



Act relating to parliamentary and local government elections (Election Act)

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[Prop. 45 L \(2022–2023\)](#), [Recommendation 431 L \(2022–2023\)](#), [Legislative enactment 96 \(2022–2023\)](#). The Storting's first and second readings on 7 and 12 June 2023, respectively. Put forward by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.

Chapter 1. The purpose and applicability of the Act

Section 1-1. *The purpose and applicability of the Act*

- (1) The Act shall ensure free, secret and confidence-inspiring elections.
- (2) The Act applies to the election of members to the Storting, county councils and municipal councils.

Chapter 2. Right to vote and electoral register

Section 2-1. *Right to vote at parliamentary elections*

- (1) Norwegian citizens who have turned 18 years or will turn 18 years by the end of the year of the election are eligible to vote at parliamentary elections if they are or have been registered in the National Population Registry as resident in Norway.
- (2) Norwegian personnel at diplomatic and consular missions abroad are eligible to vote, regardless of whether they are or have been registered in the National Population Registry as resident in Norway. The same applies to the members of the household of such personnel.

Section 2-2. *Right to vote at county council and municipal council elections*

- (1) Norwegian citizens who have turned 18 years or will turn 18 years by the end of the year of the election are eligible to vote at county council elections and municipal council elections if they are or have been registered in the National Population Registry as resident in Norway.
- (2) [Section 2-1, subsection 2](#) applies, correspondingly.
- (3) Persons who are not Norwegian citizens are eligible to vote if they have turned 18 years or will turn 18 years by the end of the year of the election and have either
 - a. been registered in the National Population Registry as resident in Norway in the three years prior to Election Day, or

- b. are nationals of another Nordic country and were registered in the National Population Registry as resident in Norway no later than 30 June in the year of the election.

Section 2-3. *Responsibility for keeping and updating the electoral register*

- (1) The Ministry shall keep and update the electoral register. The electoral register shall be updated up to and including the Saturday prior to Election Day. A joint electoral register shall be created for county council and municipal council elections.
- (2) The Ministry shall ensure that all municipalities and county authorities receive an electoral register on 2 January in the year of the election.

Section 2-4. *Access to the National Population Registry*

The Ministry, county authorities, and municipalities may, without prejudice to the duty of secrecy, obtain information from the National Population Registry that is necessary to conduct elections.

Section 2-5. *Use of personal data for the development and testing of IT systems*

The Ministry may process collected personal data to develop and test IT systems for the electoral register if it is impossible or disproportionately difficult to achieve the purpose by using anonymous or fictitious data.

Section 2-6. *The municipality in which voters shall be registered in the electoral register*

- (1) Persons eligible to vote who are residents of Norway shall be registered in the electoral register in the municipality where they were registered in the National Population Registry as resident on 30 June in the year of the election.
- (2) Persons eligible to vote who reside on Svalbard or Jan Mayen shall be registered in the electoral register in the municipality where they were most recently registered in the National Population Registry as resident.
- (3) Persons eligible to vote who reside outside of Norway, and who have been registered in the National Population Registry as resident in Norway in the previous 10 years prior to Election Day, shall

be registered in the electoral register in the municipality where they were most recently registered in the National Population Registry as resident.

(4) Persons eligible to vote who have not been registered in the National Population Registry as resident in Norway in the previous 10 years prior to Election Day, shall, if they are to vote, be registered in the electoral register in the municipality where they were most recently registered in the National Population Registry as resident.

(5) Norwegian personnel at diplomatic and consular missions abroad who have not been registered in the National Population Registry as resident in a municipality in Norway prior to being hired, shall be registered in the City of Oslo. The same applies to the members of the household of such personnel.

Section 2-7. Availability of the electoral register for public inspection

(1) The electoral committee shall make the electoral register available for public inspection. The electoral register shall be on display for such inspection up to and including Election Day.

(2) The electoral committee shall announce the time and place of display and also provide information on how voters shall proceed in having errors in the electoral register corrected.

Section 2-8. Correction of the electoral register

(1) Any person who believes that he or she or any other person has been erroneously included in or omitted from the electoral register in the municipality may request that the error be corrected.

(2) A request and the grounds for such a request shall be in writing and sent to the electoral committee in the municipality.

Section 2-9. Notification of amendments to the electoral register

If the electoral register is amended following a request for correction or after the electoral committee has been made aware of an error, the electoral committee must send notification of the amendment to the persons to whom this applies as soon as possible. The electoral committee shall also issue such a notification if a request for correction is not upheld.

Section 2-10. Information to voters on the right to vote

The Ministry shall ensure that all persons eligible to vote, and who are registered in the National Population Register as resident in Norway, receive information about the municipality in which they can vote at the election proceedings. However, this does not apply to persons with a residential address on Svalbard or Jan Mayen.

Section 2-11. Regulations

The Ministry may issue regulations on the:

- a. registration in the electoral register, processing and updating of the electoral register
- b. registration of persons who have a secret address in the National Population Registry pursuant to [Section 10-4 of the National Population Registry Act](#), cf. [Section 2 of the Information Protection Instructions](#)
- c. displayed electoral register
- d. access to and use of copies of the electoral register
- e. communication of and content in information to the voters.

Chapter 3. Eligibility and duty to accept election

Section 3-1. Eligibility at parliamentary elections

Persons who are eligible to vote at parliamentary elections and who are not disqualified from elections pursuant to [Section 3-3](#) are eligible for election to the Storting.

Section 3-2. Eligibility at local government elections

Persons who are eligible to vote at county council and municipal council elections are eligible for election to the county council or municipal council if the following conditions are met:

- a. He or she is registered in the National Population Registry on Election Day as resident in the municipality for municipal council elections or in one of the municipalities in the county for county council elections.
- b. He or she is not disqualified from election pursuant to [Section 3-3](#).

Section 3-3. Disqualified from election

- (1) The following persons are disqualified from election to the Storting
 - a. justices of the Supreme Court of Norway
 - b. members of staff in the government ministries, except state secretaries and political advisers
 - c. personnel in the Foreign Service.
- (2) Disqualified from election to county councils or municipal councils are:
 - a. the county governor and deputy county governor
 - b. the chief municipal executive of the county authority or municipality and his or her alternate
 - c. heads of municipal affairs, heads of department and managers at the equivalent level in the county authority or municipality
 - d. secretaries for the county council or municipal council
 - e. the person responsible for the accounting function in the county authority or municipality
 - f. persons who perform audits of the county authority or municipality
 - g. employees of the secretariat of the county council or municipal council who have had authority delegated to them by the council.
- (3) Persons who would otherwise be disqualified from election to the county council or municipal council due to their position may still be eligible for election if they resign from their position before the county council or municipal council commences its functions.

Section 3-4. Duty to accept election

- (1) Everyone is obliged to be entered on an electoral list, unless they give written notice that they do not wish to be entered on the applicable electoral list within the deadline set by the district electoral committee, county electoral committee, or electoral committee.
- (2) All persons who are elected as members of the Storting, county councils or municipal councils have a duty to accept election.

Chapter 4. Electoral bodies

Section 4-1. The National Electoral Committee

- (1) After each parliamentary election, the Storting shall appoint a National Electoral Committee which shall serve for four years from 1 January in the second new year after the parliamentary election.

The National Electoral Committee shall consider appeals relating to the election, cf. [Section 16-1 \(a\)](#) through (e), (g), and (h). The National Electoral Committee shall perform its duties separately and independently of the Storting.

- (2) The National Electoral Committee shall have five members. The chair and two other members shall be judges. Three joint alternate members shall be appointed for the members who are judges, and two joint alternate members for the other members.
- (10) Members and alternate members may be re-appointed.

- (3) The following persons may not be appointed to the National Electoral Committee:
 - a. members of the Government
 - b. members and alternate members of the Storting
 - c. members and alternate members of the county councils and municipal councils
 - d. state secretaries and political advisers in the government ministries and the Storting.

- (4) Members and alternate members of the National Electoral Committee who stand for election to the Storting, a county council or a municipal council shall resign from the National Electoral Committee.

- (5) The Ministry shall appoint a secretariat for the National Electoral Committee. The secretariat is independent in its work of preparing cases for the National Electoral Committee.

- (6) The Storting shall determine the remuneration to the National Electoral Committee's members and alternate members.

Section 4-2. Resignation from the position as a member or alternate member of the National Electoral Committee.

- (1) The Storting may release a member or alternate member of the National Electoral Committee from the position when he or she so requests for personal reasons, or he or she has been in gross violation of the duties incumbent on the position.
- (2) In special cases, the Storting may release one or more member(s) or alternate member(s) from the position if this is necessary for the National Electoral Committee to be able to perform its duties.
- (3) Decisions to release a member or alternate member from the position are made with a normal majority when he or she requests to be released from the position. In other circumstances, the decision may be made with a two-third majority of the votes.

(4) When a member or alternate member of the National Electoral Committee dies or resigns, the Storting shall appoint a new member or alternate member for the remainder of the term.

Section 4-3. District electoral committee

(1) At parliamentary elections, each constituency shall have a district electoral committee with a minimum of three members. A joint district electoral committee may be elected for all the constituencies in the county. The county council shall itself elect the district electoral committee's chair, deputy chair and other members and alternate members.

(2) At parliamentary elections, the electoral committee in the City of Oslo serves as the district electoral committee in Oslo constituency. [Section 10-13](#), [Section 10-14 subsection 1](#), [subsection 3](#), and [subsection 5](#), and [Section 10-15 subsection 3](#) do not apply to the conduct of parliamentary elections in Oslo constituency.

Section 4-4. County electoral committee

At county council elections, each constituency shall have a county electoral committee with a minimum of three members. The county council shall itself elect the county electoral committee's chair, deputy chair and other members and alternate members.

Section 4-5. Electoral committee

Each municipality shall have an electoral committee with a minimum of three members. The municipal council shall itself elect the electoral committee's chair, deputy chair and other members and alternate members.

Chapter 5. List proposals

Section 5-1. Requirements concerning list proposals

- (1) A list proposal shall have a heading and must contain information about
 - a. which election the list proposal applies to
 - b. which candidates are standing for election on the list proposal
 - c. who has signed the list proposal.
- (2) The heading of the list proposal shall specify the party or group that put forward the proposal. If the list proposal has been submitted by a registered political party, the heading shall be the registered

name of the party. The heading must otherwise not be able to be confused with the name of a registered political party, a registered Sami political unit or with the heading of other list proposals in the same constituency.

(3) The candidates shall be listed with their forename(s), surname and year of birth. Their occupation or residence may be shown on the list proposal. This shall be done if it is necessary to avoid confusion of candidates. On joint lists, information may be provided about the candidates' affiliation to the various groups behind the list proposal. If a list proposal contains information regarding occupation, residence or group affiliation, such information shall be provided for all of the candidates on the list proposal.

(4) A list proposal shall not contain any other information to the voters than what is stipulated in this section.

