

Important information for those intending to vote

## **Parliamentary Election and Sami Assembly Election 2009**



Election day is 14 September 2009.  
Proof of identity must be shown before you can vote.



# Parliamentary Election and Sami Assembly Election 2009

The **Storting**, or Parliament, is Norway's democratically elected national assembly. 169 representatives are elected for a four-year period of office. Their duty is to represent the population of all 19 constituencies, corresponding to the 19 counties of Norway. The most important activities of the Parliament are to pass laws, set the state budget and conduct the work of government.

The **Sameting**, or Sami Assembly, is an independent, democratically elected organ that serves as the representative mouthpiece of the Sami indigenous peoples of Norway. 39 representatives are elected for a four-year period of office. Their duty is to represent the Sami people throughout Norway. The Sami Assembly administers its own budget within a framework set by the central government. The Sami Assembly exercises decision-making authority in areas that come within its scope.

Exercise your right to vote and decide who will represent you in Parliament and in the Sami Assembly for the next four years. **Use your vote!**

This brochure contains practical information for those intending to vote.

## Election day is Monday 14 September 2009.

Many local authorities are also allowing votes to be cast on Sunday 13 September.

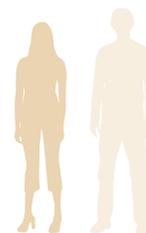
**Proof of identity must be shown before you can vote!** The Election Act requires that an elector who is not known to the returning officer must produce proof of identity. Proof of identity can be a valid passport, driver's licence or bank card with photo, although other types of proof of identity may also suffice. The proof of identity shown must contain the elector's name, date of birth and photo.

Electors who find themselves in an institution such as a nursing home or hospital, or who are in detention, may have their identity confirmed by a member of staff of the institution.

**All registered electors will receive a polling card.** The polling card contains information about where and how to vote on election day. The polling card is not mandatory in order to cast your vote, but having it with you will save time. The polling card is not accepted as proof of identity.

Electors who are entitled to vote in both the Parliamentary election and the Sami Assembly election will receive two polling cards.

# Parliamentary Election



## ► Who can vote?

Norwegian citizens over the age of 18 years, or who turn 18 years of age in an election year, are entitled to vote in Norway's Parliamentary elections. Electors must be, or have been, registered as resident in Norway.

## ► How and where can you vote?

### **On election day**

You must cast your vote in the municipal authority area in which you are registered as residing. This is the municipal authority area where the voter was registered as residing in the Norwegian National Population Register on 30 June 2009. You may cast your vote at any polling station within the municipal authority area. The illustrations on the following page show how to complete the ballot paper on election day.

### **Advance votes**

May be cast in any municipal authority area up to and including Friday 11 September 2009. The procedure for casting advance votes differs from the procedure for casting votes on election day.

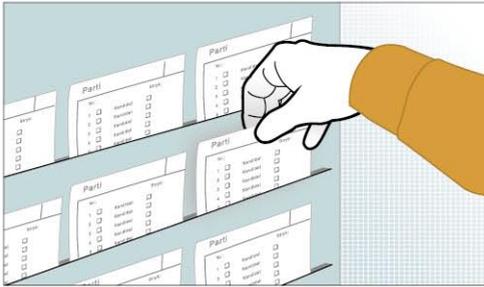
The procedure for casting advance votes is as follows:

- 1) You must appear in person before a returning officer, who will provide you with a ballot paper envelope and show you to a polling booth or secluded room.
- 2) Take the appropriate ballot paper and mark any changes you wish to make.
- 3) If you are casting your vote in a constituency other than that in which you are registered as resident, you will be given a special ballot paper together with the ballot paper envelope. The ballot paper lists the names of the registered political parties without the names of the candidates. Mark with an 'X' or write the name of the party/group you wish to vote for. You may also obtain and use a ballot paper from your constituency if you wish to mark any changes.
- 4) Place the ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope.
- 5) Hand it to the returning officer who, in your presence, will place the ballot paper envelope and your polling card in a cover envelope, seal it and place it in the ballot box. Your vote will be forwarded to your municipal authority area for inclusion in the vote count.

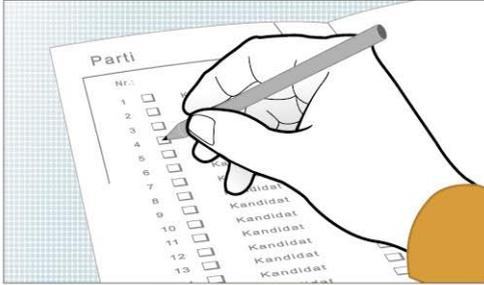
If you are sick or disabled, you may apply to the local authorities for permission to cast your vote at home.

