

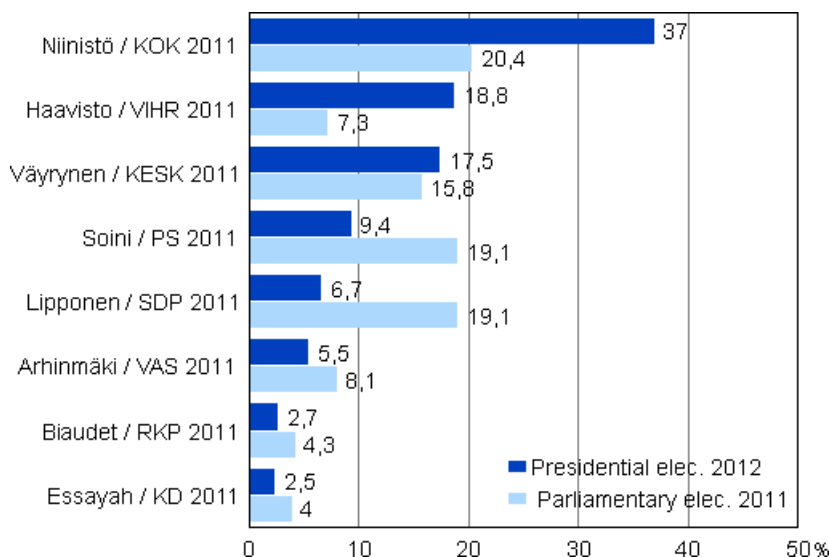
Presidential elections 2012

First round, confirmed election result

Sauli Niinistö and Pekka Haavisto made it to the second round of the Presidential election 2012

In the first round of the Presidential election, the two candidates who received the highest numbers of votes were Sauli Niinistö and Pekka Haavisto. Sauli Niinistö, the candidate of the National Coalition Party received 1,131,254 votes, thus winning the first round with 37.0 per cent of all votes cast. Pekka Haavisto, the candidate of the Green League was second in the first round of the Presidential election with 18.8 per cent of all votes cast. He gained 574,275 votes. The difference between the two candidates with most votes cast was 556,979 votes and 18.2 percentage points.

Support for the presidential candidates in the Presidential election 2012, first round, and support for the corresponding party in the Parliamentary elections 2011



Sauli Niinistö's share of all votes cast in the first round of the Presidential election was 16.6 percentage points higher than the support for the National Coalition Party in the Parliamentary elections 2011 (20.4%). Pekka Haavisto's share of the votes cast was 11.5 percentage points higher than the share of votes cast for the Green League in last year's Parliamentary elections (7.3%).

Paavo Väyrynen, the candidate of the Centre Party of Finland came third with 536,555 votes cast, i.e. 17.5 per cent of the accepted ballots. The support for Väyrynen in the Presidential election was 1.8 percentage points higher than the support for the Centre Party in last Parliamentary elections (15.8%). Väyrynen gained in the election 37,720 fewer votes than Pekka Haavisto, who made it to the second round.

Timo Soini, the candidate of the True Finns received in the election 287,571 votes and 9.4 per cent of all votes cast. Timo Soini's share of votes cast was 9.7 percentage points lower than the support for the True Finns in last Parliamentary elections (19.1%). Paavo Lipponen, the candidate of the Social Democratic Party received 205,111 votes and 6.7 per cent of the votes cast. The support for Lipponen in the Presidential election was as much as 12.4 percentage points lower than the share of votes cast for the SDP in the Parliamentary elections 2011 (19.1%).

Paavo Arhinmäki, representing the Left Alliance received in the election 5.5 per cent of all votes cast, Eva Biaudet, the candidate of the Swedish People's Party gained 2.7 per cent of the votes cast and Sari Essayah, the candidate of the Christian Democrats in Finland gained 2.5 per cent of all votes cast.

Voting turnout remained slightly lower than in the previous Presidential election

The voting percentage of Finnish citizens resident in Finland was 72.8, which was 1.1 percentage points lower than in the first round of the Presidential election in 2006.

Voting was the most active in the constituency of Helsinki (76.6%) and in the constituency of Uusimaa (75.6%). After the constituency of Åland (56.4%), voting turnout remained lowest in the constituencies of North Karelia (67.0%) and North Savo (68.9%). Of the municipalities in Mainland Finland, voting was the most active in Kauniainen (86.7%) and the least active in Rautavaara (58.4%) in the constituency of North Savo.