(5) Candidates may only be included on one list proposal in the constituency. The same party or group may only submit one list in each constituency.

Section 5-2. The number of candidates on a list proposal

(1) At parliamentary elections, the list proposal shall at least contain the names of as many candidates as members to be elected from the constituency. The proposal may include a maximum of six more names than members to be elected from the constituency.

(2) At county council and municipal council elections a list proposal shall contain the names of at least seven candidates. The proposal may include a maximum of six more names than members to be elected.

(3) The names of the candidates must be placed in order.

Section 5-3. Increased share of the poll at municipal council elections

- (1) At municipal council elections, a certain number of candidates at the top of the list proposal may be given an increased share of the poll. An increased share of the poll may be given to
 - a. up to four candidates when the municipal council has 11 to 23 members
 - b. up to six candidates when the municipal council has 25 to 53 members
 - c. up to 10 candidates when the municipal council has 55 or more members.

(2) Candidates with an increased share of the poll are given an increase in their personal share of the poll which corresponds to 25 per cent of the number of ballots cast for the list at the election.

(3) The names of candidates with an increased share of the poll must appear at the top of the list proposal and in boldface.

Section 5-4. The number of signatures on a list proposal

(1) List proposals from parties registered in the Register of Political Parties and which received no fewer than 5 000 votes in the entire country at the previous parliamentary election must be signed by two of the members of the executive committee of the party's local branch who are responsible for the constituency to which the list applies. The same applies to parties that have been included in the Register of Political Parties subsequent to the previous parliamentary election. If a registered political party submits a list proposal together with an unregistered group, the provisions in subsection 2 will nevertheless apply.

(2) Other list proposals must be signed by at least the number of persons corresponding to one per cent of the number of persons eligible to vote in the constituency at the previous election. At municipal council elections, the list proposal shall be signed by at least as many persons as the number of members to be elected to the municipal council.

(3) The signatories must be eligible to vote in the constituency and may only sign one list proposal.

Section 5-5. Appendices to list proposals

The following information shall be enclosed with the list proposal:

- a. list of the dates of birth and residential addresses of the persons who have signed the list proposal
- b. list of the candidates' dates of birth
- c. assurance from candidates who are not registered in the National Population Registry as resident in the county at county council elections or in the municipality at municipal county elections, that they will be registered there on Election Day
- d. assurance from candidates who, due to their position, are not eligible for election at county council elections or municipal council elections, that they will resign from their position before the county council or the municipal council commences its functions.

Section 5-6. Representatives and representation committees

(1) If a list proposal from a registered political party is signed by two members of the executive committee of the party's branch responsible for the constituency to which the list applies, cf. [Section 5-4, subsection 1](#), these two members of the executive committee shall be the representative and alternate representative for the list proposal. The executive committee of the branch is the representation committee.

(2) For other list proposals, the two top signatories on the list proposal are the representative and alternate representative, respectively. The top five signatories are the representation committee, and the next three are alternate representatives.

Section 5-7. Deadline for submitting the list proposal

(1) The deadline for submitting a list proposal is 12 p.m. on 31 March in the year of the election.

(2) For parliamentary elections and county council elections, the list proposal is deemed to have been submitted when it has been received by the county authority.

(3) For municipal council elections, the list proposal is deemed to have been submitted when it has been received by the municipality.

(4) If fewer than two list proposals have been submitted for a municipal council election when the deadline expires, the municipal council may itself postpone the deadline until no later than 12 p.m. on 30 April.

Section 5-8. Withdrawal of a list proposal

(1) The representation committee may withdraw the list proposal.

(2) Notification of withdrawal shall be given to the district electoral committee for parliamentary elections, the county electoral committee for county council elections and the electoral committee for municipal council elections.

(3) The notification shall have been received by the county authority for parliamentary and county council elections, and the municipality for municipal council elections, before the list proposal has been approved.

Section 5-9. Who is responsible for approving the list proposal

- (1) At parliamentary elections, the district electoral committee shall itself approve or reject list proposals and withdrawals of list proposals.
- (2) At county council elections, the county electoral committee shall itself approve or reject list proposals and withdrawals of list proposals.
- (3) At municipal council elections, the electoral committee shall itself approve or reject list proposals and withdrawals of list proposals.
- (4) Decisions concerning approval or rejection shall have been handed down no later than 1 July in the year of the election.

Section 5-10. ***Section 5-10 The electoral authorities' processing of the list proposals***

- (1) The list proposals shall be made available for public inspection as these are received.
- (2) The electoral authorities shall check that a list proposal meets the requirements of this Act.
- (3) If the list proposal does not meet these requirements, the electoral authorities shall give the representatives of the list proposal a seven-day deadline to correct the list proposal.
- (4) The electoral authorities shall notify all candidates on the list proposals of the fact that they have been placed on a list proposal and inform the candidates of their right pursuant to [Section 3-4](#) to be exempt from inclusion on the electoral list.
- (5) If it is unclear as to who is entitled to represent a registered political party at the local level and thereby the right to submit a list for the party, the electoral authorities shall obtain a statement from the party's executive body and use this as a basis, cf. [Section 3, subsection 2 \(b\) of the Political Parties Act](#).
- (6) The electoral authorities shall order signatories or candidates who appear on more than one list proposal in the constituency to give notice by a specified deadline of the list proposal on which they wish to appear. If they do not respond by the deadline, they will be placed on the list proposal that was received first.

Section 5-11. Changes to list proposals after the deadline for submission

- (1) After the deadline for submitting list proposals has expired, the representatives of the list proposal may only make changes that are necessary to enable the list proposal to be in compliance with the requirements of this Act.

- (2) If a candidate is removed from the list proposal, the list can be supplemented with a new name. In such an event, the representative for the list proposal can decide whether the name shall be inserted in the empty position or whether the subsequent candidates shall move up in an unchanged order, and that the list is then supplemented with a new name at the bottom. The representative shall enclose a declaration from the new candidate that he or she is willing to stand as a candidate on the list. [Section 5-5 \(b\)](#) through (d) apply, correspondingly.

0 Amended by the [Act of 21 June 2024 No. 51](#).

Section 5-12. Announcement of electoral lists

When the list proposals have been approved, the electoral authorities shall make the electoral lists available for public inspection. The electoral authorities shall announce what are the headings on the electoral lists and where they are on display.

Section 5-13. Printing of ballot papers

- (1) At parliamentary elections, county council elections and municipal council elections, the Ministry is responsible for printing ballot papers containing the names of the registered political parties that received no fewer than 5 000 votes at the previous parliamentary election in the entire country, and the names of parties that have been registered in the Register of Political Parties after the previous parliamentary election.
- (2) At parliamentary elections, the district electoral committee is responsible for ballot papers being printed for the electoral lists in the constituency.
- (3) At county council elections, the county electoral committee is responsible for ballot papers being printed for the electoral lists in the constituency.
- (4) At municipal council elections, the electoral committee is responsible for ballot papers being printed for the electoral lists in the municipality.
- (5) Pursuant to subsection 1, the ballot papers must be ready for use when the advance voting commences on 1 July.
- (6) Pursuant to subsections 2 through 4, the ballot papers must be ready for use when the ordinary advance voting commences on 10 August.

Section 5-14. Regulations

The Ministry may issue regulations on the:

- a. requirements for electronic signatures pursuant to [Section 5-4](#) when using an approved digital solution
- b. submission of list proposals in an approved digital solution and on paper
- c. processing of list proposals
- d. design, printing and distribution of ballot papers.

Chapter 6. Joint provisions for voting in Norway

Section 6-1. *Announcement of when and where voters can vote*

- (1) The electoral committee shall announce when and where voters can vote.
- (2) The Governor shall announce when and where voters can vote on Svalbard.

Section 6-2. *Who is responsible for voting at a polling station*

At each polling station there shall be a chair and a deputy chair responsible for the voting. This does not apply to voting pursuant to [Section 7-1, subsections 2 and 3](#).

Section 6-3. *The number of election workers for voting that does not take place at a polling station*

If the voting does not take place at a polling station, two election workers shall receive the vote. However, this does not apply to voting pursuant to [Section 7-1, subsections 2 and 3](#).

Section 6-4. *Who may not be an election worker at the polling stations or receive votes*

- (1) Persons who appear on an electoral list at a parliamentary election or county council election are ineligible to serve as election workers at the polling stations or receive votes in the municipalities in the constituency.
- (2) Persons who appear on an electoral list at a municipal council election may not serve as election workers at the polling stations or receive votes in the municipality.

Section 6-5. *Ballot boxes*

Ballot boxes used for voting shall be sealed.

Section 6-6. *Rules relating to public order*

- (1) Voter influence is not permitted at the polling station.
- (2) It is also not permitted to commit acts at the polling station and its immediate surroundings that may disrupt the election.
- (3) It is not permitted for unauthorised persons to keep check of who casts votes.
- (4) Election workers shall prevent unauthorised persons from obtaining knowledge about the use of the different ballot papers for the electoral lists.
- (5) The chair or deputy chair at the polling station may remove persons who act in a manner contrary to the rules in this section.

Section 6-7. *Universal design*

- (1) The electoral committee shall ensure that the polling stations are universally designed, cf. [Section 17 of the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act](#). Voters must be able to enter the polling stations unassisted.
- (2) Voting may take place at premises in which voters cannot enter unassisted, if there are special reasons for this. The electoral committee shall announce the polling stations to which this applies.

Section 6-8. *Right to guidance and assistance*

- (1) Voters have a right receive to guidance on how to vote.
- (2) A voter who, due to a disability, is unable to vote on his or her own, may at his or her own request receive assistance from an election worker or another person selected by the voter. Persons who, in the course of such assistance, gain knowledge of how the voter has voted, have a duty of secrecy in respect thereof. An election worker shall make the voter's assistant aware of this duty of secrecy.
- (3) If an election worker believes that the voter does not meet the requirements for receiving assistance pursuant to subsection 2, the chair or deputy chair at the polling station shall decide if the voter meets the requirements.

Section 6-9. *Secret voting*

- (1) The voter shall, while hidden from view and unseen, select the ballot paper, make any changes and fold the ballot paper so that his or her selections are not visible.
- (2) Ballot papers shall be placed in such a way that the selections the voter has made are not visible to unauthorised persons.

Section 6-10. Right to cast personal votes

(1) At county council elections and municipal council elections, voters may cast personal votes for candidates on the ballot paper by placing a cross in the box beside the candidates' names.

(2) At municipal council elections, voters may also cast personal votes for candidates on other electoral lists by entering the candidate names on the ballot paper (cross-party votes). Such personal votes may be given to as many candidates as corresponds to one-fourth of the number of members who are to be elected to the municipal council. However, voters may always give a personal vote to a minimum of five candidates from other lists. When a voter gives a personal vote to a candidate on another list, one list vote is transferred to the list on which this candidate appears.

