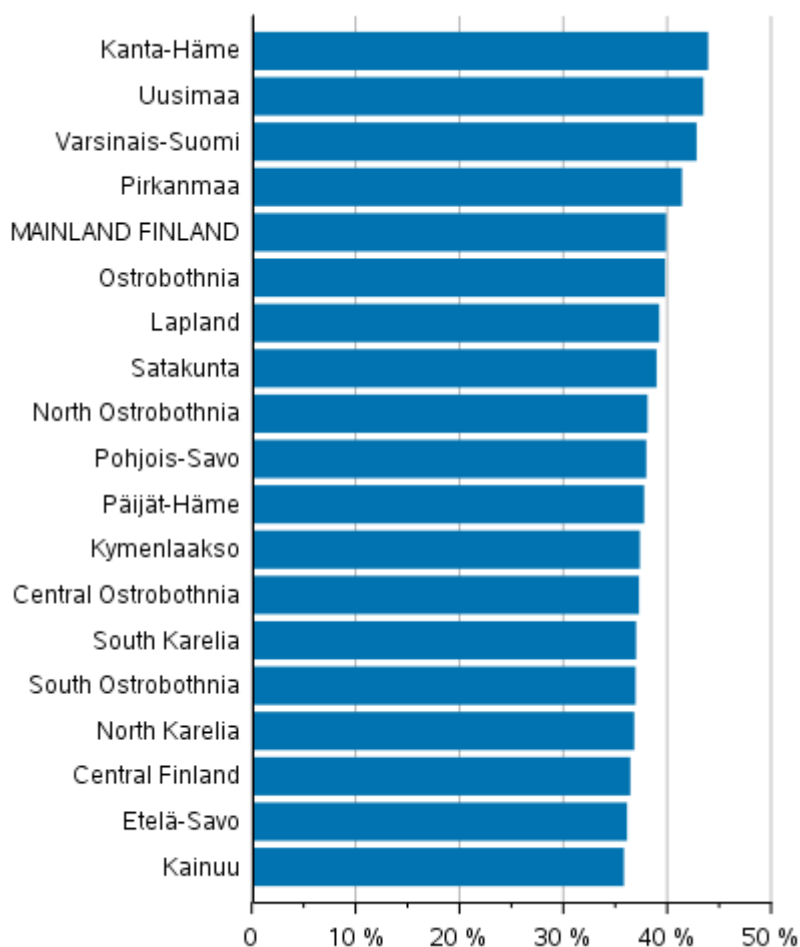
Women’s share of all candidates has remained at around 40 per cent throughout the 2000s. Among most parties, the share of female candidates has remained more or less on the same level. Only the Left Alliance, Green League and SDP have clearly increased their share of female candidates in recent years.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

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

		2008	2012	2017	2021
	Persons ent. to vote	51.5	51.4	51.2	51.0
Candidates	Candidates	40.4	38.8	39.9	39.7
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	40.8	40.4	40.9	43.6
	The Finns Party PS	25.7	23.3	25.2	21.5
	National Coalition Party KOK	40.3	39.1	39.0	38.3
	Centre Party of Finland KESK	40.3	39.8	39.7	41.6
	Green League VIHR	56.8	56.8	57.9	60.0
	Left Alliance VAS	36.6	37.9	39.8	42.8
	Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	42.9	43.5	43.7	44.1
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	48.2	45.3	46.7	47.0
	Movement Now LIIKE	-	-	-	27.9
	Others	33.6	32.8	33.8	40.2

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

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



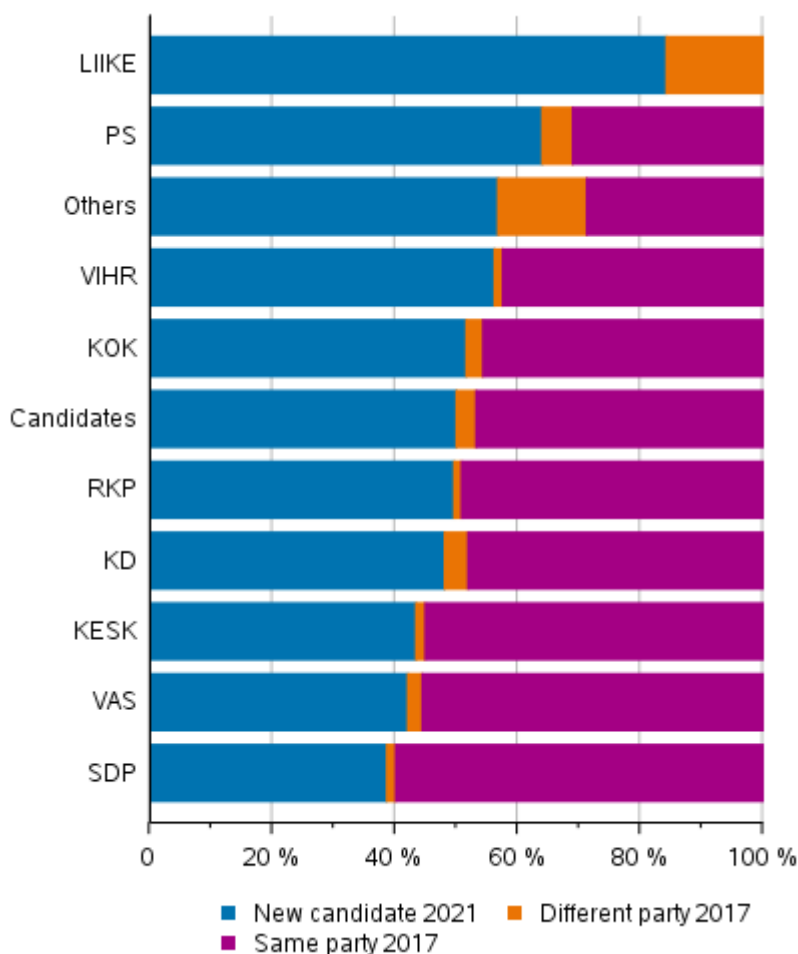
One-half of the candidates are new

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

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

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

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



1.3. Age structure

Candidates are an average of one year older than persons entitled to vote.

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

The sex and age structure of candidates is very different from that of persons entitled to vote (Figures 4 and 5). The age pyramid of neither group is no longer a pyramid as the name indicates: the age structure of persons entitled to vote rather resembles a tower and that of candidates a one sided gyroscope, from which the missing of the youngest and oldest age groups as well as the dominance of men are visible. Most male candidates represent the 45 to 69 age groups and most female candidates the 35 to 59 age groups.

Figure 4. Age distributions and average age of persons entitled to vote by sex in Municipal elections 2021, %