The total number of eligible voters in 2012 was 4,402,622. The number of persons entitled to vote resident in Finland was 4,172,200 and the number of persons entitled to vote resident abroad was 230,422.

Voting turnout of Finnish citizens living in Finland in Presidential election 2012, first round

Constituency	First round 2012
Whole country	72.8
Helsinki	76.6
Uusimaa	75.6
Varsinais-Suomi	73.6
Satakunta	71.9
Häme	71.8
Pirkanmaa	73.6
Kymi	70.7
South Savo	69.4
North Savo	68.9
North Karelia	67.0
Vaasa	73.4
Central Finland	71.8
Oulu	71.0
Lapland	71.6
Åland	56.4

[Election map service](#)

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Municipal mergers in Presidential elections 1994-2012

Municipal mergers in Presidential elections 1994 - 2012

Abolished municipality		Name of new or expanding municipality		Date
02	Uusimaa constituency	02	Uusimaa constituency	
	842 Tenhola		835 Tammisaari	1.1.1993
03	Turku etel. constituency	03	Turku etel. constituency	
	209 Kalanti		895 Uusikaupunki	1.1.1993
04	Turku pohj. constituency	04	Turku pohj. constituency	
	685 Rauman mlk		684 Rauma	1.1.1993
13	Central Finland constituency	13	Central Finland constituency	
	787 Säynätsalo		179 Jyväskylä	1.1.1993
	274 Konginkangas		992 Äänekoski	1.1.1993
02	Uusimaa constituency	02	Uusimaa constituency	
	427 Lohja		444 Lohja	1.1.1997
	428 Lohjan kunta		444 Lohja	1.1.1997
	612 Porvoo		638 Porvoo	1.1.1997
	613 Porvoon mlk		638 Porvoo	1.1.1997
06	Häme constituency	06	Häme constituency	
	088 Heinola		111 Heinola	1.1.1997
	089 Heinolan mlk		111 Heinola	1.1.1997
09	Etelä-Savo constituency	09	Etelä-Savo constituency	
	014 Anttola		491 Mikkeli	1.1.2001
	492 Mikkelin mlk		491 Mikkeli	1.1.2001
13	Central Finland constituency	13	Central Finland constituency	
	299 Kuorevesi		182 Jämsä	1.1.2001
14	Oulu constituency	14	Oulu constituency	
	841 Temmes		859 Tyrnävä	1.1.2001
08	Kymi constituency	08	Kymi constituency	
	917 Vehkalahti		075 Hamina	1.1.2003
14	Oulu constituency	14	Oulu constituency	
	582 Pattijoki		678 Raahe	1.1.2003
09	Etelä-Savo constituency	09	Etelä-Savo constituency	
	184 Jäppilä		640 Pieksänmaa	1.1.2004
	594 Pieksämäen mlk		640 Pieksänmaa	1.1.2004
	937 Virtasalmi		640 Pieksänmaa	1.1.2004
03	Varsinais-Suomi constituency	03	Varsinais-Suomi constituency	
	431 Loimaan kunta		430 Loimaa	1.1.2005
	219 Karinainen		636 Pöytyä	1.1.2005
04	Satakunta constituency	04	Satakunta constituency	
	293 Kullaa		886 Ulvila	1.1.2005
07	Pirkanmaa constituency	07	Pirkanmaa constituency	
	730 Sahalahti		211 Kangasala	1.1.2005
08	Kymi constituency	08	Kymi constituency	
	728 Saari		580 Parikkala	1.1.2005
	891 Uukuniemi		580 Parikkala	1.1.2005
10	Pohjois-Savo constituency	10	Pohjois-Savo constituency	
	919 Vehmersalmi		297 Kuopio	1.1.2005
	212 Kangaslampi		915 Varkaus	1.1.2005
11	North Karelia constituency	11	North Karelia constituency	
	251 Kiihtelysvaara		167 Joensuu	1.1.2005
	856 Tuupovaara		167 Joensuu	1.1.2005