(3) Any other changes on the ballot paper will not count towards the election result.

Section 6-11. Identification

(1) Voters shall present identification.

(2) If a voter is unable to present identification, but is known to the returning officer, the returning officer may instead confirm the voter's identity.

(3) An employee who presents identification may verify the identity of voters who are residents of health and social welfare institutions or who are inmates in prisons.

Section 6-12. Voting outside the polling station

If a voter is unable to enter the polling station, two election workers shall receive the voter's vote directly outside the polling station. The voter shall be able to cast his or her vote hidden from view.

Section 6-13. Storage and transport of election materials

The electoral committee shall ensure that election materials are stored and transported in a secure manner.

Section 6-14. Regulations

The Ministry may issue regulations on the:

- a. announcement of time and place of voting
- b. universal design of polling stations and polling equipment
- c. announcement pursuant to [Section 6-7, subsection 2, second sentence](#)
- d. organisation and conduct of the voting

e. sending of advance votes

f. storage, transportation and handing over of election materials

g. requirements for postal voting

h. identification requirements.

Chapter 7. Advance voting in Norway

Section 7-1. When voters can vote in advance

(1) Voters may vote in advance in Norway during the period from 10 August up to and including the Friday before Election Day. The electoral committee itself decides the opening hours of the polling stations. Voters who have arrived before closing time shall be permitted to vote.

(2) Voters who are unable to vote pursuant to subsection 1, may vote in advance from 1 July until regular advance voting commences on 10 August (advance voting). Voters shall contact the municipality and request to be able to vote.

(3) Voters on Svalbard and Jan Mayen may vote in advance from 1 July up to and including the penultimate Friday before Election Day.

Section 7-2. Where voters can vote in advance

(1) Voters may vote in advance in all municipalities

(2) The electoral committee itself decides where voters can vote in advance. The polling station shall be suitable for voting.

(3) Voters who are residents of health and care institutions or inmates in prisons, shall be able to vote in advance there.

(4) Voters who, due to illness or disability are unable to vote in advance at the venues where the electoral committee has decided advance voting shall take place, may by application vote in advance where they are staying. Such applications must have been received by the municipality no later than 12 p.m. on the Thursday before Election Day. This subsection does not apply to voters on Svalbard and Jan Mayen.

(5) The Governor decides where on Svalbard voters may vote in advance.

(6) The Ministry decides where on Jan Mayen voters may vote in advance.

Section 7-3. Who appoints returning officers on Svalbard and Jan Mayen

- (1) The Governor appoints returning officers on Svalbard.
- (2) The Ministry appoints returning officers on Jan Mayen.

Section 7-4. Electronic electoral register

The municipality shall use an electronic electoral register for the advance voting.

Section 7-5. How voters can vote in advance in their own municipalities

- (1) If a voter who votes in advance is registered in the electoral register in the municipality, the returning officer shall stamp the ballot paper and place a cross beside the voter's name. The voter shall place the ballot paper in a ballot box.
- (2) If the returning officer is unable to place a cross beside the voter's name in the electoral register, the returning officer shall stamp the ballot paper before the voter places the ballot paper in a ballot paper envelope and seals the envelope. The returning officer shall place the ballot paper envelope together with information about the voter's identity in a cover envelope and seal the cover envelope. The voter shall place the cover envelope in a ballot box.
- (3) If the returning officer cannot place a cross beside the voter's name in the electoral register because the connection to the electronic electoral register is down, the returning officer shall stamp the ballot paper before the voter places the ballot paper in a ballot paper envelope and seals the envelope. The returning officer shall place the ballot paper envelope together with information about the voter's identity in a contingency envelope and seal the envelope. The voter shall place the contingency envelope in a ballot box.
- (4) In special cases, the electoral committee may itself decide that some advance voting locations shall use ballot paper envelopes and cover envelopes instead of the ballot paper being placed directly in a ballot box. The voting will then occur in accordance with subsection 2.

Section 7-6. Procedure for advance voting outside registered municipality

If a voter who votes in advance is not registered in the electoral register in the municipality, the voter shall use a ballot paper envelope. After the ballot paper has been stamped, the voter shall place it in a ballot paper envelope and seal the envelope. The returning officer shall place the ballot paper envelope together with information about the

voter's identity in a cover envelope and seal the cover envelope. The voter shall place the cover envelope in a ballot box.

Section 7-7. How voters can vote in advance on Svalbard and Jan Mayen

A voter who votes in advance on Svalbard or Jan Mayen shall place the ballot paper in a ballot paper envelope and seal it. The returning officer shall place the ballot paper envelope in a cover envelope, seal the cover envelope and then add the following to the cover envelope

- a. the name and address of the electoral committee;
- b. the voter's name and national identity number
- c. the voter's address registered in the National Population Registry on 30 June in the year of the election, or possibly the most recent address if the voter has given notice that he or she has moved abroad
- d. the time and place the vote was cast.

Section 7-8. How voters can vote in advance before the ordinary advance voting (early voting)

For advance voting pursuant to [Section 7-1, subsection 2](#), the returning officer shall stamp the ballot paper before the voter places it in a ballot paper envelope and seals the envelope. The returning officer shall place the ballot paper envelope together with information about the voter's identity in a cover envelope and seal the cover envelope. The voter shall place the cover envelope in a ballot box.

Chapter 8. Advance voting abroad

Section 8-1. When voters can vote in advance

Voters abroad may vote in advance in the period from 1 July up to and including the penultimate Friday before Election Day.

Section 8-2. Who may receive advance votes

- (1) Posted members of the Foreign Service at Norwegian Foreign Service missions, with the exception of honorary Foreign Service missions, are returning officers abroad. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs may appoint returning officers at honorary Norwegian Foreign Service missions. The head of mission may appoint one or more of the mission's local staff to serve as returning officers.

(2) The Ministry appoints returning officers at other locations abroad.

Section 8-3. *Where voters can vote in advance*

(1) Voters abroad can vote in advance at Norwegian Foreign Service missions. They may only vote at honorary Norwegian Foreign Service missions if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has appointed returning officers at such locations. The head of mission may decide that voters may cast advance votes outside the area of the mission.

(2) The Ministry decides where voters may otherwise vote abroad.

Section 8-4. *How voters can vote in advance*

(1) [Sections 6-6](#), subsection 1, [6-8](#), [6-9](#), [6-10](#), [6-11](#), and [6-13](#) apply, correspondingly.

(2) The voter shall place the ballot paper in a ballot paper envelope and seal the envelope. The returning officer shall place the ballot paper envelope in a cover envelope, seal the cover envelope and then add the following to the cover envelope

- a. the name and address of the electoral committee;
- b. the voter's name and national identity number
- c. the voter's address in Norway registered in the Population Registry on 30 June in the year of the election, or possibly the most recent address if the voter has given notice that he or she has moved abroad,
- d. the time and place the vote was cast.

Section 8-5. *Postal voting*

(1) Voters who are staying abroad, and who do not have the opportunity to seek out a returning officer, may vote by post without a returning officer being present.

(2) Voters are responsible for casting advance votes in sufficient time for the votes to have been received by the electoral committee by 5 p.m. the day after Election Day.

Chapter 9. Voting at the election proceedings

Section 9-1. *When voters can vote*

(1) Parliamentary elections shall be held in all municipalities on the same Monday in the month of

September in the final year of the electoral term of each Storting.

(2) County council and municipal council elections shall be held in all municipalities on the same Monday in the month of September every four years. The elections are held in the second year of each Storting's term of office.

(3) The King in Council determines Election Day pursuant to subsections 1 and 2.

(4) The municipal council may itself decide that, in one or more places in the municipality, voting shall also take place on the Sunday before Election Day. This Sunday and Election Day together constitute the election proceedings. If the municipality is to hold Sunday elections, the electoral committee shall notify the Norwegian Directorate of Elections thereof no later than 31 May in the year of the election.

(5) The electoral committee itself decides when the polling stations shall open and close. The municipal council may itself, with the endorsement of at least one-third of its members, decide to keep the polling stations open longer than stipulated by the electoral committee.

(6) On Election Day, polling stations will close no later than 9 p.m. Voters who have arrived before closing time shall be permitted to vote.

Section 9-2. *Polling districts*

The municipal council decides how the municipality shall be divided into polling districts. This authority may be delegated to the electoral committee. The electoral committee shall no later than 31 March in the year of the election inform the Norwegian Mapping Authority of changes to the polling district structure.

Section 9-3. *Where voters can vote*

(1) At the election proceedings, voters may only vote in the municipality where they are or shall be registered in the electoral register.

(2) The electoral committee itself decides where voters may vote. There must be one polling station for each polling district.

(3) The electoral committee may establish extra polling stations for a polling district if this is necessary to ensure that voters have the opportunity to vote.

(4) The polling station shall be suitable for voting.

Section 9-4. Use of electronic electoral register or hardcopy electoral register

The electoral committee may itself decide whether the municipality shall use an electronic electoral register or a hardcopy electoral register at the election proceedings. The electoral committee shall no later than 31 May in the year of the election inform the Norwegian Directorate of Elections of what type of electoral register the municipality shall use.

Section 9-5. How voters can vote at polling stations with electronic electoral registers

(1) If a voter is registered in the electoral register in the municipality, the returning officer shall stamp the ballot paper and place a cross beside the voter's name. The voter shall place the ballot paper in a ballot box.

(2) If the returning officer is unable to place a cross beside the voter's name in the electoral register, the returning officer shall stamp the ballot paper before the voter places the ballot paper in a ballot paper envelope and seals the envelope. The returning officer shall place the ballot paper envelope together with information about the voter's identity in a cover envelope and seal the cover envelope. The voter shall place the cover envelope in a ballot box.

(3) If the returning officer cannot place a cross beside the voter's name in the electoral register because the connection to the electronic electoral register is down, the returning officer shall stamp the ballot paper before the voter places the ballot paper in a ballot paper envelope and seals the envelope. The returning officer shall place the ballot paper envelope together with information about the voter's identity in a contingency envelope and seal the envelope. The voter shall place the contingency envelope in a ballot box. In municipalities with two-day elections, any contingency votes received on Sunday shall be processed and crossed off in the electronic electoral register before the polling stations open on Monday.

Section 9-6. How voters can vote at polling stations with hardcopy electoral registers

(1) If the voter is registered in the electoral register of the polling district, the returning officer shall stamp the ballot paper and place a cross beside the voter's name. The voter shall place the ballot paper in a ballot box.

(2) If the returning officer is unable to place a cross beside the voter's name in the electoral register, the returning officer shall stamp the ballot paper before the voter places the ballot paper in a ballot paper envelope and seals the envelope. The returning officer shall place the ballot paper envelope together with information about the voter's identity in a cover envelope and seal the cover envelope. The voter shall place the cover envelope in a ballot box.

Chapter 10. Approval of ballots cast and ballot papers, counting and keeping of the protocol etc.