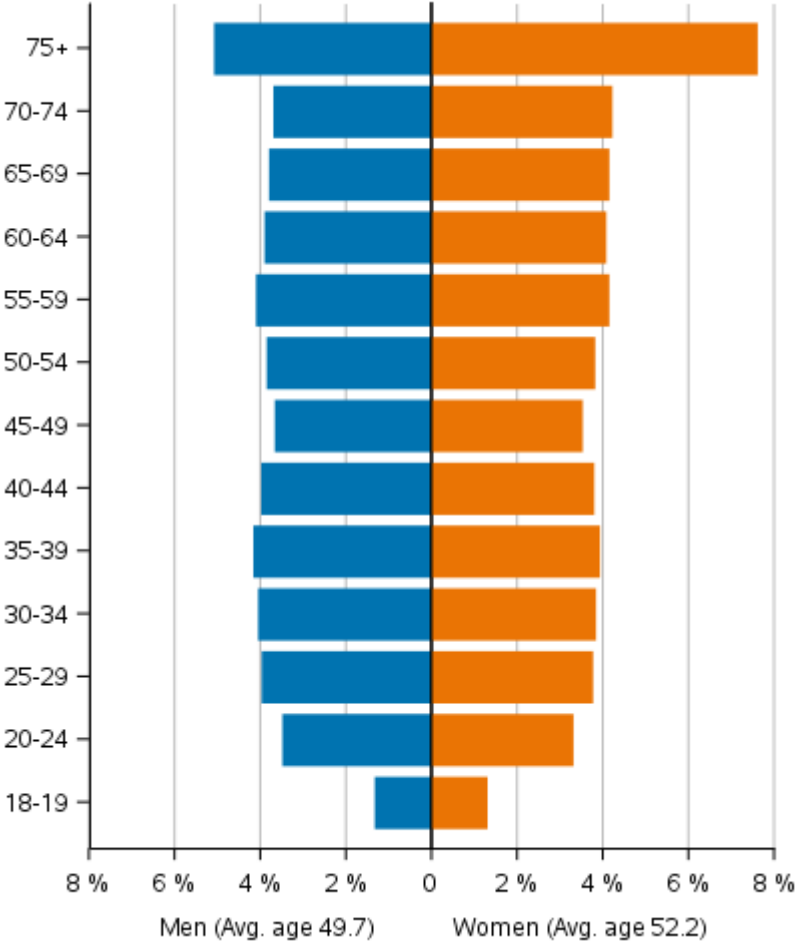
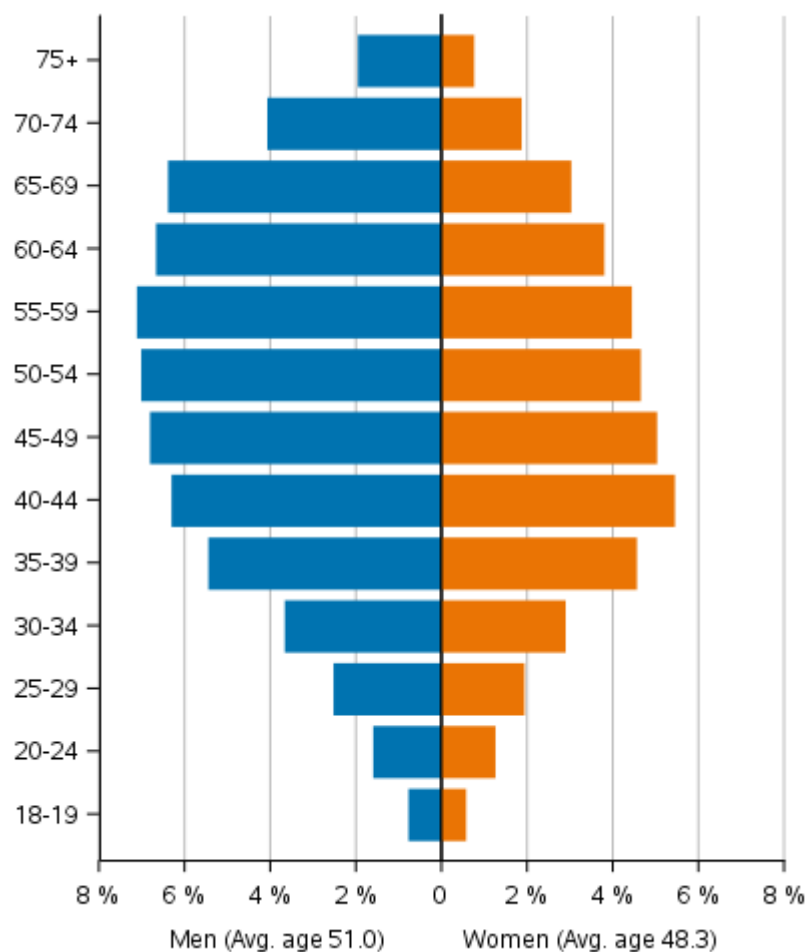


Figure 5. Age distributions and average age of candidates by sex in Municipal elections 2021, %



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

Figure 6. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by age group in Municipal elections 2021, %

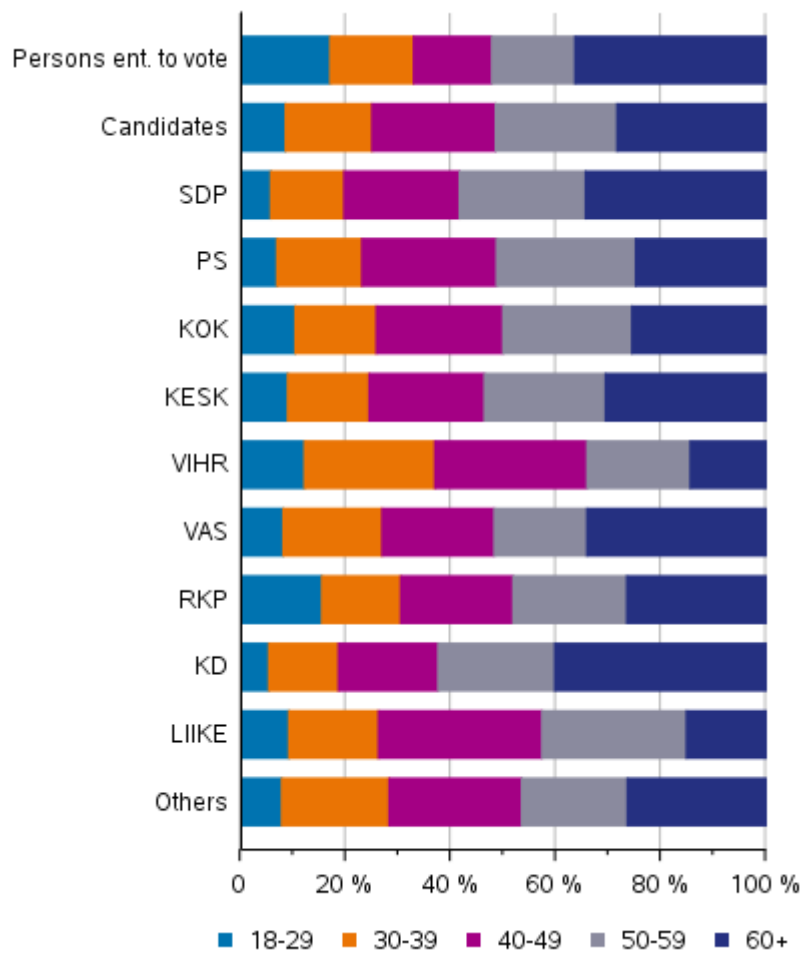


Table 3. Average age of candidates and elected councillors by party in the Municipal elections 2021

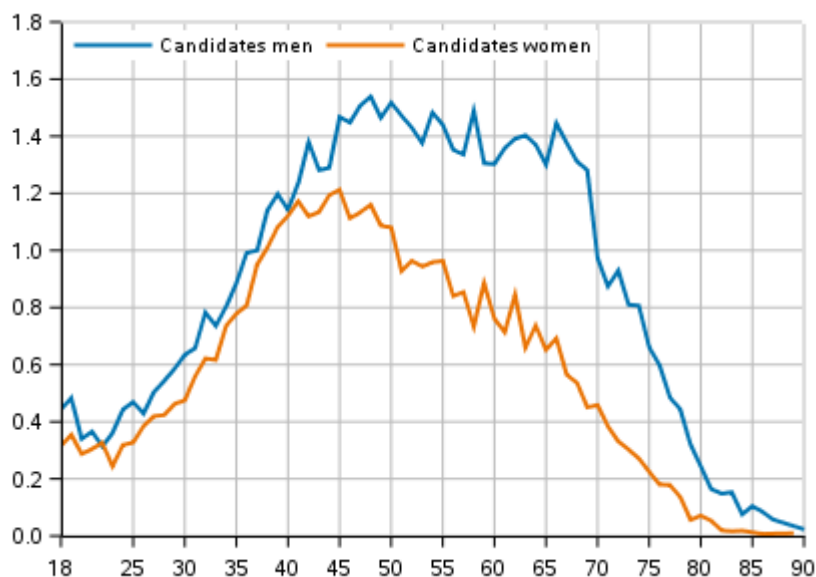
		Total	Male	Female
	Persons ent. to vote	51.0	49.7	52.2
Candidates	Candidates	50.0	51.0	48.3
	Centre Party of Finland KESK	50.4	51.8	48.4
	National Coalition Party KOK	49.1	49.8	48.1
	Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	52.2	53.5	50.6
	Left Alliance VAS	50.7	52.9	47.8
	Green League VIHR	44.6	45.8	43.8
	Christian Democrats in Finland KD	53.9	54.2	53.5
	Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	48.1	49.1	47.0
	The Finns Party PS	49.9	50.2	48.4
	Movement Now LIIKE	47.1	47.6	45.7
	Others	49.2	50.5	47.3