Abolished municipality		Name of new or expanding municipality		Date	
	943	Värtsilä	848	Tohmajärvi	1.1.2005
12	Vaasa constituency		12	Vaasa constituency	
	589	Peräseinäjoki	743	Seinäjoki	1.1.2005
15	Lapland constituency		15	Lapland constituency	
	699	Rovaniemen mlk	698	Rovaniemi	1.1.2006
03	Varsinais-Suomi constituency		03	Varsinais-Suomi constituency	
	490	Mietoinen	503	Mynämäki	1.1.2007
04	Satakunta constituency		04	Satakunta constituency	
	266	Kodisjoki	684	Rauma	1.1.2007
07	Pirkanmaa constituency		07	Pirkanmaa constituency	
	864	Toijala	020	Akaa	1.1.2007
	928	Viiala	020	Akaa	1.1.2007
	439	Luopioinen	635	Pälkäne	1.1.2007
	772	Suodenniemi	912	Vammala	1.1.2007
	932	Viljakkala	980	Ylöjärvi	1.1.2007
07	Pirkanmaa constituency		13	Central Finland constituency	
	443	Längelmäki	182	Jämsä	1.1.2007
09	Etelä-Savo constituency		09	Etelä-Savo constituency	
	085	Haukivuori	491	Mikkeli	1.1.2007
	640	Pieksänmaa	593	Pieksämäki	1.1.2007
12	Vaasa constituency		12	Vaasa constituency	
	479	Maksamaa	945	Vöyri-Maksamaa	1.1.2007
	944	Vöyri	945	Vöyri-Maksamaa	1.1.2007
13	Central Finland constituency		13	Central Finland constituency	
	770	Sumiainen	992	Äänekoski	1.1.2007
	774	Suolahti	992	Äänekoski	1.1.2007
14	Oulu constituency		14	Oulu constituency	
	292	Kuivaniemi	139	li	1.1.2007
	940	Vuolijoki	205	Kajaani	1.1.2007
	708	Ruukki	748	Siikajoki	1.1.2007
13	Central Finland constituency		13	Central Finland constituency	
	415	Leivonmäki	172	Joutsa	1.1.2008
02	Uusimaa constituency		02	Uusimaa constituency	
	737	Sammatti	444	Lohja	1.1.2009
	220	Karjaa	710	Raasepori	1.1.2009
	606	Pohja	710	Raasepori	1.1.2009
	835	Tammisaari	710	Raasepori	1.1.2009
03	Varsinais-Suomi constituency		03	Varsinais-Suomi constituency	
	602	Piikkiö	202	Kaarina	1.1.2009
	040	Dragsfjärd	322	Kemiönsaari	1.1.2009
	243	Kemiö	322	Kemiönsaari	1.1.2009
	923	Västanfjärd	322	Kemiönsaari	1.1.2009
	006	Alastaro	430	Loimaa	1.1.2009
	482	Mellilä	430	Loimaa	1.1.2009
	101	Houtskari	445	Länsi-Turunmaa	1.1.2009
	150	Iniö	445	Länsi-Turunmaa	1.1.2009
	279	Korppoo	445	Länsi-Turunmaa	1.1.2009
	533	Nauvo	445	Länsi-Turunmaa	1.1.2009
	573	Parainen	445	Länsi-Turunmaa	1.1.2009

Abolished municipality		Name of new or expanding municipality		Date
017	Askainen	481	Masku	1.1.2009
419	Lemu	481	Masku	1.1.2009
485	Merimasku	529	Naantali	1.1.2009
705	Rymättylä	529	Naantali	1.1.2009
920	Velkua	529	Naantali	1.1.2009
636	Pöytyä	636	Pöytyä	1.1.2009
979	Yläne	636	Pöytyä	1.1.2009
906	Vahto	704	Rusko	1.1.2009
073	Halikko	734	Salo	1.1.2009
252	Kiikala	734	Salo	1.1.2009
259	Kisko	734	Salo	1.1.2009
308	Kuusjoki	734	Salo	1.1.2009
501	Muurla	734	Salo	1.1.2009
586	Perniö	734	Salo	1.1.2009
587	Pertteli	734	Salo	1.1.2009
734	Salo	734	Salo	1.1.2009
776	Suomusjärvi	734	Salo	1.1.2009
784	Särkisalo	734	Salo	1.1.2009
04	Satakunta constituency	04	Satakunta constituency	
262	Kiukainen	050	Eura	1.1.2009
913	Vampula	102	Huittinen	1.1.2009
406	Lappi	684	Rauma	1.1.2009
06	Häme constituency	06	Häme constituency	
083	Hauho	109	Hämeenlinna	1.1.2009
210	Kalvola	109	Hämeenlinna	1.1.2009
401	Lammi	109	Hämeenlinna	1.1.2009
692	Renko	109	Hämeenlinna	1.1.2009
855	Tuulos	109	Hämeenlinna	1.1.2009
07	Pirkanmaa constituency	07	Pirkanmaa constituency	
506	Mänttä	508	Mänttä-Vilppula	1.1.2009
933	Vilppula	508	Mänttä-Vilppula	1.1.2009
493	Mouhijärvi	790	Sastamala	1.1.2009
912	Vammala	790	Sastamala	1.1.2009
988	Äetsä	790	Sastamala	1.1.2009
303	Kuru	980	Ylöjärvi	1.1.2009
08	Kymi constituency	08	Kymi constituency	
044	Elimäki	286	Kouvola	1.1.2009
163	Jaala	286	Kouvola	1.1.2009
286	Kouvola	286	Kouvola	1.1.2009
306	Kuusankoski	286	Kouvola	1.1.2009
754	Anjalankoski	286	Kouvola	1.1.2009
909	Valkeala	286	Kouvola	1.1.2009
173	Joutseno	405	Lappeenranta	1.1.2009
09	Etelä-Savo constituency	09	Etelä-Savo constituency	
741	Savonranta	740	Savonlinna	1.1.2009
11	North Karelia constituency	11	North Karelia constituency	
045	Eno	167	Joensuu	1.1.2009
632	Pyhäselkä	167	Joensuu	1.1.2009
12	Vaasa constituency	12	Vaasa constituency	