Section 10-1. Approval of ballots cast if the ballot paper is placed in a ballot box without the use of a ballot paper envelope

If the ballot paper is placed in a ballot box without the use of a ballot paper envelope, the ballot cast is approved when the returning officer has placed a cross beside the voter's name in the electoral register.

Section 10-2. Approval of ballots cast if the ballot paper is placed in a ballot paper envelope

(1) If the ballot paper is placed in a ballot paper envelope, the ballot cast must be approved by the electoral committee, which will place a cross beside the voter's name in the electoral register if the following conditions are met:

- a. The voter is registered in the electoral register in the municipality.
- b. The identity of the voter can be confirmed.
- c. The ballot cast is delivered to a place where voters may cast their votes.
- d. There is not a preponderance of probability that the cover envelope has been opened.
- e. The voter has not previously had a ballot approved.
- f. The ballot cast has been received by the electoral committee after advance voting has commenced and no later than by 5 p.m. on the day after Election Day.

(2) Subsection 1 (c) does not apply to postal voting.

(3) The ballot cast by the voter is approved when the voter has been crossed off in the electoral register.

(4) Advance voting ballot papers shall, insofar as possible, be approved before the election proceedings.

Section 10-3. Approval of ballot papers

- (1) A ballot paper shall be approved if:
 - a. it bears a public stamp
 - b. the election to which it applies is stated
 - c. the party or group the voter has voted for is stated
 - d. the party or group has submitted a list in the constituency.
- (2) A blank ballot paper shall be approved if the conditions in subsection 1 (a) and (b) have been met.
- (3) A ballot paper for another constituency may only be approved if it applies to a registered political party or is blank.
- (4) If a printed ballot paper differs from the electoral list it shall be considered identical to the electoral list. If the candidate list on a printed ballot paper differs from the candidate list on the electoral list, the electoral authorities are to disregard the voter's personal votes.

Section 10-4. Who is responsible for approval of ballot papers placed in a ballot paper envelope and ballot papers the approval of which is questionable

The electoral committee decides whether ballot papers from approved ballots cast, where the ballot paper has been placed in a ballot paper envelope, shall be approved. The electoral committee also decides whether questionable ballot papers that have been set aside shall be approved.

Section 10-5. Principles for the counting of ballot papers

- (1) All the ballot papers must be counted twice in the municipality.
- (2) Ballot papers cast in advance and ballot papers cast at the election proceedings shall be counted separately.
- (3) The district electoral committee, county electoral committee and electoral committee itself decides where the ballot papers shall be counted unless otherwise stated in this Act.
- (4) The count shall be public.

Section 10-6. Who may not participate in the count

- (1) Persons who appear on an electoral list at parliamentary elections or county council elections

are ineligible to participate in the count in the constituency or in one of the municipalities in the constituency.

- (2) Persons who appear on an electoral list at municipal council elections are ineligible to participate in the count in the municipality.

Section 10-7. Who is responsible for the first count

- (1) The electoral committee is responsible for the first count of ballot papers cast in advance.
- 2) The chair of the polling station is responsible for the first count of ballot papers cast at the election proceedings.
- (3) The electoral committee is responsible for the first count of ballot papers cast in ballot paper envelopes, and for questionable ballot papers that have been set aside.

Section 10-8. Completion of the first count

- (1) The first count of ballot papers shall occur manually.
- (2) Advance ballots cast in the voter's own municipality shall be counted for each individual polling station. This only applies if a minimum of 60 advance votes have been received at the polling station.
- (3) At the election proceedings, ballot papers placed in a ballot box without the use of a ballot paper envelope shall be counted at the polling station if the part of the electoral register to which the count applies, contains at least 100 names. There shall be no separate counting of ballot papers cast at extra polling stations. These are to be counted together with the ballot papers cast at the ordinary polling station in the polling district.
- (4) The first count of advance voting ballot papers shall commence no later than four hours before the final polling station in the municipality has closed. The count may only commence at the earliest on the day before Election Day and only if at least 60 advance voting ballot papers have been received. If a minimum of 60 advance voting ballot papers have not been received, the count shall commence as soon as all of the advance voting ballot papers have been approved.
- (5) Before the first count commences, 30 advance voting ballot papers shall be set aside and mixed together with advance voting ballot papers that arrive after the count has commenced.

(6) The first count of ballot papers cast at the election proceedings shall commence as soon as possible after voting at the election proceedings has concluded.

(7) The result of the first count shall be announced.

Section 10-9. *Handing over of materials to the electoral committee by the polling station at the election proceedings*

(1) The chair of the polling station shall ensure that the electoral committee, shall as soon as possible, receive:

a approved ballot papers

.

b ballots cast and ballot papers that have been set
. aside

c a copy of the protocol for the election
. proceedings.

(2) The material shall be packed in good order and in properly sealed packaging and be delivered by the chair and deputy chair of the polling station.

Section 10-10. *Who is responsible for the second count*

(1) The electoral committee is responsible for the second count of ballot papers.

Section 10-11. *Completion of the second count*

(1) In the second count, the ballot papers from the first count shall be counted again.

(2) The electoral committee itself decides whether the second count shall occur manually or by machine.

(3) The second count of ballot papers that have been cast in advance shall commence after the first count has concluded.

(4) The second count of ballot papers that have been cast at the election proceedings shall commence as soon as possible after the ballot papers have been received by the electoral committee.

(5) The result of the second count shall be announced.

Section 10-12. *Review of the second count and registration of personal votes*

(1) At municipal council elections, the electoral committee shall in the second count review the conduct of the election in the municipality and register personal votes that the voters have entered on the ballot papers.

(2) At parliamentary elections in Oslo constituency, the electoral committee shall in the second count review the conduct of the election in the constituency.

Section 10-13. *Forwarding of material to the district electoral committee and county electoral committee*

(1) At parliamentary elections and county council elections, the electoral committee shall send the following material to the district electoral committee and county electoral committee as soon as possible:

a. approved ballot papers

b. ballots cast and ballot papers that the electoral committee has rejected

c. copies of the protocol for the election proceedings and the electoral committee's protocol

d. copies of appeals that have been received.

(2) If the municipality has used a hardcopy electoral register at the election proceedings, the electoral committee shall also send a copy of the hardcopy electoral register.

(3) The material shall be packed in good order and in properly sealed packaging and sent using the quickest and safest means.

Section 10-14. *Counting, registration of personal votes and review of the conduct of the election*

(1) At parliamentary elections, the district electoral committee shall count all the ballot papers from all the municipalities in the constituency.

(2) At county council elections, the county electoral committee shall count all the ballot papers from all the municipalities in the county.

(3) The district electoral committee and the county electoral committee shall themselves decide whether the ballot papers are to be counted manually or by machine.

(4) When counting the ballot papers, the county electoral committee shall also record personal votes that the voters have entered on the ballot papers.

(5) The district electoral committee and the county electoral committee shall review the conduct of the election in the constituency or county on the basis of the forwarded material. If the district electoral committee or the county electoral committee finds errors in the count or errors in decisions to reject ballots cast or approve or reject ballot papers, such errors shall be corrected.

Section 10-15. Election protocol

- (1) At the election proceedings, the chair of each polling station shall ensure that a protocol is kept of the conduct of the election at the polling station.
- (2) The electoral committee shall keep a protocol of the preparation and conduct of election in the municipality. At municipal council elections, the electoral committee shall keep a protocol of the election result. At parliamentary elections, the electoral committee of the City of Oslo shall keep a protocol of the election result.
- (3) At parliamentary elections, the district electoral committee shall keep a protocol of its review of the conduct of the parliamentary election in the municipalities. The district electoral committee shall also keep a protocol of the election result.
- (4) At county council elections, the county electoral committee shall keep a protocol of its count and review of the conduct of the county council election in the municipalities. The county electoral committee shall also keep a protocol of the election result.

Section 10-16. Regulations

The Ministry may issue regulations on the:

- a. approval of ballots cast and ballot papers
- b. counting of ballot papers
- c. keeping of the protocol
- d. packing, storage, transportation and handing over of election materials
- e. announcement of election results.

Chapter 11. Allocation of seats and election of members at parliamentary elections

Section 11-1. Constituencies at parliamentary elections

At elections to the Storting, members and alternate members are elected from the following 19 constituencies:

- a. Østfold constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Aremark, Fredrikstad, Halden, Hvaler, Indre Østfold, Marker, Moss, Rakkestad, Råde, Sarpsborg, Skiptvet and Våler (Østfold).
- b. Akershus constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Asker, Aurskog-Høland, Bærum, Eidsvoll, Enebakk, Frogn, Gjerdrum,

Hurdal, Jevnaker, Lillestrøm, Lunner, Lørenskog, Nannestad, Nes, Nesodden, Nittedal, Nordre Follo, Rælingen, Ullensaker, Vestby and Ås.

- c. Oslo constituency, which consists of the City of Oslo.
- d. Hedmark constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Alvdal, Eidskog, Elverum, Engerdal, Folldal, Grue, Hamar, Kongsvinger, Løten, Nord-Odal, Os, Rendalen, Ringsaker, Stange, Stor-Elvdal, Sør-Odal, Tolga, Trysil, Tynset, Våler (Innlandet), Åmot and Åsnes.
- e. Oppland constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Dovre, Etnedal, Gausdal, Gjøvik, Gran, Lesja, Lillehammer, Lom, Nord-Aurdal, Nord-Fron, Nordre Land, Ringebru, Sel, Skjåk, Søndre Land, Sør-Aurdal, Sør-Fron, Vang, Vestre Slidre, Vestre Toten, Vågå, Østre Toten, Øyer and Øystre Slidre.
- f. Buskerud constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Drammen, Flesberg, Flå, Gol, Hemsedal, Hol, Hole, Kongsberg, Krødsherad, Lier, Modum, Nesbyen, Nore and Uvdal, Ringerike, Rollag, Sigdal, Øvre Eiker and Ål.
- g. Vestfold constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Færder, Holmestrand, Horten, Larvik, Sandefjord and Tønsberg.
- h. Telemark constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Bamble, Drangedal, Fyresdal, Hjartdal, Kragerø, Kviteseid, Midt-Telemark, Nissedal, Nome, Notodden, Porsgrunn, Seljord, Siljan, Skien, Tin, Tokke and Vinje.
- i. Aust-Agder constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Arendal, Birkenes, Bygland, Bykle, Evje and Hornnes, Froland, Gjerstad, Grimstad, Iveland, Lillesand, Risør, Tvedestrand, Valle, Vegårshei and Åmli.
- j. Vest-Agder constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Farsund, Flekkefjord, Hægebostad, Kristiansand, Kvinesdal, Lindesnes, Lyngdal, Sirdal, Vennesla and Åseral.
- k. Rogaland constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Bjerkreim, Bokn, Eigersund, Gjesdal, Haugesund, Hjelmeland, Hå, Karmøy, Klepp, Kvitsøy, Lund, Randaberg, Sandnes, Sauda, Sokndal, Sola, Stavanger, Strand, Suldal, Time, Tysvær, Utsira and Vindafjord.
- l. Hordaland constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Alver, Askøy, Austevoll, Austrheim, Bergen, Bjørnafjorden, Bømlo, Eidfjord, Etne, Fedje, Fitjar, Kvam, Kvinnherad, Masfjorden, Modalen, Osterøy,

Samnanger, Stord, Sveio, Tysnes, Ullensvang, Ulvik, Vaksdal, Voss and Øygarden.