Women’s eagerness to stand as candidates decreases after the age of 45

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

The proportion of male candidates per age group is at its highest in ages 42 to 69, when around 1.3 to 1.5 per cent of each 1-year age group are candidates. Among women, most stand as candidates between the ages 37 to 55, 1.0 to 1.1 per cent of the age group. (Figure 7)

Figure 7. Share of candidates in the age group by sex in Municipal elections 2021, %



Centre Party candidates in majority in small municipalities

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

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

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

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

	Size category of municipality (population at the end of 2020, %)						
	Total	-4,999	5,000-9,999	10,000-19,999	20,000-49,999	50,000-99,999	100,000+
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	15.8	12.0	15.0	16.9	18.2	18.5	14.3
The Finns Party PS	16.7	17.5	16.6	17.6	17.7	17.1	13.9
National Coalition Party KOK	16.9	15.2	15.2	18.3	19.1	19.3	14.4
Centre Party of Finland KESK	19.3	35.3	24.5	20.1	13.1	13.2	9.8
Green League VIHR	7.9	2.5	4.5	5.7	9.8	11.5	13.4
Left Alliance VAS	8.4	5.3	8.4	6.6	9.6	8.8	11.4
Swedish Peoples Party in Finland RKP	3.9	1.1	5.3	5.1	3.0	3.3	5.6
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	5.5	3.9	5.2	6.1	5.3	5.2	6.9
Movement Now LIIKE	1.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	1.3	1.3	3.2
Others	4.4	6.8	4.6	2.8	2.8	1.7	7.0
Total	100.1	100.0	100.1	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9

1.4. Foreign background

Altogether 2.7 per cent of candidates foreign-language speakers

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

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

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

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

Of national language speakers, there are more Sami speakers as candidates than average. Of Sami speakers entitled to vote, 2.3 per cent stand as candidates. Of all persons entitled to vote, on average, 0.8 per cent are candidates. (Table 5)

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

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

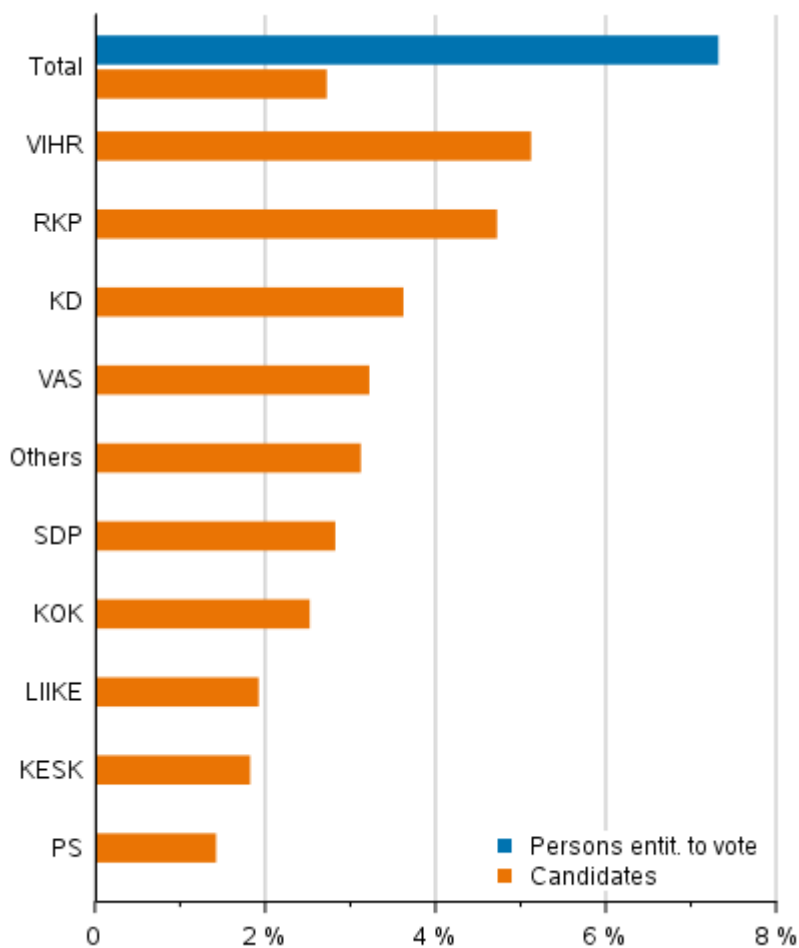
Foreign-language speakers are considerably less often candidates. Of the candidates, 953 are foreign-language speakers, which is 0.3 per cent of foreign-language speaking persons entitled to vote. The largest foreign-language speaking group among candidates is Russian speakers, 191 candidates, and the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

The Green League has the most foreign-language speaking candidates, 5.1 per cent of candidates and the Swedish People's Party has the second most, 4.7 per cent. The Finns Party has the lowest share of foreign-language speaking candidates, 1.4 per cent. (Figure 8)

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

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

Figure 8. Foreign-language speakers' proportion of persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) in Municipal elections 2021, %



Candidates of foreign background still relatively rare

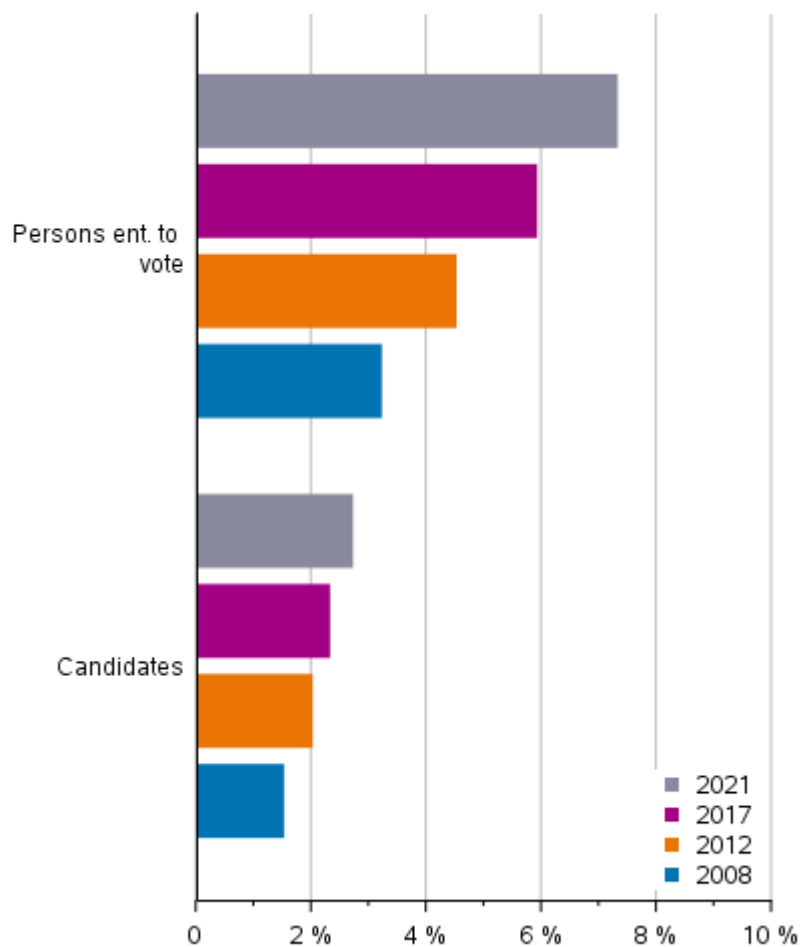
The foreign background of the population can also be examined from the point of the person's origin. Of the persons entitled to vote, 92.7 per cent and of candidates 97.3 per cent are of Finnish background, that is persons of whose parents at least one was born in Finland. Thus, slightly over seven per cent of persons entitled to vote and nearly three per cent of candidates are of foreign background. (Table 7)

