

Voting by the expatriate Finns

Are expatriate Finns eligible to vote?

Finns living abroad are allowed to vote in Finnish Parliamentary and Presidential Elections. They are also eligible to vote at the European Parliamentary Elections, organized in Finland, as long as they have not registered at any other European country. People with dual citizenship have the equal right to vote.

How is the right to vote determined?

The Finnish Population Registry will establish a voting registry for the 2011 Parliamentary Elections based on the information available at the Population Registry on February 25, 2011 at 12 pm. Expatriate Finns will be signed to the voting registry in the municipality, where he or she was last registered in Finland. If the expatriate Finn has not had a place of domicile in Finland, his or her registry is determined according to his or her mothers, fathers or spouses place of domicile in Finland. If the municipality is no longer part of Finland, the person is signed to the voting registry of Helsinki.

How will the expatriate Finn get information about the voting?

The Finnish Population Registry will send a "notice of the right to vote" (voter's card) to each expatriate Finn to the address, which has been registered in the Population Registry.

The voter's card indicates the voting date, to which voting registry (municipality) the person is signed to and the advance voting period. The voter's card has been attached with a list of the closest advance voting locations. The card also has instructions about the voting. In order for the expatriate Finn to receive the voter's card, his or her address information at the Population Registry has to be updated.

Where and when can you vote?

The expatriate Finns can vote

- during the advance voting period at any advance polling station abroad or in Finland or
- on the actual voting Sunday, April 17, 2011 in Finland, at the specified location mentioned on the voter's card.

Who can you vote for?

You can only vote the candidates in your electoral district. The electoral district is determined according to the place of domicile. If for example your place of domicile is Kuopio, the electoral district is Pohjois-Savo. The electoral district is mentioned on the "notice of the right to vote" (voter's card).

Electronic voting

The Cabinet discussed the potential further development of electronic voting in its cabinet evening session on 13 January 2010. It decided that the development of electronic voting at polling stations will not be continued for the meantime, but instead the current election system will be maintained. At the same time, close attention will be paid to the development of electronic voting in international arenas.