- m. Sogn and Fjordane constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Askvoll, Aurland, Bremanger, Fjaler, Gloppen, Gulen, Hyllestad, Høyanger, Kinn, Luster, Lærdal, Sogndal, Solund, Stad, Stryn, Sunnfjord, Vik and Årdal.
- n. Møre and Romsdal constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Aukra, Aure, Averøy, Fjord, Giske, Gjemnes, Haram, Hareid, Herøy (Møre and Romsdal), Hustadvika, Kristiansund, Molde, Rauma, Sande, Smøla, Stranda, Sula, Sunndal, Surnadal, Sykkylven, Tingvoll, Ulstein, Vanylven, Vestnes, Volda, Ørsta and Ålesund.
- o. Sør-Trøndelag constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Frøya, Heim, Hitra, Holtålen, Indre Fosen, Malvik, Melhus, Midtre Gauldal, Oppdal, Orkland, Osen, Rennebu, Rindal, Røros, Selbu, Skaun, Trondheim, Tydal, Ørland and Åfjord.
- p. Nord-Trøndelag constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Flatanger, Frosta, Grong, Høylandet, Inderøy, Leka, Levanger, Lierne, Meråker, Namsos, Namsskogan, Nærøysund, Overhalla, Røyrvik, Snåsa, Steinkjer, Stjørdal and Verdal.
- q. Nordland constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Alstahaug, Andøy, Beiarn, Bindal, Bodø, Brønnøy, Bø, Dønna, Evenes, Fauske, Flakstad, Gildeskål, Grane, Hadsel, Hamarøy, Hattfjelldal, Hemnes, Herøy (Nordland), Leirfjord, Lurøy, Lødingen, Meløy, Moskenes, Narvik, Nesna, Rana, Rødøy, Røst, Saltdal, Sortland, Steigen, Sømna, Sørfold, Træna, Vefsn, Vega, Vestvågøy, Vevelstad, Værøy, Vågan and Øksnes.
- r. Troms constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Balsfjord, Bardu, Dyrøy, Gratangen, Harstad, Ibestad, Karlsøy, Kvæfjord, Kvænangen, Kåfjord, Lavangen, Lyngen, Målselv, Nordreisa, Salangen, Senja, Skjervøy, Storfjord, Sørreisa, Tjeldsund and Tromsø.
- s. Finnmark constituency, which consists of the municipalities of Alta, Berlevåg, Båtsfjord, Gamvik, Hammerfest, Hasvik, Karasjok, Kautokeino, Lebesby, Loppa, Måsøy, Nesseby, Nordkapp, Porsanger, Sør-Varanger, Tana, Vadsø and Vardø.

Section 11-2. Number of members of the Storting

- (1) 169 members shall be returned to the Storting.
- (2) One member is returned from each constituency through the seats at large system. The other members are elected directly in the constituencies.

Section 11-3. The number of seats in the Storting from each constituency

- (1) The seats in the Storting shall be allocated between the constituencies prior to each parliamentary election. All of the constituencies shall have a minimum of four seats.
- (2) Seats in the Storting are allocated between the constituencies on the basis of the constituencies' number of inhabitants and surface area in the penultimate year before the parliamentary election. A distribution figure shall be calculated by taking the number of inhabitants and adding the number of square kilometres in the constituency. In this calculation, each inhabitant counts as one point and each square kilometre counts as 1.8 points.
- (3) The Sainte-Laguë method shall be used for the allocation, with 1 as the first divisor. The distribution figure of each constituency shall be divided by 1-3-5-7 and so forth. The constituency that has the largest quotient receives the first seat. The constituency that has the second largest quotient shall receive the next seat and so forth.
- (4) If multiple constituencies have the same quotient, the seat goes to the constituency with the highest number of inhabitants. If the constituencies also have the same number of inhabitants, the allocation of the seat to a constituency shall be determined by lot.
- (5) A constituency that receives fewer than four seats following the allocation of seats in subsections 2, 3, and 4, shall nevertheless have four seats. The seats shall then be allocated once more without the constituency and the constituency's seats.
- (6) The Ministry shall allocate the seats between the constituencies, inform the Storting of the outcome and announce the allocation.

Section 11-4. Allocation of the directly elected seats at parliamentary elections

- (1) The district electoral committee shall allocate the constituency's directly elected seats between the lists.
- (2) The seats shall be allocated based on the number of votes polled by the lists in the

constituency. The Sainte-Laguë method shall be used for the allocation, with 1.4 as the first divisor. This means that the number of votes that each list has received is divided by 1.4-3-5-7, etc. The number of votes shall be divided as many times as there are seats in the constituency. The list that has the largest quotient receives the first seat. The list that has the second largest quotient receives the next seat and so forth.

(3) If multiple lists have the same quotient, the seat goes to the list that has received the most votes. If the lists have also received the same number of votes, the allocation of the seat to a list shall be determined by lot.

Section 11-5. Returning of the directly elected members at parliamentary elections

(1) When the number of directly elected seats a list shall receive has been decided, the district electoral committee shall return the elected members in the order in which they are stated on the electoral list. Candidates who are ineligible for election shall be disregarded.

(2) Insofar as possible, each list shall be allocated three more alternate members than it gains members. The alternate members shall be returned in the same manner as the members.

Section 11-6. Announcement and forwarding of protocol at parliamentary elections

The district electoral committee shall announce the protocol pursuant to [Section 10-15, subsection 3](#) as soon as possible after the determination of the election result and send a copy of the protocol to the Storting.

Section 11-7. Allocation of seats at large between the parties at parliamentary elections

(1) The Norwegian Directorate of Elections shall calculate how many seats at large the individual party shall receive, on the basis of the election results of the district electoral committees.

(2) The seats at large shall be allocated between the registered political parties that have put forward lists in all constituencies and have received no less than four per cent of the approved and party-allocated votes in the entire country.

(3) The seats at large shall be allocated based on a calculation in which all of the seats in the Storting are allocated between the parties. Votes and seats for lists that do not satisfy the requirements in subsection 2 shall be excluded. The calculation shall be based on the total number of votes polled

by the parties for the entire country and is carried out using the Sainte-Laguë method, with 1.4 as the first divisor.

(4) The result of the calculation shall be compared with the number of direct seats the parties have received. The seats at large shall be allocated to the parties that have received fewer directly elected seats than what results from the calculation.

(5) If a party has received more direct seats than what resulted from the national allocation, there shall be a new national allocation in which the parties' votes and seats are excluded.

Section 11-8. The allocation of seats at large between the constituencies at parliamentary elections

(1) Each constituency shall have one seat at large. The Norwegian Directorate of Elections shall calculate in which constituencies the parties are allocated seats at large.

(2) For each party that shall receive a seat at large, a weighted quotient shall be calculated for each constituency. The weighted quotient is calculated as follows:

- a. The party's total vote polled in the constituency shall be divided by a number that is one greater than twice the number of directly elected seats the party has gained in the constituency.
- b. These quotients shall be weighted by being divided by the average number of votes per directly elected seat in the constituency.

(3) The first seat at large shall be allocated to the party and the constituency which has the largest weighted quotient. The next seat at large shall be allocated to the party and the constituency that has the second largest weighted quotient and so forth. If two quotients are equal, the number of votes in the constituency shall be the deciding factor. If the parties have also received the same number of votes, the order shall be determined by lot.

(4) The calculation shall continue until all parties have received the number of seats at large to which they are entitled and each constituency has received one seat at large.

Section 11-9. Announcement of the calculation of seats at large at parliamentary elections

(1) When it has been decided which parties will receive seats at large and in what constituencies the parties will receive their seats at large, the Norwegian Directorate of Elections shall notify the district electoral committees thereof.

(2) The Norwegian Directorate of Elections shall as soon as possible announce how the seats at large are calculated between parties and constituencies and send the calculation to the Storting.

Section 11-10. Returning of seats at large at parliamentary elections

- (1) The district electoral committee shall return the member who receives the seat at large in the constituency pursuant to the rules in [Section 11-5](#).
- (2) The district electoral committee shall also return alternate members in the constituency for the party that is to receive the seat at large pursuant to the rules in [Section 11-5](#).
- (3) The district electoral committee shall disregard candidates who have already been elected as directly elected members, or who are not eligible for election.

Section 11-11. Information to the members returned to the Storting

- (1) The district electoral committee shall inform the members and alternate members returned of their election.
- (2) Candidates who have been elected as a member or alternate member for multiple constituencies shall decide which election to accept. The candidates shall send written notice to the District Electoral Committee of which election they will accept within three days of having received information about the election. If a candidate fails to give such notice, the election shall be considered accepted in the constituency where the candidate is eligible to vote. If the candidate is not eligible to vote in any of the constituencies, the election is considered accepted in the constituency that is first in alphabetical order. If the election the candidate has accepted is declared invalid, he or she may notify of acceptance of another election.

Section 11-12. Credentials for the members returned to the Storting

The district electoral committee shall issue credentials to all elected members of the Storting and alternate members from the constituency and send the credentials to the Storting.

Chapter 12. Allocation of seats and election of members at county council elections

Section 12-1. Allocation of the seats at county council elections

- (1) The county electoral committee shall determine the election result for county council elections.
- (2) The seats shall be allocated based on the number of votes polled by the lists in the county using the Sainte-Laguë method, with 1.4 as the first divisor, cf. [Section 11-4](#).

Section 12-2. Returning of the elected members at county council elections

- (1) When the number of seats to which a list is entitled has been decided, the county electoral committee returns the elected members. Candidates who are ineligible for election shall be disregarded.
- (2) Candidates who have received personal votes from at least eight per cent of the list's voters, shall be returned in order according to the received personal votes. If multiple candidates have received the same number of personal votes, they shall be returned according to the order on the list. Remaining candidates shall be returned according to the order on the list.
- (3) Insofar as possible, each list shall be allocated three more alternate members than it gains members. The alternate members shall be returned in the same manner as the members.
- (4) If a list gains more seats than there are eligible candidates on the list, the surplus seats shall be allocated to the remaining lists pursuant to [Section 12-1](#).

Section 12-3. Information to the members returned to the county council

The county electoral committee shall inform the members and alternate members who have been returned of their election.