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

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

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

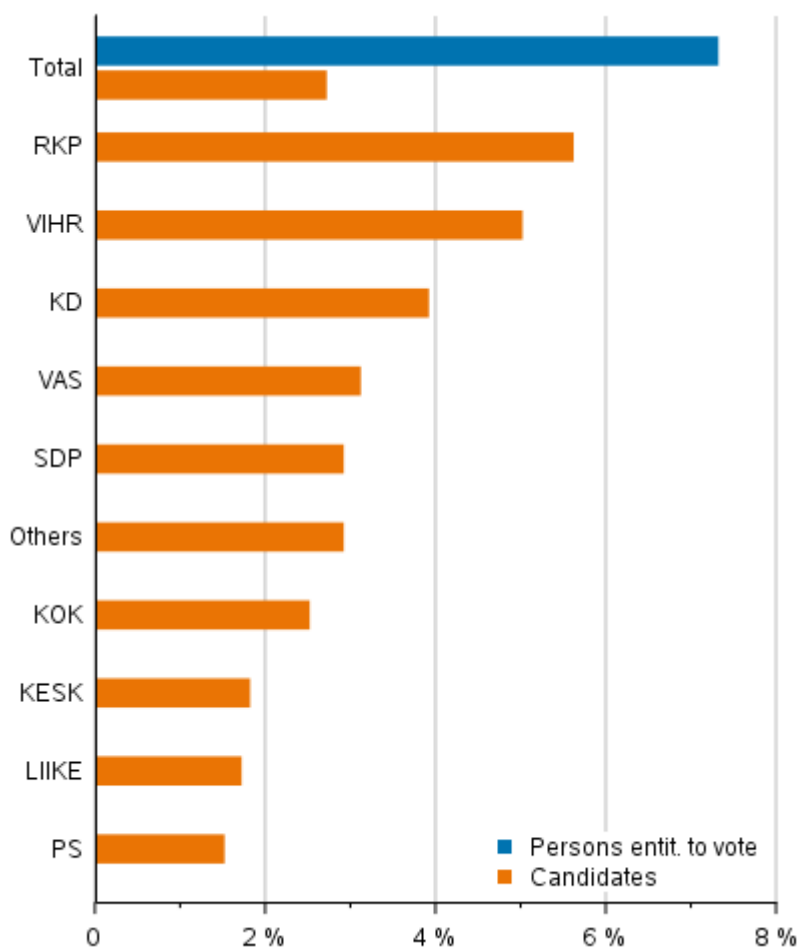
Figure 9. The proportion of persons of foreign origin among persons entitled to vote and candidates in Municipal elections 2008, 2012, 2017 ja 2021, %



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

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

Figure 10. Proportion of persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) of foreign origin in Municipal elections 2021, %



Number of candidates with dual citizenship 637

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

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

1.5. Level of education

Level of education highest for Green League candidates

The education of the candidates differs clearly from that of persons entitled to vote. Nearly 90 per cent of the candidates have completed post-comprehensive level qualifications while 76 per cent of those entitled to vote have done so. This is partially explained by the fact that there are very few representatives of the oldest age groups among the candidates whose educational level is usually lower than for younger persons. Thirty-three per cent of the persons entitled to vote have at least lowest level tertiary qualifications and 48 per cent of the candidates. (Table 8)

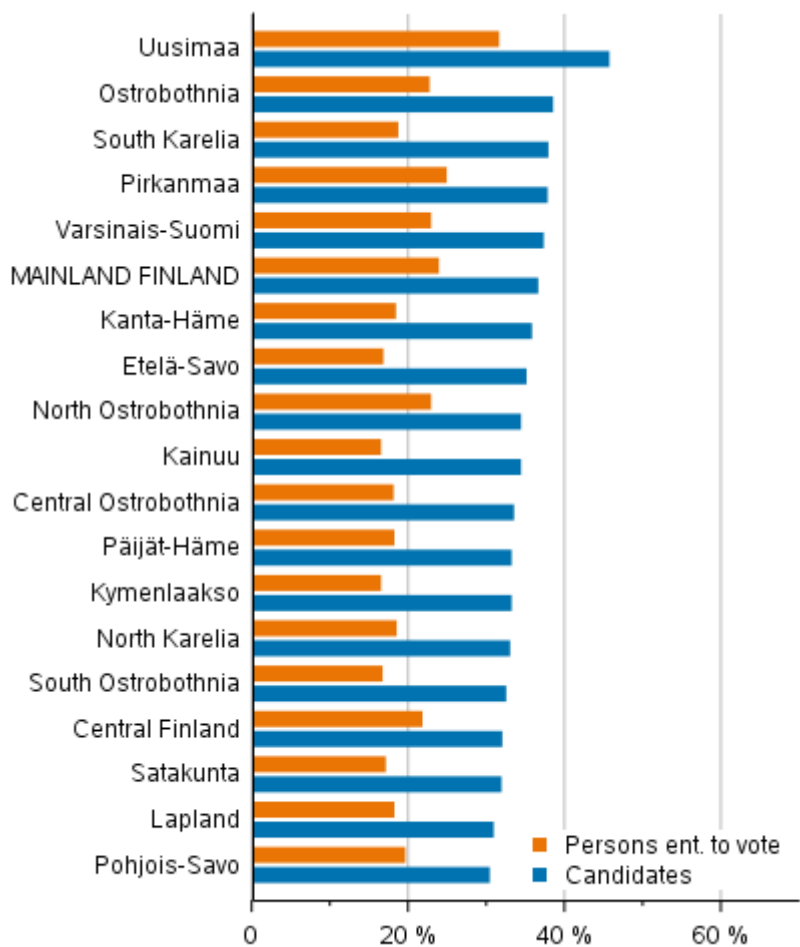
Table 8. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by educational level in the Municipal elections 2021, %

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

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

The educational level of the candidates reflects the differences in the educational structure of different areas. In the region of Uusimaa, the proportion of highly educated is higher than in the rest of the country both among the persons entitled to vote and the candidates (Figure 11). In Uusimaa, around 45 per cent of candidates have tertiary level qualifications. In other regions, the share of candidates with tertiary level qualifications is below 40 per cent.

Figure 11. Proportion of persons with tertiary level qualifications among persons entitled to vote and candidates by region in Municipal elections 2021, %



1.6. Labour market position

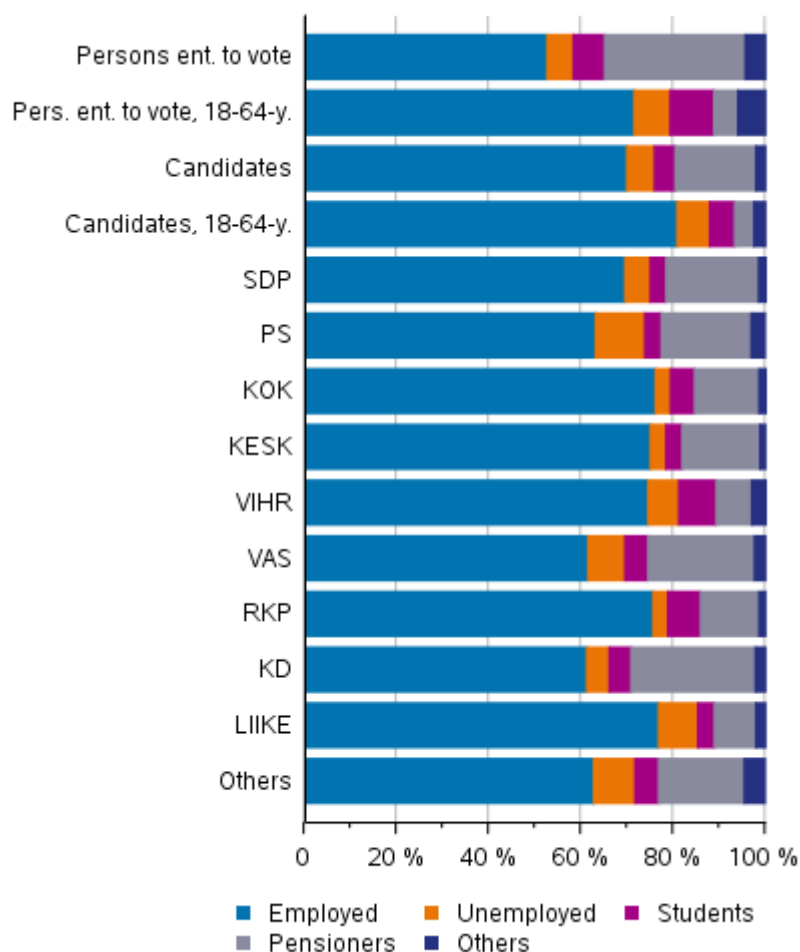
Almost one-fifth of candidates are pensioners