Abolished municipality		Name of new or expanding municipality		Date
414	Lehtimäki	005	Alajärvi	1.1.2009
004	Alahärmä	233	Kauhava	1.1.2009
233	Kauhava	233	Kauhava	1.1.2009
281	Kortesjärvi	233	Kauhava	1.1.2009
971	Ylihärmä	233	Kauhava	1.1.2009
315	Kälviä	272	Kokkola	1.1.2009
429	Lohtaja	272	Kokkola	1.1.2009
885	Ullava	272	Kokkola	1.1.2009
175	Jurva	301	Kurikka	1.1.2009
544	Nurmo	743	Seinäjoki	1.1.2009
743	Seinäjoki	743	Seinäjoki	1.1.2009
975	Ylistaro	743	Seinäjoki	1.1.2009
13	Central Finland constituency	13	Central Finland constituency	
179	Jyväskylä	179	Jyväskylä	1.1.2009
180	Jyväskylän mlk	179	Jyväskylä	1.1.2009
277	Korpilahti	179	Jyväskylä	1.1.2009
182	Jämsä	182	Jämsä	1.1.2009
183	Jämsänkoski	182	Jämsä	1.1.2009
633	Pyлкönmäki	729	Saarijärvi	1.1.2009
14	Oulu constituency	14	Oulu constituency	
973	Ylikiiminki	564	Oulu	1.1.2009
247	Kestilä	791	Siikalatva	1.1.2009
603	Piippola	791	Siikalatva	1.1.2009
617	Pulkila	791	Siikalatva	1.1.2009
682	Rantsila	791	Siikalatva	1.1.2009
02	Uusimaa constituency	02	Uusimaa constituency	
424	Liljendal	434	Loviisa	1.1.2010
434	Loviisa	434	Loviisa	1.1.2010
585	Pernaja	434	Loviisa	1.1.2010
701	Ruotsinpyhtää	434	Loviisa	1.1.2010
04	Satakunta constituency	04	Satakunta constituency	
537	Noormarkku	609	Pori	1.1.2010
609	Pori	609	Pori	1.1.2010
08	Kymi constituency	08	Kymi constituency	
405	Lappeenranta	405	Lappeenranta	1.1.2010
978	Ylämaa	405	Lappeenranta	1.1.2010
14	Oulu constituency	14	Oulu constituency	
208	Kalajoki	208	Kalajoki	1.1.2010
12	Vaasa constituency	14	Oulu constituency	
095	Himanka	208	Kalajoki	1.1.2010
06	Häme constituency	06	Häme constituency	
015	Artjärvi	560	Orimattila	1.1.2011
560	Orimattila	560	Orimattila	1.1.2011
07	Pirkanmaa constituency	07	Pirkanmaa constituency	
020	Akaa	020	Akaa	1.1.2011
310	Kylmäkoski	020	Akaa	1.1.2011
211	Kangasala	211	Kangasala	1.1.2011
289	Kuhmalhti	211	Kangasala	1.1.2011
10	Pohjois-Savo constituency	10	Pohjois-Savo constituency	