Section 12-4. Announcement and forwarding of protocol at county council elections

- (1) The county electoral committee shall announce the protocol pursuant to [Section 10-15, subsection 4](#), as soon as possible after the determination of election result.
- (2) The county electoral committee shall send a copy of the protocol to the county council. The information forwarded shall include an overview of appeals received and the assessment of these appeals by the county electoral committee and National Electoral Committee.

Chapter 13. Allocation of seats and election of members at municipal council elections

Section 13-1. *Allocation of the seats at municipal council elections*

- (1) The electoral committee shall determine the election result at municipal council elections.
- (2) The seats shall be allocated based on the number of votes polled by the lists in the municipality using the Sainte-Laguë method, with 1.4 as the first divisor, cf. [Section 11-4](#).
- (3) Each vote that a list has received shall count for as many list votes as the number of members to be elected to the municipal council. The number shall be corrected for personal votes given to candidates on other lists (cross-party votes). A cross-party vote shall be equivalent to a list vote.

Section 13-2. *Returning of the elected members at municipal council elections*

- (1) When the number of seats to which a list is entitled has been decided, the electoral committee shall return the elected members. Candidates who are ineligible for election shall be disregarded.
- (2) The candidates shall be given the number of personal votes they received from voters. Candidates who have received an increased share of the poll shall also be given the number of personal votes to which they are entitled pursuant to [Section 5-3](#). The members for each list are then returned in order according to the number of personal votes they have received. If multiple candidates have received the same number of personal votes, the order on the list will be the deciding factor.
- (3) Insofar as possible, each list shall be allocated three more alternate members than it gains members. The alternate members shall be returned in the same manner as the members.
- (4) If a list gains more seats than there are eligible candidates on the list, the surplus seats shall be allocated to the remaining lists pursuant to [Section 13-1](#).

Section 13-3. *Information to the members returned to the municipal council*

The electoral committee shall inform the members and alternate members returned of their election.

Section 13-4. *Announcement and forwarding of protocol at municipal council elections*

- (1) The electoral committee shall announce the protocol pursuant to [Section 10-15, subsection 2](#) as soon as possible after the determination of the election result.
- (2) The electoral committee shall send a copy of the election result to the municipal council. The information forwarded shall include an overview of appeals received and the consideration of these appeals by the electoral committee and National Electoral Committee.

Chapter 14. Election by majoritarian ballot at elections to the municipal council

Section 14-1. *When an election by majoritarian ballot shall be held*

- (1) A municipal council election shall be held by majoritarian ballot if no or only one list proposal is approved.
- (2) The electoral committee shall announce that the election is to be held by majoritarian ballot and issues information concerning what rules apply to the election.

Section 14-2. *How voters can vote*

- (1) At majoritarian elections, voters shall use the same ballot paper when voting for members and alternate members.
- (2) The ballot paper may contain no more than as many names as there shall be elected members of the municipal council, and as many alternate members.
- (3) A name may only be listed once on each ballot paper.

Section 14-3. *Election results at majoritarian elections*

- (1) In the determination of the election result, votes that have been cast for members shall be counted first. If no distinction has been made on the ballot paper between members and alternate members, those listed first are regarded as members in the number permitted, and the following names as those of alternate members in the number permitted. If a ballot paper contains more names listed as members or alternate members than the number permitted, the names that are listed last in the order are disregarded.

- (2) The persons who poll the most votes for members will be elected in the number that shall be elected as members of the municipal council.
- (3) The persons who poll the most votes when the votes for members and alternate members are counted together, are elected as alternate members in the order shown by the number of votes cast and in such number as corresponds to the number of members.
- (4) If multiple candidates receive the same number of votes, the candidate who is returned shall be determined by lot.

Chapter 15. Approval of elections

Section 15-1. Approval of parliamentary elections

- (1) The newly returned Storting decides whether the election of members to the Storting is valid. The Storting shall announce the decision on the validity of the election as soon as possible after the decision has been made.
- (2) The Storting shall ensure that any errors are corrected insofar as this is possible. If it is not possible to correct errors, the election shall be declared invalid:
 - a. when there is breach of the provisions in the [Constitution of Norway](#), acts or regulations relating to how elections shall be prepared and conducted, and there is a preponderance of probability that this has influenced the overall allocation of the seats between the lists
 - b. when an act has occurred that meets the objective description of the offence in the [Penal Code, sections 151, 152, 153, or 154](#), and there is a preponderance of probability that this has influenced the overall allocation of seats between the lists
 - c. when there is there is a preponderance of probability that the circumstances referred to in letters (a) and (b) have collectively influenced the overall allocation of seats between the lists.
- (3) The election may only be declared invalid in the municipalities where there is a preponderance of probability that the circumstances mentioned in subsection 2 have influenced the allocation of votes to the different lists.
- (4) If the Storting declares the election to be invalid in one or more municipalities, a new election shall be held in these municipalities.
- (5) The Storting shall be informed of decisions by the National Electoral Committee in appeal cases

before the Storting shall determine whether the election is valid. If appeal proceedings before the National Electoral Committee have not concluded when Storting decides whether the election is valid, the credentials for members of the Storting may only be temporarily approved.

Section 15-2. Approval of county council elections

- (1) The newly returned county council decides whether the election of members of the county council is valid. The county authority shall announce the decision on the validity of the election as soon as possible after the decision has been made.
- (2) The county council may not decide whether an election is valid until it is clear that no matters relating to the election have been appealed or that, after concluding the appeals process, the National Electoral Committee has not declared the election to be invalid.
- (3) The county council shall ensure that any errors are corrected insofar as this is possible. If it is not possible to correct errors, the election shall be declared invalid:
 - a. when there is breach of the provisions in acts or regulations relating to how elections shall be prepared and conducted, and there is a preponderance of probability that this has influenced the allocation of the seats between the lists,
 - b. when an act has occurred that meets the objective description of the offence in the [Penal Code, sections 151, 152, 153, or 154](#), and there is a preponderance of evidence that this has impacted the allocation of seats between the lists
 - c. when there is there is a preponderance of probability that the circumstances referred to in letters (a) and (b) have collectively influenced the allocation of seats between the lists.
- (4) The county council cannot declare the election invalid on the basis of circumstances that the National Electoral Committee has rejected as grounds for invalidity.
- (5) The election may only be declared invalid in the municipalities where there is a preponderance of probability that the circumstances mentioned in subsection 3 have influenced the allocation of votes to the different lists.
- (6) The county authority shall notify the National Electoral Committee if the county council declares the election in one or more municipalities to be invalid.

Section 15-3. Approval of municipal council elections

- (1) The newly returned municipal council decides whether the election of members of the municipal council is valid. The municipality shall announce the decision on the validity of the election as soon as possible after the decision has been made.
- (2) The municipal council may not decide whether an election is valid until it is clear that no matters relating to the election have been appealed or that, after concluding the appeals process, the National Electoral Committee has not declared the election to be invalid.
- (3) The municipal council shall ensure that any errors are corrected insofar as this is possible. If correction of errors is not possible, the election shall be declared invalid when there are circumstances as mentioned in [Section 15-2, subsection 3, second sentence](#).
- (4) The municipal council may not declare the election invalid on the basis of circumstances that the National Electoral Committee has rejected as grounds for invalidity.
- (5) The municipality shall notify the National Electoral Committee if the municipal council declares the election invalid.

Chapter 16. Appeal

Section 16-1. What may be appealed

The following may be appealed:

- a. breaches of the provisions in the [Constitution of Norway](#), laws and regulations on how the election shall be prepared and conducted
- b. that an act has occurred which meets the objective description of the offence in the [Penal Code, sections 151, 152, 153, or 154](#)
- c. the Ministry's allocation of seats in the Storting to the constituencies
- d. the election result determined by the district electoral committee, county electoral committee and electoral committee
- e. the Norwegian Directorate of Elections' calculation of seats at large for parties and constituencies and the district electoral committee's returning of members who are allocated seats at large at parliamentary elections
- f. a decision by the Storting on whether the parliamentary election is valid

- g. a decision by the county council on whether a county council election is valid
- h. a decision by the municipal council on whether a municipal council election is valid.

Section 16-2. Who may appeal against errors relating to the preparation and conduct of parliamentary elections etc.

- (1) Anyone who is entitled to vote at parliamentary elections may appeal the matters referred to in [Section 16-1 \(a\)](#) through (d) in the constituency where they are registered in the electoral register. Persons who are not registered in the electoral register may appeal if the appeal concerns the right to vote or possibility of casting a vote.
- (2) Persons who have voted in advance or attempted to vote in advance outside the constituency in which they are registered to vote may appeal the conduct of the advance voting in the municipality where they voted in advance or attempted to vote in advance.
- (3) Anyone who has submitted a list may appeal the matters referred to in [Section 16-1 \(a\)](#) through (d) in the constituency in which the list was submitted. The representation committee has the authority to appeal on behalf of the list.
- (4) Registered political parties that have submitted lists in all of the country's constituencies at parliamentary elections may appeal the matters referred to in [Section 16-1 \(e\)](#).
- (5) Registered political parties may appeal a decision by the district electoral committee to approve a list proposal if the appeal concerns an infringement of the exclusive right to use the party name.

Section 16-3. Who can appeal against errors relating to the preparation and conduct of county council elections etc.

- (1) Anyone who is entitled to vote at county council elections may appeal the matters referred to in [Section 16-1 \(a\), \(b\), and d](#) in the county where they are registered in the electoral register. Persons who are not registered in the electoral register may appeal if the appeal concerns the right to vote or possibility of casting a vote.
- (2) Persons who have voted in advance or attempted to vote in advance outside the county in which they are registered to vote may appeal the conduct of the advance voting in the municipality where they voted in advance or attempted to vote in advance.

(3) Anyone who has submitted a list may appeal the matters referred to in [Section 16-1 \(a\), \(b\), and d](#) in the county in which the list was submitted. The representation committee has the authority to appeal on behalf of the list.

(4) Registered political parties may appeal a decision by the county electoral committee to approve a list proposal if the appeal concerns an infringement of the exclusive right to use the party name.

Section 16-4. *Who may appeal against errors relating to the preparation and conduct of municipal council elections etc.*

(1) Anyone who is entitled to vote at municipal council elections may appeal the matters referred to in [Section 16-1 \(a\), \(b\), and d](#) in the municipality where they are registered in the electoral register. Persons who are not registered in the electoral register may appeal if the appeal concerns the right to vote or possibility of casting a vote.

(2) Persons who have voted in advance or attempted to vote in advance outside the municipality in which they are registered to vote may appeal the conduct of the advance voting in the municipality where they voted in advance or attempted to vote in advance.

(3) Anyone who has submitted a list may appeal the matters referred to in [Section 16-1 \(a\), b, and d](#) in the municipality in which the list was submitted. The representation committee has the authority to appeal on behalf of the list.

(4) Registered political parties may appeal a decision by the electoral committee to approve a list proposal if the appeal concerns violation of the exclusive right to use the party name.