Seventy per cent of the candidates are employed, and the proportion of unemployed persons is the same as among persons entitled to vote, around six per cent. In turn, there are clearly fewer pensioners among the candidates, around 18 per cent. When looking at working-age population (aged 18 to 64), 81 per cent of the candidates are employed, while the proportion of employed persons is nine percentage points lower among all persons entitled to vote. Clearly more of the persons entitled to vote of this age are students and other inactive population than among the candidates. (Figure 12)

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

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

Figure 12. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by main type of activity in Municipal elections 2021, %



Candidates' employment rate 81 per cent

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

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

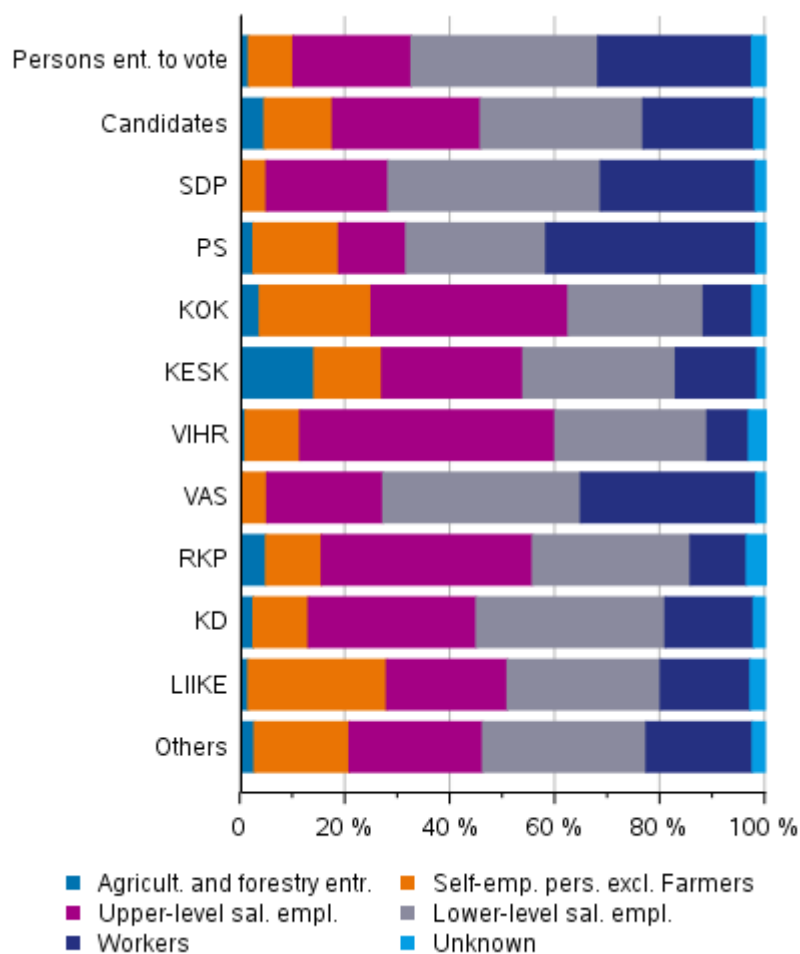
	Pers. ent. to vote, 18-64-y.			Candidates, 18-64-y.		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
WHOLE COUNTRY	71.5	70.4	72.7	80.8	80.2	81.5
Uusimaa	73.7	73.2	74.3	82.3	81.8	82.8
Varsinais-Suomi	71.8	70.7	72.9	81.2	80.8	81.6
Satakunta	71.2	69.6	72.9	83.4	83.2	83.7
Kanta-Häme	72.8	71.5	74.2	82.7	82.1	83.5
Pirkanmaa	70.8	69.8	71.8	79.0	80.2	77.3
Päijät-Häme	69.6	68.7	70.6	80.5	79.8	81.7
Kymenlaakso	68.4	66.5	70.4	76.7	75.9	78.1
South Karelia	68.1	65.7	70.8	79.5	78.6	81.2
Etelä-Savo	69.7	67.3	72.3	79.1	78.2	80.6
Pohjois-Savo	69.8	68.0	71.6	79.7	79.6	79.9
North Karelia	65.5	63.4	67.8	74.8	74.6	75.2
Central Finland	67.9	66.7	69.1	77.2	75.7	79.5
South Ostrobothnia	73.6	72.2	75.1	83.8	83.2	84.8
Ostrobothnia	76.2	75.4	77.0	85.2	85.3	85.2
Central Ostrobothnia	73.6	73.4	73.9	83.5	83.3	83.9
North Ostrobothnia	69.0	68.3	69.8	79.9	79.1	81.1
Kainuu	68.9	65.6	72.5	78.8	76.6	82.1
Lapland	70.5	68.4	72.8	81.7	79.6	84.8

Number of entrepreneurs highest among the Movement Now and Centre Party candidates

Of all employed candidates nearly 30 per cent and of employed persons entitled to vote around 20 per cent are upper-level employees. Most upper-level employees, nearly one-half of employed candidates, are found in the Green League. Also in the Swedish People's Party and the Coalition Party, nearly 40 per cent of candidates are upper-level employees. The number of upper-level employees is lowest among the candidates of the Finns Party (13.5%). (Figure 13)

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

Figure 13. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by socio-economic group in Municipal elections 2021, %



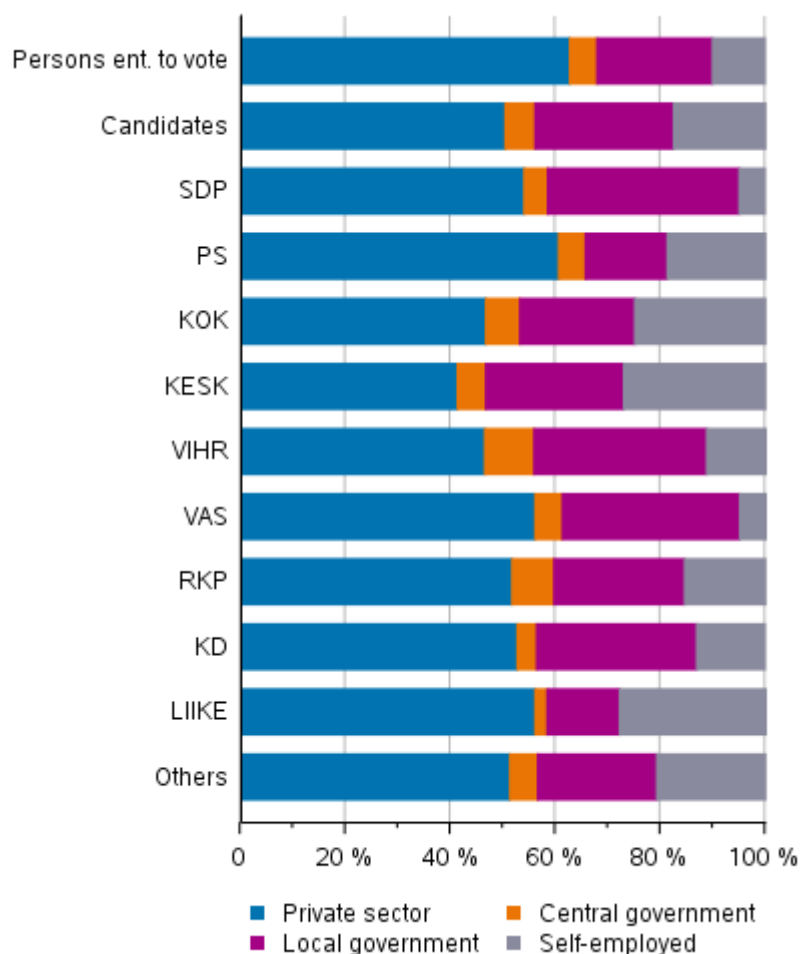
Public sector employs candidates more than persons entitled to vote