Abolished municipality		Name of new or expanding municipality			Date	
	227	Karttula		297	Kuopio	1.1.2011
	297	Kuopio		297	Kuopio	1.1.2011
	916	Varpaisjärvi		402	Lapinlahti	1.1.2011
	402	Lapinlahti		402	Lapinlahti	1.1.2011
12	Vaasa constituency		12	Vaasa constituency		
	559	Oravainen		946	Vöyri	1.1.2011
	945	Vöyri-Maksamaa		946	Vöyri	1.1.2011

Presidential elections, quality description

1. Relevance of statistical information

1.1 Summary of the information content of statistics

Presidential elections are held by direct popular vote every six years. Statistics Finland produces official statistics on presidential elections, which consist of the first and second elections for the President of the Republic. The main content includes: the numbers and percentages of votes cast for presidential candidates separated into votes received in advance voting and on the actual election day, information on the numbers of persons entitled to vote and those who voted by gender, numbers of advance voters by gender.

1.2 Essential concepts

Holding of elections

According to the Finnish Constitution the President of the Republic is elected by a direct vote for a term of six years. The President shall be a native-born Finnish citizen. The same person may be elected President for no more than two consecutive terms of office.

The President is elected by a direct vote, if necessary in two rounds. Election day is the fourth Sunday of January in the election year. If one of the candidates receives more than half of the (approved) votes cast in this (first) election, he or she is elected President. If none of the candidates has received a majority of the votes cast, a new election will be held on the second Sunday after the first election between the two candidates who received most votes in the first election. The candidate receiving most votes in the second round is elected President. If only one candidate is nominated, he or she is appointed President without an election. The President assumes office on the first day of the month following the elections.

A president has been elected by direct elections in 2006 (Tarja Halonen), in 2000 (Tarja Halonen) and in 1994 (Martti Ahtisaari).

Before that the President was elected:

- By Parliament in 1919 (K.J. Ståhlberg) and 1946 (J.K. Paasikivi);
- By electors in 1925 (L.K. Relander), 1931 (P.E. Svinhufvud), 1937 (Kyösti Kallio), 1950 (J.K. Paasikivi), 1956, 1962, 1968 and 1978 (Urho Kekkonen), and in 1982 (Mauno Koivisto);
- By the electors of 1937 in 1940 and 1943 (Risto Ryti);
- With a special enactment in 1944 (Mannerheim) and 1974 (Urho Kekkonen); and
- Through a combination of direct and electoral elections in 1988 (Mauno Koivisto).

Legislation on elections

The present basic provisions relating to the election of the President are included in the Finnish Constitution and by the revision of election legislation in 1998, all provisions on elections were collected into one single act, the Election Act (714/1998), which entered into force on 8 October 1998. Elections are held in accordance with the Election Act in force, more details on the Ministry of Justice's web pages www.vaalit.fi (=> Legislation) and www.finlex.fi, Election Act (714/1998).

Election procedure and changes

Up to the 1982 election, the President was elected by an indirect election procedure. The citizens voted for a college of 300 electors who assembled to elect the President of Republic. In 1981, the Constitution was amended by increasing the numbers of electors in the college to 301. The Presidential election procedure was reviewed twice, in 1987 and 1991, to make it more democratic.

- In 1987 the procedure was a mixed election system in which those entitled to vote cast their votes both direct for a presidential candidate and for an electoral college candidate.
- In 1991 direct popular vote was introduced where voters cast their vote direct for a presidential candidate without voting for an intermediary elector, and the two rounds of the election procedure mean that a new election is held between the two candidates who received most votes in the first election if none of the candidates receives over 50 per cent of votes in the first election.

The main principles of holding elections

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

- **The elections are direct.** Electors (those entitled to vote) vote direct for the person they want to be elected.
- **The elections are 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.
- **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.**

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

Right to vote

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

Voting register

The Population Register Centre compiles a computer register of everyone entitled to vote (voting register) 46 days before the election day. This register contains certain information on the voters (including the voters' name, identity code, constituency municipality of residence and polling station) as this information appears in the Population Information System 51 days before election day. The voting register was established on 7 December 2011 based on the information included in the Population Information System on 2 December 2011.

The voting register is publicly available at the local register offices (maistraatti) from 41 days before the election day onwards (i.e. from 2 December 2011). 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 (29 December 2011). 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 election day.