Section 16-5. *Who may appeal the approval of an election*

(1) Anyone who has put forward a list at a parliamentary election may appeal a decision by the Storting on whether the election was valid. Candidates who are of the opinion that the list should have received more seats may also appeal.

(2) Anyone who has put forward a list at a county council election may appeal a decision by the county council on whether the election was valid. Candidates who are of the opinion that the list should have received more seats may also appeal.

(3) Anyone who has put forward a list at a municipal council election may appeal a decision by the municipal council on whether the election

was valid. Candidates who are of the opinion that the list should have received more seats may also appeal.

(4) The right of appeal for all those who have submitted lists shall only apply when they assert that alleged errors have impacted their list. The right of appeal for candidates only applies when they claim that the asserted error(s) has/have impacted on the seats they are allocated.

(5) The representation committee has the authority to appeal on behalf of the list.

Section 16-6. *Appeal deadlines*

(1) The appeal deadline is four days from Election Day unless otherwise follows from this section.

(2) The deadline for appealing the Ministry's allocation of seats in the Storting between the constituencies is seven days after the allocation was announced.

(3) The deadline for appealing decisions by the district electoral committee, county electoral committee or electoral committee to approve or reject a list proposal is seven days after the headings on the approved electoral lists were announced.

(4) The deadline for appealing a decision to correct the electoral register is seven days from when the complainant received notice of the decision.

(5) The deadline for appealing the election result determined by the district electoral committee, county electoral committee or electoral committee is four days after the protocol with the election result is announced

(6) The deadline for appealing the Norwegian Directorate of Elections' calculation of seats at large is four days after the calculation is announced.

(7) The deadline for appealing decisions by the Storting, county council and municipal council regarding whether an election is valid is seven days after the decision was announced.

Section 16-7. *Requirements for the appeal*

(1) An appeal shall be in writing and must state the factual circumstances on which it is based.

(2) The appeal must be submitted to the electoral committee in the municipality where the subject matter of the appeal took place.

(3) If the appeal concerns a decision, the appeal must be submitted to the body that issued the decision.

(4) If the appeal relates to grounds that are of importance to both county council elections and municipal council elections, it shall be deemed to apply to both elections.

(5) An appeal has been submitted in time if it has been received by the municipality, the body that handed down the appealed decision, the appellate instance, the Ministry or the Norwegian Directorate of Elections before the appeal deadline has expired. An appeal concerning the parliamentary election has also been submitted in time if it has been received by the Storting before the appeal deadline has expired.

(6) An appeal against a decision by the Storting on whether the parliamentary election is valid must be brought before the Supreme Court through an action against the Storting, cf. [Section 9-2 of the Dispute Act](#).

Section 16-8. Procedure of the body to which the appeal is submitted

(1) If the body that issued the decision agrees with the appeal, it must reverse the decision. If the body does not agree with the appeal, the appeal shall be sent to the National Electoral Committee together with a statement of its position on the appeal.

(2) If the appeal concerns something other than a decision and the electoral committee agrees with the appeal, the situation must be remedied insofar as possible. If the situation cannot be remedied, or the electoral committee does not agree with the appeal, the electoral committee shall send the appeal to the National Electoral Committee together with a statement of its position on the appeal.

(3) [Section 33, subsection 2, third sentence of the Public Administration Act](#) does not apply. The appeal shall instead be sent to the National Electoral Committee together with a statement of why the appeal shall be dismissed.

(4) Appeals shall be considered without undue delay.

(5) If the appeal is submitted pursuant to [Section 16-2, subsection 2](#), [16-3, subsection 2](#) or [16-4, subsection 2](#), the municipality in which the complainant is registered in the electoral register shall be informed.

(6) This section does not apply to appeals of decisions by the Storting on whether an election is valid.

Section 16-9. Appeal process in the National Electoral Committee

(1) The National Electoral Committee decides on appeals in accordance with [Section 16-1 \(a\)](#) through (e), (g) and (h). The appeals are settled at a meeting following a written hearing. The National Electoral Committee may decide that the meeting shall be open to the public and consent to an oral hearing if there are special grounds for this. The holding of oral hearings shall normally be open to the public.

(2) The National Electoral Committee shall give the complainant the opportunity to provide remarks regarding statements submitted in accordance with [Section 16-8, subsections 1, 2 and 3](#).

(3) Appeals must be considered without undue delay. (4) The National Electoral Committee can review all aspects of the case and take new circumstances into account.

(4) All members of the National Electoral Committee must be present to make a decision. Decisions by the National Electoral Committee are final and cannot be brought before the courts. The decisions shall be justified in accordance with the rules for individual decisions in the [Public Administration Act](#).

(5) The [Public Administration Act](#) and [Freedom of Information Act](#) apply to the National Electoral Committee insofar as they are appropriate.

(6) Without prejudice to the duty of secrecy, public bodies and individuals who were involved in the election have a duty to provide information and statements requested by the National Electoral Committee.

(7) Decisions by the National Electoral Committee shall be announced. When all appeals are concluded, the Storting's Presidium shall be notified of all decisions by the National Electoral Committee which apply to parliamentary elections.

Section 16-10. The National Electoral Committee's right to dismiss appeals and issue orders etc.

(1) The National Electoral Committee shall dismiss an appeal if the conditions for considering the appeal have not been met or the same grounds for appeal have already been considered. The chair of the National Electoral Committee may dismiss appeals that are submitted after the Storting, the county council or the municipal council have convened.

(2) If the National Electoral Committee finds that an error has occurred, but that the conditions for invalidity pursuant to [Section 16-11](#) have not been met, or the appeal is heard before the election result is ready, the National Electoral Committee shall find in favour of the complainant that an error has occurred.

(3) The National Electoral Committee shall order the electoral bodies to correct errors insofar as this is possible.

Section 16-11. *The National Electoral Committee's right to declare elections invalid*

(1) If correction is not possible, the National Electoral Committee shall declare the election invalid:

- a. when there is breach of the provisions in the [Constitution of Norway](#), acts or regulations relating to how elections shall be prepared and conducted, and there is a preponderance of probability that this has influenced the overall allocation of the seats between the lists
- b. when an act has occurred that meets the objective description of the offence in the [Penal Code, sections 151, 152, 153, or 154](#), and there is a preponderance of probability that this has influenced the overall allocation of seats between the lists
- c. when there is there is a preponderance of probability that the circumstances referred to in letters (a) and (b) have collectively influenced the overall allocation of seats between the lists.

(2) When the National Electoral Committee has considered all of the appeals, it must decide whether there is a preponderance of probability that the circumstances mentioned in subsection 1 have, overall, influenced the overall allocation of the seats between the lists. In this assessment, the National Electoral Committee can also take into consideration matters that were not appealed.

(3) The election may only be declared invalid in the municipalities where there is a preponderance of probability that the circumstances mentioned in subsection 1 have influenced the allocation of votes to the different lists.

(4) If the county council or municipal council has decided that the election is invalid, the National Electoral Committee shall declare the election to be valid if the conditions for invalidity have not been met.

Section 16-12. *Process in the Supreme Court*

(1) The Supreme Court decides on appeals of decisions by the Storting on whether a parliamentary election is valid, cf. [Section 16-1 \(f\)](#).

(2) If the conditions for hearing an action against a decision by the Storting have not been met, the Appeals Selection Committee of the Supreme Court may dismiss the action in a ruling.

(3) If the Appeals Selection Committee unanimously finds it to be clear that the action cannot succeed, the Appeals Selection Committee may dismiss the action in a ruling. Conversely, the Appeals Selection Committee may refer the action for a hearing by a plenary session of the Supreme Court.

(4) If the Storting has declared the election to be invalid, a plenary session of the Supreme Court shall, in a judgment, declare a parliamentary election to be valid if the conditions for invalidity have not been met.

(5) A plenary session of the Supreme Court shall declare the parliamentary election to be invalid when the circumstances as mentioned in [Section 16-11, subsection 1](#) have occurred.

(6) The election may only be declared invalid in the municipalities where there is a preponderance of probability that the circumstances mentioned in [Section 16-11, subsection 1](#) have influenced the allocation of votes to the different lists.

(7) If a plenary session of the Supreme Court finds that the conditions in [Section 16-11, subsection 1](#) have been met, but that the matter can be corrected, a judgement shall be handed down on correction.

(8) [Chapter 20 of the Dispute Act](#) does not apply. The rules in the [Dispute Act](#) otherwise apply insofar as they are suitable.

Chapter 17. New election

Section 17-1. *When and how a new election shall be conducted*

(1) A new election shall be held if the Storting, Supreme Court or National Electoral Committee declares an election to be invalid.

(2) If the county council or the municipal council declares an election invalid, the National Electoral Committee must decide whether to hold a new election. A new election shall only be conducted if, following a full review, the National Electoral Committee finds that the election was invalid.

(3) In the event of a new election, the electoral register from the original election shall be used. Persons who have died or lost the right to vote before the new election shall be removed from the electoral register. Persons who were incorrectly entered in or omitted from the original electoral register must also be removed or entered in the electoral register.

(4) In the event of a new election, the electoral lists from the original election shall be used. Candidates who have died or are no longer eligible shall be removed from the electoral lists. [Section 5-11](#), subsection 2 applies, correspondingly.

Section 17-2. Who will serve as members of the Storting in the event of a new election

If a new election is to be held, the newly elected members shall remain in office until there is final approval of the new election.

Section 17-3. Who will serve as members of the county council or municipal council in the event of a new election

(1) If the National Electoral Committee declares the county council election or municipal council election invalid before the constituent meeting of the new county council or municipal council, the term of office of the sitting members of the county council or municipal council will be extended until final approval of the new election.

(2) If the newly elected county council or municipal council declares the election invalid and the National Electoral Committee then decides that a new election shall be held, the newly elected members of the county council or municipal council shall remain in office until final approval of the new election.

Section 17-4. Regulations

The Ministry may issue regulations relating to exemptions from the provisions in this Act regarding deadlines and the right to vote in advance if this is necessary for the practical conduct of the new election.

Chapter 18. Extended or postponed election proceedings or new elections in the event of extraordinary events

Section 18-1. Extended or postponed election proceedings or new election at parliamentary elections

(1) If an extraordinary event has occurred that is liable to prevent a significant proportion of the voters from voting, the Storting can, with the votes of two-thirds of the members, extend the election proceedings by up to one day or postpone the election proceedings. A decision to extend or postpone the election proceedings may only be made to the extent necessary to ensure that voters have the possibility to vote.

(2) The election proceedings shall be concluded within one month after the day set as Election Day by the King in Council.

(3) If the Storting cannot convene, the King in Council may extend the election proceedings by up to one day or postpone the election proceedings by up to seven days. The conditions mentioned in subsections 1 and 2 will then apply, correspondingly.