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

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

The highest proportions of central government sector wage and salary earners are found among the candidates of the Green League (9.4%) and the Swedish People's Party (8.0%). Around five per cent of employed persons entitled to vote work in the central government sector. (Figure 14)

Figure 14. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by employer sector in Municipal elections 2021, %



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

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

		Size category of municipality (population at the end of 2020, %)						
		Total	-4,999	5,000-9,999	10,000-19,999	20,000-49,999	50,000-99,999	100,000+
Persons ent. to vote	Private sector	62.7	53.0	57.5	60.8	63.5	59.7	66.2
	Central government	5.2	2.7	3.2	3.3	4.0	5.8	6.8
	Local government	22.0	25.1	24.2	23.6	22.5	25.5	19.5
	Self-employed	10.0	19.1	15.1	12.2	10.0	9.1	7.6
Candidates	Private sector	50.4	44.0	48.0	49.9	52.6	51.5	55.8
	Central government	5.7	3.4	4.1	4.1	5.6	7.8	9.6
	Local government	26.4	26.5	27.2	27.4	26.5	27.8	23.5
	Self-employed	17.5	26.1	20.7	18.6	15.3	12.9	11.1

1.7. Family status

Good one-third of candidates are parents of a family with children

The candidates also differ in their family status from the persons entitled to vote: considerably more (34%) of the candidates are parents of a family with children than among persons entitled to vote (22%) and fewer candidates live alone (21%) than persons entitled to vote (28%). There are also fewer young people living at home among the candidates. Differences in the family status are explained by the fact that the age structure of the candidates and persons entitled to vote differs from each other. Both the bottom and top ends of the age range are missing among the candidates. For a large part of persons entitled to vote, children have already moved away from home, while most candidates are at an age when children are still living at home. (Figure 15, Table 11)

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

Figure 15. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by family status in Municipal elections 2021, %

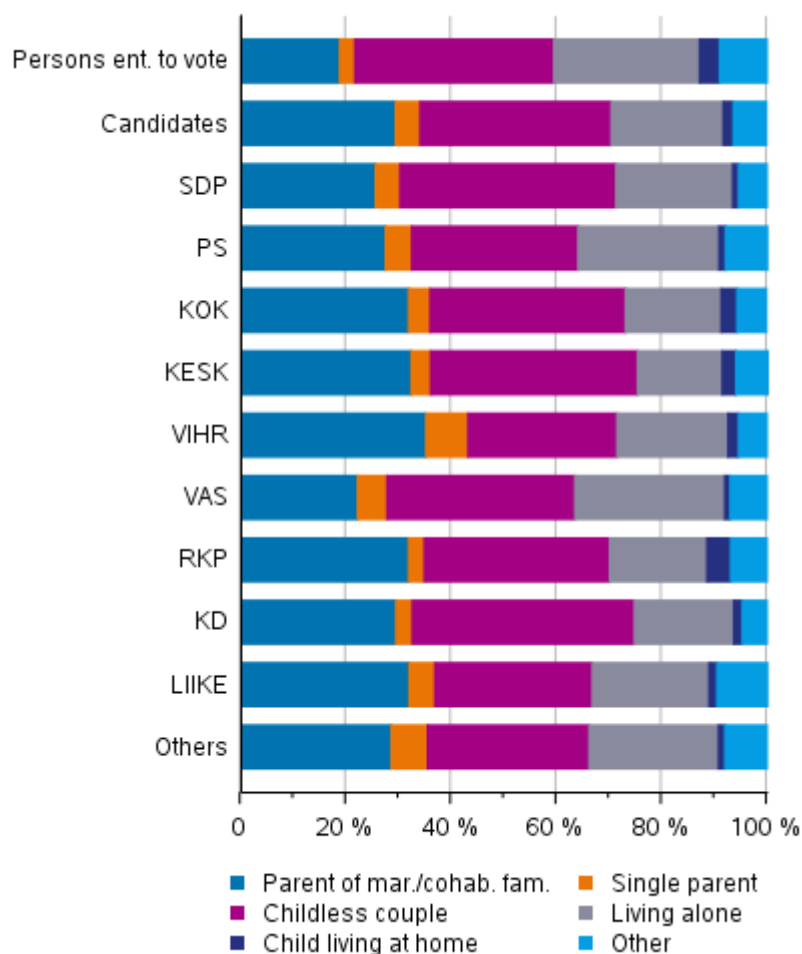


Table 11. Persons entitled to vote and candidates by party and by family status in the Municipal elections 2021, %

	Parent of mar./cohab. fam.	Single parent	Childless couple	Living alone	Child living at home	Other
Persons ent. to vote	18.8	2.9	37.8	27.7	3.8	9.0
Candidates	29.4	4.7	36.3	21.3	1.9	6.3
Finnish Social Democratic Party SDP	25.6	4.7	41.0	22.2	1.1	5.4
The Finns Party PS	27.5	5.0	31.6	26.8	1.2	8.0
National Coalition Party KOK	31.9	4.1	37.1	18.2	3.0	5.6
Centre Party of Finland KESK	32.4	3.7	39.3	16.1	2.6	6.1
Green League VIHR	35.2	8.0	28.3	21.1	2.0	5.4
Left Alliance VAS	22.2	5.6	35.7	28.5	1.0	7.0
Swedish People's Party in Finland RKP	31.9	3.0	35.2	18.5	4.5	6.9
Christian Democrats in Finland KD	29.5	3.1	42.2	18.9	1.6	4.7
Movement Now LIIKE	32.0	4.9	29.9	22.2	1.5	9.6
Others	28.6	6.9	30.7	24.6	1.2	8.0