The municipal authorities will notify you when and how you may vote.

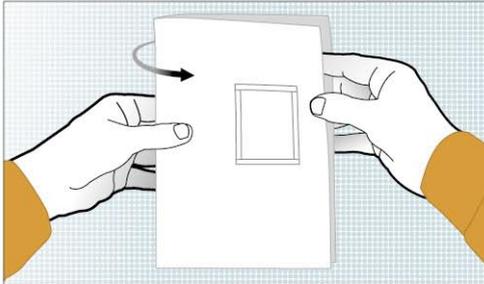
## ► How do you vote on election day?



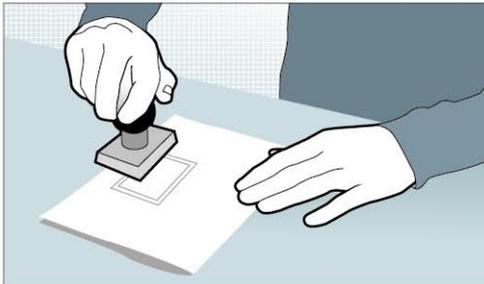
**1** Select the appropriate ballot paper.



**2** Mark any changes you wish to make on the ballot paper (see instructions on next page).



**3** Fold the ballot paper with the names of the parties inwards and the field for the stamp outwards – in this way, no one can see whom you vote for. The ballot paper should not be placed in an envelope or any other enclosure.



**4** Take the ballot paper to the returning officer to be stamped on the outside. Only ballot papers that have been stamped are valid!

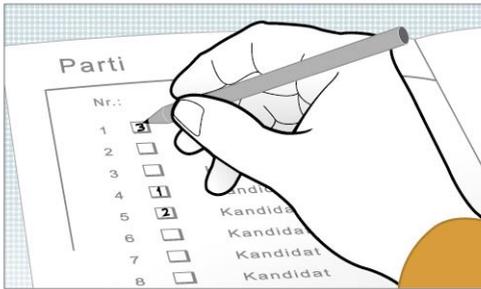


**5** Place the stamped ballot paper in the ballot box.

## ► How do you mark changes on the ballot paper?

It is up to you if you wish to mark changes on the ballot paper! If you do not mark any changes, your vote will count for the candidates in the order in which they are listed on the ballot paper.

### How to mark changes on the ballot paper:



#### **Changing the order in which the candidates are listed**

Enter a (new) number in the box to the left of the names(s) of the candidate(s) to clearly indicate your order of preference.



#### **Deleting candidates from the list**

Place a cross or tick in the box to the right of the name(s) of the candidate(s) whom you wish to delete from the list.

Do not be hesitant about making changes. The procedure for doing so is explained on the ballot paper. Your vote will not be invalidated, even if you make a mistake!

## ► Who gets elected?

The parliamentary seats are allocated at constituent level among the parties and groups based on the number of votes cast for each.

If more than half of the constituent electorate who vote for a given party or group mark changes to the same candidate, this can be instrumental in determining which candidates are elected to Parliament. Otherwise the candidates are elected in the order in which they are listed on the ballot paper.

Further information is available at [www.valg.no](http://www.valg.no) **Have a good election!**

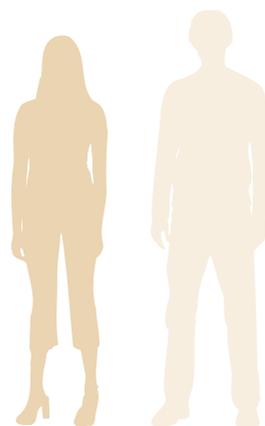
# The Sami Assembly election

Everyone who is entitled to vote in local council elections and who is enrolled in the Sami electoral register is entitled to vote in the Sami Assembly election. The deadline for enrolling in the Sami electoral register is 30 June 2009. Those who are entitled to vote in both the Parliamentary and the Sami Assembly elections may cast their votes in both elections.

Those who are registered as residing in a municipal authority area where fewer than 30 residents were entitled to vote at the last Sami Assembly election will not be able to cast their ballots on election day. Instead, the right to vote may be exercised by casting advance votes. Sami Assembly websites carry details of which municipal authority areas this applies to.

Electors may choose to change the order of candidates on the ballot paper.  
Electors may not choose to delete candidates.

The Sami Assembly sends out information about the Sami Assembly election to everyone enrolled in the Sami electoral register.



Further information is available at [www.valg.no](http://www.valg.no) and [www.sametinget.no](http://www.sametinget.no)  
**Have a good election!**





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