(4) If an extraordinary event has occurred that has prevented a significant proportion of the voters from voting, the sitting Storting may, with the votes of two-thirds of the members of the Storting, decide that a new election shall be held. A decision to hold a new election may only be made insofar as this is necessary to ensure voters have the opportunity to vote.

Section 18-2. Extended or postponed election proceedings or a new election at county council or municipal council elections

(1) If an extraordinary event has occurred that is liable to prevent a significant proportion of the voters from voting, the King in Council may extend the election by up to one day or postpone the election. A decision to extend or postpone the election proceedings may only be made to the extent necessary to ensure that voters have the possibility to vote.

(2) The election proceedings shall be concluded within one month after the day set as Election Day by the King in Council.

(3) If an extraordinary event has occurred that has prevented a significant proportion of the voters from voting, the King in Council may decide that a new election shall be held. A decision to hold a new election may only be made insofar as this is necessary to ensure voters have the opportunity to vote.

Section 18-3. New election

In the event of a new election pursuant to [sections 18-1](#) or [18-2](#), [Section 17-1 subsections 3](#) and [4](#) and [Section 17-4](#) apply, correspondingly.

For new elections pursuant to [Section 18-1](#), [Section 17-2](#) also applies, correspondingly.

0 Amended by the [Act of 21 June 2024 No. 51](#).

Section 18-4. *First count of ballot papers that have been cast in advance*

(1) If the election proceedings are postponed or delayed, the counting of ballot papers that have been cast in advance may, at the earliest, commence on the day before the extended or postponed elections proceedings are concluded.

(2) If the count has commenced, it shall be stopped. The count may continue the day before the election proceedings are concluded.

Section 18-5. *Publication of election results in the event of extended election proceedings*

If the election proceedings are extended until after 9 p.m. on election day, [Section 21-8](#) applies accordingly.

0 Amended by the [Act of 21 June 2024 No. 51](#).

Section 18-6. *Who will serve as members of the county council or municipal council in the event of a new election*

(1) If the King in Council has decided that a new election must be held pursuant to [Section 18-2, subsection 3](#) before the constituent meeting of the new county council or municipal council, the term of office of the sitting members of the county council or municipal council shall be extended until final approval of the new election.

(2) If the King in Council decides that a new election shall be held pursuant to [Section 18-2, subsection 3](#) after the constituent meeting of the newly elected county council or municipal council, the newly elected members of the county council or municipal council shall remain in office until final approval of the new election.

Chapter 19. New determination of election result during an electoral term

Section 19-1. *New determination of the result of an election to the Storting*

(1) The Storting shall notify the district electoral committee if the seat of a member or alternate member in the Storting will remain vacant. The

district electoral committee shall then determine a new election result.

(2) The district electoral committee shall issue credentials to the new member or alternate member. The credentials shall show the number in the order of members or alternate members the elected member or alternate member shall have. If the credentials apply to an alternate member, these shall also state the name of the member who he or she shall replace. The credentials are to be sent to the Storting.

(3) The district electoral committee shall inform the new member or alternate member about the election.

Section 19-2. *New determination of the result of a county council or municipal council election*

(1) The chair of the county council shall notify the county electoral committee if the seat of a member of the county council remains vacant. The chair of the municipal council shall notify the electoral committee if the seat of a member of the municipal council remains vacant. The county electoral committee or electoral committee must then determine a new election result.

(2) If the chair of the county council or chair of the municipal council considers this necessary, the county electoral committee or electoral committee shall also determine a new election result when the seat of an alternate member has become vacant.

(3) The county electoral committee or electoral committee shall inform the new member or alternate member about the election.

(4) If the seat of an alternate member has become vacant and cannot be filled through a new election result, the group that has been given a vacant alternate member's seat may propose who shall fill the seat. The group must then notify the county electoral committee or electoral committee, which will select the proposed person if he or she is eligible for election and has consented to being elected. If the municipal council election is held as an election by majority ballot, the municipal council shall propose a person to fill the vacant seat. Subsection 4, second sentence applies, correspondingly.

Chapter 20. Use of electronic election implementation system

Section 20-1. *Electronic election management system*

(1) The Ministry shall make an electronic election implementation system available which the municipalities and county authorities shall use.

(2) If the municipalities or county authorities count the ballot papers by machine, the system shall be used.

Section 20-2. Regulations

The Ministry may issue regulations on the use of the electronic election implementation system.

Chapter 21. Miscellaneous provisions

Section 21-1. Pilot schemes in connection with elections

- (1) The King in Council may approve pilot schemes:
- a. in which elections are conducted in ways that differ from the provisions in this Act
 - b. with direct election of other democratically elected bodies than those to which this Act applies.

(2) The King in Council stipulates conditions for pilot schemes and decides what provisions may be derogated from.

Section 21-2. Access to the electoral register and the other material

- (1) Access to the electoral register may only be granted to:
- a. a public servant who requires such access in order to perform the duties in his or her work
 - b. researchers for research purposes where consent has been given by the Population Registry Authority
 - c. other persons pursuant to this Act.
- (2) Access to the rest of the election material may only be granted to researchers for research purposes with the consent of the correct authority.

Section 21-3. Duty of secrecy

Persons who, in the course of assignments relating to the election, obtain knowledge of how a voter has voted, have a duty of secrecy in respect thereof.

Section 21-4. Calculation of deadlines

(1) If a date that is the basis of a deadline falls on a Saturday or public holiday, the deadline will start to run from the first subsequent weekday.

(2) If a deadline expires on a Saturday or a public holiday, the deadline is extended until the first subsequent weekday.

(3) If a date that is the earliest point in time for an action pursuant to this Act falls on a Saturday or a public holiday, the action cannot be carried out until the first subsequent weekday.

(4) If a date that is the latest point in time for an action pursuant to this Act falls on a Saturday or public holiday, the action can also be carried out on the first subsequent weekday.

Section 21-5. Exceeding deadlines

If notice is given or an appeal submitted after the expiration of a deadline pursuant to this Act, such notice or appeal may only be considered if the deadline was exceeded due to circumstances outside of the control of the person who submitted the notification or appeal and these circumstances were disproportionately burdensome to overcome.

Section 21-6. Data for election statistics

The district electoral committees, county electoral committees and electoral committees have a duty to provide the Ministry and Statistics Norway with the data that the Ministry or Statistics Norway deem necessary for announcing election results or producing official election statistics.

Section 21-7. Monitoring of elections

- (1) The Ministry may accredit national and international election observers from institutions or organisations to monitor the conduct of elections to the Storting or to municipal and county councils.
- (2) The municipalities and county authorities have an obligation to accept accredited election observers and facilitate the monitoring of elections.

Section 21-8. Publication of election results and forecasts on election day

- Until 9 p.m. on election day, it is not permitted to
- a. release information about or publish election results;
 - b. publish forecasts made on the basis of surveys on election day or the previous day.

0 Amended by the [Act of 21 June 2024 No. 51](#).

Section 21-9. Fines for contravention

(1) If an enterprise or a person is in wilful or negligent contravention of [Section 18-5](#) or [Section](#)

[21-8](#), the Norwegian Media Authority may impose a fine for contravention of up to 28 times the basic amount in the National Insurance Scheme. In this context *enterprise* means a company, cooperative enterprise, society or other association, sole trader, foundation, estate or public enterprise.

- (2) In assessing the amount of the fine, special emphasis shall be placed on:
- the seriousness of the contravention
 - whether the contravention was committed to promote the interests of the enterprise or person
 - whether the enterprise or person has or could have benefited from the contravention
 - whether the enterprise or person has contravened the prohibition in [Section 18-5](#) or [21-8](#) previously
 - the enterprise's or person's financial ability

If the contravention has been committed by an enterprise, emphasis shall also be placed on whether the enterprise could have prevented the contravention through guidelines, instruction, training, checks or other measures.

- (3) The fine for contravention accrues to the Public Treasury and is enforceable by execution.

Section 21-10. Appeals against decisions concerning fines for contravention etc.

- (1) A decision concerning a fine for contravention may be appealed to an independent appeal board appointed by the King. The board shall have three members. The King decides who shall be the chair of the board.
- (2) The appeal board cannot of its own initiative reverse a decision made by the Norwegian Media Authority.
- (3) General instructions about the Norwegian Media Authority's or appeal board's enforcement of the provisions regarding fines for contravention may not be prescribed in this Act nor may orders regarding their exercising of authority be issued in individual cases. Their decisions cannot be reversed.
- (4) The Ministry may issue regulations regarding the appointment and composition of the appeal board and on the enforcement of decisions on fines for contravention, including the collection of and payment deadline for fines.

Chapter 22. Entry into force and amendments to other acts

Section 22-1. Entry into force

- (1) The Act enters into force from such date¹ as the King decides. [Act No. 57 of 28 June 2002 relating to parliamentary and local government elections](#) shall be repealed from the same date.

- (2) The King may enforce and repeal the individual provisions at different times.

1 Effective 1 May 2024, with the exception of the amendments to the [Political Parties Act, Section 3, Section 4](#), and [Section 9](#) in [Section 22-2 of the Election Act](#) No. 3, according to the [Res. of 22 March 2024 No. 553](#).

Section 22-2. Amendments to other acts

From the time this Act enters into force, the following amendments are made to other acts:

— — —

3. The [Act of 17 June 2005 No. 102 on certain aspects relating to the political parties](#) shall be amended as follows:

— — —

[Section 3, subsection 2 \(d\)](#) shall read:

- d. declarations from at least 10 000 persons who are eligible to vote at parliamentary elections that they request that the party's name be registered. A person who submits a declaration must reach the voting age by the end of the calendar year in which the application is submitted. If the application is submitted less than a year before an election, it is sufficient that the voting age is reached by the end of the calendar year. The declaration shall state the name, date of birth and address of the person who submitted it. The declaration shall be signed and dated by the person who submitted it. No declaration shall be more than one year older than the application.

[Section 4](#) shall read:

Section 4. Change of registered party name. Merger of parties under a new name

- (1) A registered political party may apply to change the registered party name. The provisions in [Section 3](#) apply, correspondingly. The minutes from the meeting where it was decided to change the name of the party shall be enclosed in place of the formation document. If the party received no fewer than 5 000 votes at the last parliamentary

election, the conditions in [Section 3, subsection 2 \(d\)](#) do not apply.

(2) If two or more registered parties merge and apply for registration under a new name, this shall be considered as an application for change of name. The minutes from the meeting where it was decided to merge the parties and apply for registration under a new name shall be enclosed in place of the formation document. If one of the parties received no fewer than 5 000 votes at the last parliamentary election, the conditions in [Section 3, subsection 2 \(d\)](#) do not apply.

[Section 9](#), new second sentence shall read:

The Ministry may also issue regulations on the requirements for electronic signatures on declarations requesting to register a party name pursuant to [Section 3](#) and to change a registered party name pursuant to [Section 4](#) by way of an approved electronic solution.