Candidates have more children than average

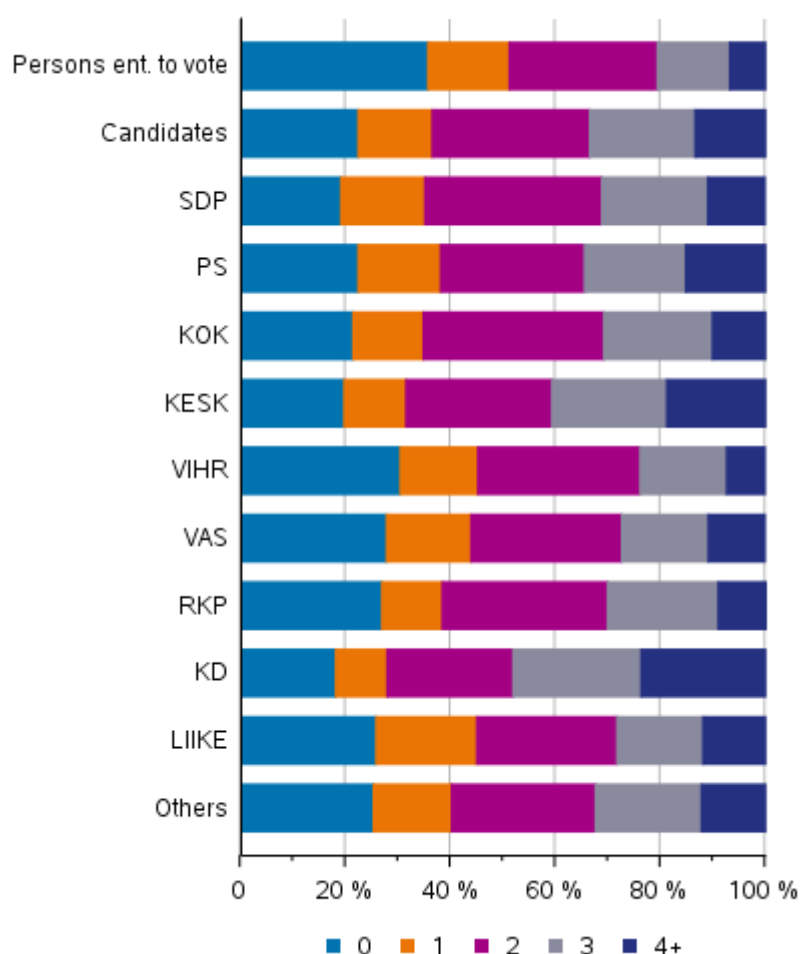
Family status does not reveal how many of the candidates have or have had children of their own, because in older families, children may have already moved away from home and in family break-ups, children

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 more children than average. Around 78 per cent of the candidates have children of their own, whereas the corresponding figure for persons entitled to vote is 65 per cent. Children are the most numerous among the Christian Democrats, of whom 24 per cent have at least four children, and among the Centre Party candidates, of whom 19 per cent have four or more children. Large families are rarer for the Green League candidates (Figure 16).

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

Figure 16. Persons entitled to vote and candidates (by party) by number of children in Municipal elections 2021, %



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

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

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

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. Income data derive from the latest confirmed taxation from 2019. Disposable monetary income refers to the monetary income after taxes that consists of earned income, property income, and transfer income.

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

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

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

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

Candidates from the National Coalition Party have the highest income

The candidates' income varies by party from EUR 33,900 in the Coalition Party to EUR 25,100 in the Left Alliance. The median income of the Swedish People's Party candidates is EUR 31,500 and that of the Centre Party 30,000. Compared with persons entitled to vote, the candidates of the Coalition Party have over EUR 11,000 more at their disposal per year. The candidates for the Left Alliance are closest to persons entitled to vote in terms of their income level. Their annual disposable income is EUR 28 higher than that of persons entitled to vote. (Table 14)

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

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

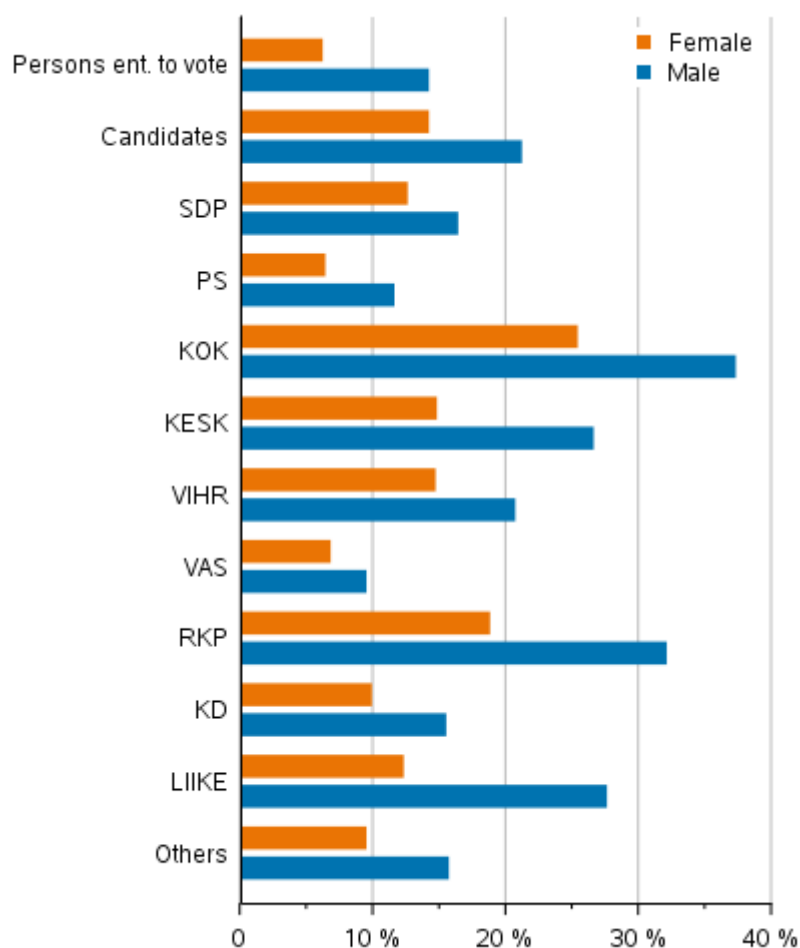
When the population entitled to vote is arranged according to income and divided into ten equal parts, the income deciles of the population entitled to vote are generated. Each of these has slightly under 440,000

persons. The highest income decile of the population entitled to vote has at least EUR 41,400 at their disposal and the lowest income decile at most EUR 9,400.

Of all candidates, 18 per cent belong to the highest income decile. Of the candidates, those representing the National Coalition Party and the Swedish People's Party in Finland belong to the higher end of the income distribution. Thirty-seven per cent of the male candidates and 25 per cent of female candidates in the National Coalition Party belong to the highest income decile. Among the candidates of the Swedish People's Party, around 32 per cent of men and 19 per cent of women belong to the highest income decile. (Figure 17)

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 Movement Now, Swedish People's Party, the Coalition Party and the Centre Party candidates. In these parties, there are over ten percentage points more men in the highest income decile than women. The difference is smallest among Left Alliance candidates where around three percentage points more men than women belong to the highest income decile.

Figure 17. Candidates (by party) belonging to the highest income decile in Municipal elections 2021, % of the party's candidates (disposable monetary income)

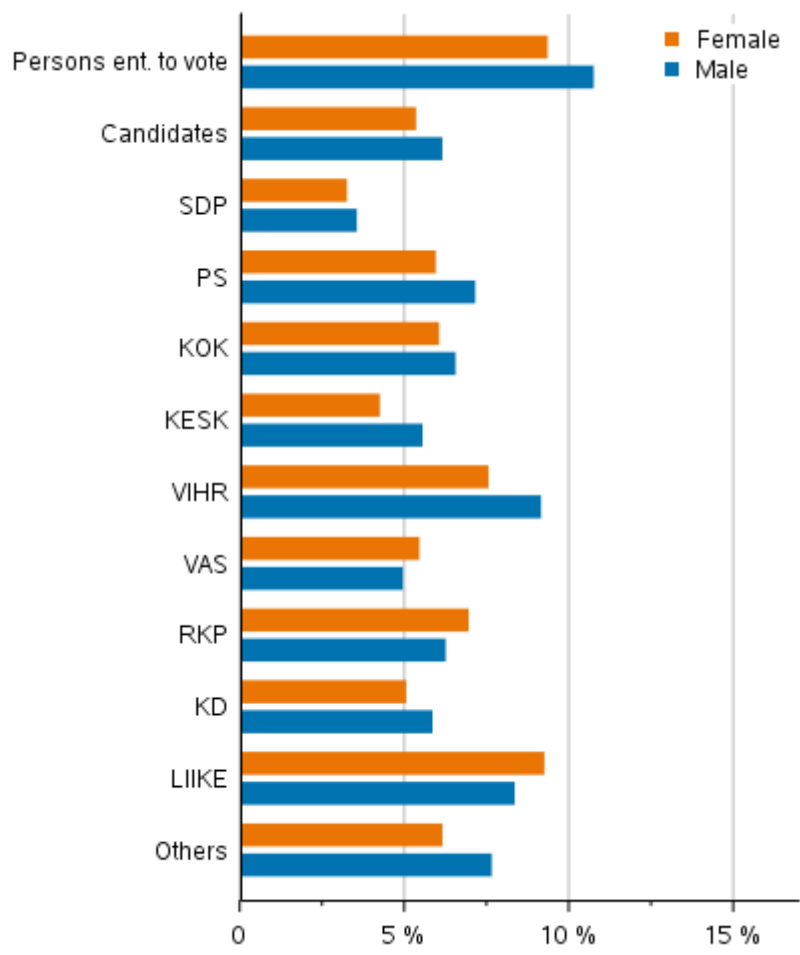


Slightly under six per cent of the candidates belong to the lowest income decile. Examined by party, the highest proportion of candidates belong to the lowest income decile in Movement Now and the Green League, slightly over eight per cent. The Social Democrats have the least candidates belonging to the lowest income decile, slightly over three per cent. (Figure 18)