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

The voting register becomes legally valid 12 days prior to the election day, that is, on Tuesday, 10 January 2012 at 12.

Voting

Persons with a right to vote can vote either 1) during advance voting, or 2) on the election Sunday. Advance voting is conducted in the first and second elections both in Finland and abroad. Each person entitled to vote can vote in advance in general advance polling stations in Finland and abroad at Finnish embassies. On the election day an enfranchised person may vote only in the polling station of his or her own voting district. A voter need not give grounds for advance voting, but may freely choose between voting in advance or voting on the election day. Advance voting commences on the 11th day (11 January 2012) and ends abroad on the 8th day (14 January 2012) and in Finland on the 5th day (17 January 2012) before the election day.

Counting of the election result

The election results are counted as in parliamentary elections, except that the d'Hondt method is not used. The votes of the candidates are counted, and the candidates are ranked in order of number of votes received. If the numbers are the same, the order is drawn by lot. After both elections the Electoral District Committee of Helsinki confirms the final number of votes received by the candidates in the entire country, and informs the Ministry of Justice of them.

If none of the candidates has received over one half of the votes cast, the Ministry of Justice declares that a second election between the two candidates who have received most votes will be held in two weeks. After the second election the Government establishes which candidate has received most votes and thus been elected President.

Eligibility and nomination of candidates

Eligibility

A Presidential candidate must be a native-born citizen of Finland.

Nomination of candidates

A presidential candidate may be nominated

1. By registered parties from whose lists at least one representative was elected in the parliamentary elections preceding the presidential elections, and
2. By constituency associations established by at least 20,000 people entitled to vote.

A political party or an association of eligible voters may nominate only one candidate. Each party chooses its candidate according to its own rules and regulations. Political parties and constituency associations may nominate the same candidate.

The candidates enter as candidates in the entire country. A party and constituency association must submit its candidate application to the Electoral District Committee of Helsinki not later than on Wednesday 7 December 2011 at 4 pm.

The Committee checks the applications and confirms the nomination of candidates on Thursday 15 December 2011 by compiling a list of candidates in which the candidates 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 list is displayed in the polling booths, for instance.

If the second election is held, the Electoral District Committee of Helsinki compiles a new list of candidates including both candidates in the second election with the same numbers they had in the first election.

Voting percentage = proportion of voters of persons entitled to vote

Statistics on general elections include four different voting percentages:

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

Valid and invalid ballots taken into account in the advance voting

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

Constituencies

The whole country is one single constituency in Presidential elections. Therefore, when counting the election results, seats are not allocated to different regions. All statistics do, however, present results also by constituency in order to maintain the comparability of different elections.

Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities

Changes in constituencies and municipalities and consolidations of municipalities concerning elections of different years are presented on the Internet in the Appendix table of the release (on the home page of the statistics on Presidential elections).

Municipalities are placed into constituencies according to the constituency division in force.

Classifications used

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

Candidates have been nominated in the Presidential elections 2012 by the following registered parties:

- The Finnish Social Democratic Party (SDP) - Paavo Lipponen
- Centre Party of Finland (KESK) - Paavo Väyrynen
- National Coalition Party (KOK) - Sauli Niinistö
- Swedish People's Party in Finland (RKP) - Eva Biaudet
- Christian Democrats in Finland (KD) - Sari Essayah
- Green League (VIHR) - Pekka Haavisto
- Left Alliance (VAS) - Paavo Arhinmäki
- True Finns (PS) - Timo Soini

Data collection methods and data sources

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

1.3 Acts, decrees and recommendations

The function of Statistics Finland is to compile statistics describing conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). These also include election statistics. Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure define the Population Statistics department as the producer of election statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-1469-00).

2. Methodological description of survey

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

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

Statistics Finland's election data system comprises two election data files: regional file and candidate file.

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

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

4. Timeliness and accuracy of data

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

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

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

The statistics are released on the Internet, in the StatFin online service and on the statistics pages on presidential elections. Election result data by municipality and voting district and the numbers of votes gained by the candidates and elected are entered into the StatFin online service.

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

The chargeable ALTIKA regional database contains results on Presidential elections starting from 1994.

6. Comparability of statistics

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 taken into account in statistics which contain comparative data with the previous elections.

Election results are presented on the statistics pages on Presidential elections since 1925.

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 website.

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Source: Presidential Elections 2012, 1 round, Statistics Finland