In the lowest income decile the share of men is also higher than that of women both among persons entitled to vote and candidates. A larger share of female candidates than male candidates belong to the lowest

income decile only among Left Alliance, Swedish People’s Party and Movement Now candidates. However, the difference between sexes is not as large as in the shares of those belonging to the highest income decile.

Figure 18. Candidates (by party) belonging to the lowest income decile in Municipal elections 2021, % of the party’s candidates (disposable monetary income)



Appendix tables

Appendix table 1 Number of candidates by constituency and party in the Municipal elections 2021

Party	Helsinki	Uusi- maa	Varsinais- Suomi	Sata- kunta	Häme	Pirkan- maa	Southeast Finland	Savo- Karelia	Vaasa	Central Finland	Oulu	Lapland	Total
SDP	127	925	523	403	471	653	540	599	504	324	345	206	5,620
PS	127	811	570	324	490	538	502	676	629	375	669	242	5,953
KOK	127	1,011	763	328	585	664	567	455	599	263	420	228	6,010
KESK	87	490	598	352	417	382	651	887	893	476	1,182	456	6,871
VIHR	127	728	365	97	207	332	215	152	139	159	207	75	2,803
VAS	127	403	322	208	204	299	156	297	131	172	421	270	3,010
RKP	127	558	153	3	8	2	8	1	513	2	7	3	1,385
KD	110	264	87	75	174	191	172	266	349	124	101	32	1,945
LIIKE	62	107	60	4	31	25	69	64	6	9	32	-	469
LIBE	-	1	4	-	1	13	-	-	3	-	7	-	29
Pirate pty.	13	10	5	3	2	9	1	2	5	-	1	2	53
EOP	4	5	-	-	1	11	-	1	-	2	1	-	25
KP	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Femin.p.	29	16	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	3	1	1	55
SIN	17	8	-	4	-	1	19	15	-	4	6	-	74
SKE	-	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	8
AP	-	7	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	1	2	1	16
SKP	-	14	11	3	1	19	4	4	-	11	3	7	77
KRIP	20	27	6	-	8	12	2	5	5	5	6	-	96
Others	59	167	100	12	235	69	91	50	74	58	40	171	1,126
Total	1,163	5,554	3,569	1,816	2,836	3,228	2,999	3,476	3,850	1,991	3,451	1,694	35,627

Municipal elections, quality description

1. Relevance of statistical information

1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

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

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

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

1.2 Essential concepts

General

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

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

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

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

Legislation on elections

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The main principles of holding elections

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

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

Right to vote and eligibility

Entitled to vote in municipal elections are:

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

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

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

Eligibility and nomination of candidates

Eligibility

Eligible as candidates in municipal elections are persons,

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

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

As a rule, eligibility is determined in the same schedule as the person's voting municipality, that is, according to the information drawn from the Population Information System 51 days prior to the day of the election (in the 2021 Municipal elections by Friday 23 April 2021). If the person changes his or her municipality of residence after that date, his or her eligibility follows with him or her.

The legislation has not set a clear deadline for the determination of eligibility of candidates but in practice, candidates' municipality of residence has to be clear at the latest on the 32nd day prior to the day of the election (in the 2021 Municipal election by Friday 14 May 2021 *Ascension Day 13 May 2021), when the central election committees handle and decide the additions made to the candidate applications. Decisions on the candidates' municipality of residence are made based on the information in the Population Information System.

Nomination of candidates

Candidates in municipal elections may be nominated by

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

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

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

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

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

The central election committee of the municipality checks the lists of candidates and in particular that the candidates are eligible and confirms the nomination of candidates on the 31st day prior to the day of the election (14 May 2021). The central election committee compiles a combined list of candidates in which the candidates of all parties, constituency associations and joint lists are enumerated in an order drawn by lot. The list contains the following information on the candidates: number (beginning with number 2), name, municipality of residence and title, profession or position. The combination of lists of candidates can be seen in the polling booth, for example.

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

Local Government Act 410/2015, Section 16

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

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

Number of councillors according to the population of the municipality

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

Voting register

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

The voting register is publicly available at the Digital and Population Data Services Agency from 41 days before the election day onwards (i.e. from 03 May 2021). In addition, everyone in the register is sent a notice of his or her right to vote (card of information) not later than 24 days before the election day (20 May 2021). The card states among other things the election day, the days for advance voting, the address of the polling station of the recipient and the addresses and telephone numbers of the election authorities. The voting register is later used to print out electoral rolls for the polling stations on the election day. Claims for rectification concerning the voting register must be made to the Digital and Population Data Services Agency not later than 16 days before the election day (28 May 2021). The Digital and Population Data Services Agency will decide the claims for rectification not later than on 25 May 2021.

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

Voting

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

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

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

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

Voting percentage = proportion of voters of persons entitled to vote

Calculation of the result of the municipal elections

Counting the advance votes

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

Counting the votes cast on the election day

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

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

Determination of the election results

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

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

is counted.

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

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

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

Communication of preliminary results

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

Control calculation and confirmation of election results

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

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

Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities

Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities concerning elections of different years are presented on the Internet in the Classifications section (on the homepage of Municipal elections).

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

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

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

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

At the beginning of 2021, five municipalities changed regions:

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

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

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

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

Isokyrö from Ostrobothnia to South Ostrobothnia

In the statistical grouping of municipalities, municipalities are divided by the proportion of the population living in urban settlements and by the population of the largest urban settlement into urban, semi-urban and rural municipalities.

The classification is based on the locality delimitation made once a year and the information on the locality population derived from it.

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

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

Classifications used

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

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

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

Data collection methods and data sources

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

1.3 Acts, decrees and recommendations

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

2. Methodological description of the survey

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

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

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

Background analysis of candidates and elected councillors

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

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

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

Constituency

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

Foreign background

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

Main type of activity

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

The classification of main type of activity is as follows:

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

The information used in the analysis describes the person's activity during the last week of 2019.

Family status

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

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

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

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

Number of children

In the analysis the number of children used is the number of the person's biological and adopted children. The data are from the year 2020.

Level of education

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disposable monetary income

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

The data are from the year 2019.

Median income

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

Dual citizenship

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

Income subject to state taxation

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

Occupation

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

The data are from the year 2018.

Socio-economic group

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

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

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

The data are from the year 2018.

Employer sector

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

The classification used is as follows:

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

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

The data are from the year 2018.

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

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

4. Timeliness and accuracy of data

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

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

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

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

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

6. Comparability of statistics

The municipal division of the election year is used in the statistics. If municipal elections are held in the year preceding a change in municipal division entering into force, they must be held in accordance with the new municipal division in the municipalities to which the change applies. The new statistical grouping of municipalities (urban, semi-urban and rural) was introduced starting from the year 2000. Prior to that, municipalities were grouped as follows: towns and other municipalities. Changes in constituencies and municipalities between elections have been considered in the statistics which contain comparative data with the previous elections.

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

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). The statistics on advance voters published

by the Ministry of Justice differ from Statistics Finland's statistics on advance voters, because they are defined on different grounds:

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

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

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