

Election on Åland, 18 October 2015

This leaflet is published by the Government of Åland 2015

More information can be found at www.val.ax

It's election time!

The parliamentary and municipal elections will take place on 18 October 2015. It is important to Åland society that everyone makes use of their right to vote and participates in the election. But who has the right to vote? How do you vote? How are candidates put forward?

Here you will find answers to your questions about the election.

What are we voting for?

In the parliamentary election, we will elect 30 members to the Åland parliament for the next four years.

In the municipal elections, we will elect municipal councillors. They will hold their seats for four years.



The number of seats on municipal councils depends on the number of residents in each municipality. Mariehamn is the largest municipality with 27 councillors. The smallest municipalities have nine councillors.



Who is allowed to vote?

To vote in the elections, you must turn 18 on or before the election date. This means that you must have been born on or before 18 October 1997.

To vote in the parliamentary election, you must also have the Åland right of domicile. But you do not need to be living on Åland right now.

To vote in the municipal election, your home municipality must be on Åland on 1 September 2015. This is the municipality in which you will vote. You must also have **either** Åland right of domicile **or** have been resident on Åland for at least a year on the election date.

If you have the right to vote, a **polling card** will be posted to your home address about a month before the election date. You should check that the information on your right to vote is correct.

<p>RÖSTKORT Ålandsregionvalmyndigheten Statens ämbetsverk på Åland Enheten för magistratsärenden PB 58 Torggatan 16 22101 MARIEHAMN Tel. (018) 635 270</p> <p>Mottagare Ålänning Abe Mariehamngatan 5 22100 MARIEHAMN</p> <p>Du är röstberättigad i</p> <p>Lagtingsvalet och kommunalvalet 2015</p> <p>Röstningstområde, -ettälle och -tid 1 YTTERNÄS SKOLA 18.10.2015 kl. 9-20</p> <p>Röstseleyrkanden avgörs av Centralnämnden för lagtingsval PB 1060 22111 MARIEHAMN Kommunen Mariehamn</p> <p><small>Örskulle: Röstningsbeskrivningen och röstygelseregleriet 1.9.2015</small></p>	<p>FÖLJEBREV</p> <p>478 1 CENTRALNÄMNDEN I MARIEHAMNS STAD</p> <p>PB 5 22101 MARIEHAMN TEL. (018) 5310</p> <p>PORT PAYÉ PORTO BELY KORT ÅLAND ÅLAND 22100/75</p> <p>Ifylla på förtidsröstningsstället Jag har själv med bevarande av värdigheten ifyllt röstsedeln och inneskuffat den avstämplad i valkuvertet.</p> <p>Den röstandes underskrift</p> <p>Ifylls av valmyndigheten. Tid och ort.</p> <p>Jag intygar, att röstningen förvägglit på det sätt som stadgas i lag. Underskrift av valförstaren eller valmyndighetens ordförande.</p> <p>Förtidsröstning 3.10 – 13.10.2015</p>
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How do you vote?

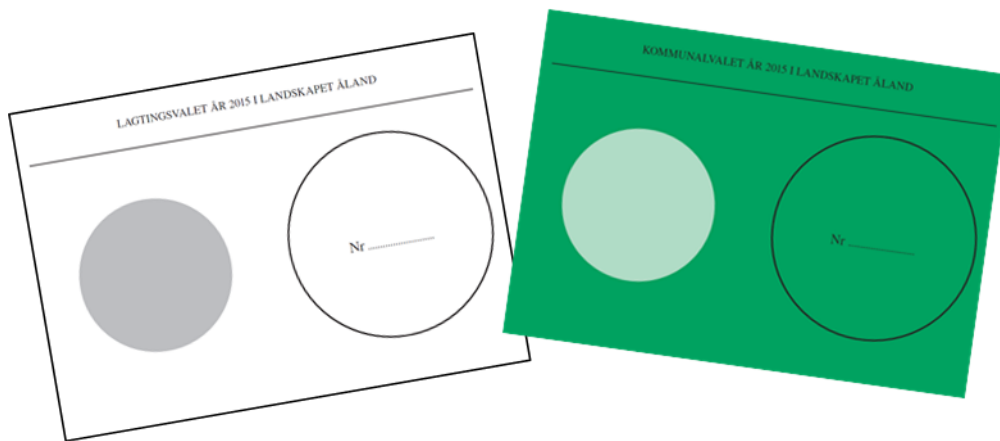
Each candidate put forward in the different elections has a number. These numbers are used in the candidates' election campaigns. Candidate lists will also be available at the polling stations and at www.val.ax

The numbering used for the parliamentary and municipal elections differs:

- no. 2 onwards will be used for the parliamentary election (white candidate list)
- no. 502 onwards will be used for the municipal elections (green candidate list)

The same candidate numbers are used in all municipalities, but you can only vote for the candidates put forward in your home municipality.

You vote by writing your candidate's number in the correct place on your ballot paper. There are specific ballot papers for each election. The ballot paper is white for the parliamentary election and green for the municipal election.



Make sure that you use the correct ballot paper for each election! Request a new ballot paper if you happen to make a mistake. A ballot paper that has been amended or corrected is invalid.

You can vote as follows:

1. early voting at a general early voting location during the early voting period from 3 to 13 October
2. early voting by post if you are out of the country or are ill/handicapped and unable to vote any other way
3. early voting before an election committee at an institution (only applies to those residing or receiving care there)
4. voting at your polling station on Sunday 18 October from 9 am to 8 pm.

If you vote early, you normally receive two polling cards, one for the parliamentary election (white ballot paper) and one for the municipal election (green ballot paper).

If you are only entitled to vote in one election, you can hand back the other ballot paper.

Early voting at an early voting location

You can vote early from Saturday 3 October until Tuesday 13 October. There are early voting locations all over Åland. These include locations such as post offices, municipal offices or other locations approved by the municipality. The early voting locations are also open on Saturdays during the early voting period from at least 10 am until 12 noon. Check the times with your municipality.

You can vote at the early voting location of your choice. It does not need to be in your home municipality.

If you vote early, you must bring ID. Please bring your polling card to facilitate the process. The polling station staff will show you how to vote. If you need help, you are entitled to assistance. You may choose someone to assist you. The polling station staff can also help you.

Early voting by post

If you cannot vote on the election date or during the early voting period, you can **vote by post**. It is also possible to vote by post if you are not on Åland.

If you would like to vote by post, use an order form. The form is available at www.val.ax. Send it to your home municipality (where you were living on 1 September 2015 or where you last lived on Åland). You will then receive all the necessary documentation by post. You will also receive instructions on how to complete it.

The documentation that you need to vote by post must be ordered no later than on 13 October.

NB: Your ballot papers and covering letter must be returned to your municipality by 7 pm on 16 October.

Early voting at institutions such as hospitals or nursing homes

Early voting at hospitals, nursing homes and other similar institutions will be arranged by an election committee appointed by the municipality. The members of the election committee will come to the institution to give those there the chance to vote. Voting will take place over at least two days, at times chosen by the election committee. The times will be announced in advance via a clearly visible notice.

Please note that only those residing or receiving care at the institution will be allowed to vote in this way. This does not apply to staff.

Voting on the election date

The election date is Sunday 18 October 2015. The polling stations are open from 9 am to 8 pm. If you arrive at the polling station by 8 pm, you will be allowed to vote even if there is a queue and you have to wait a while.

On the election date, you may only vote at the polling station specified on your polling card. When you arrive at the polling station, speak first to the polling station staff, who will check that you are entitled to vote. This is why you should bring ID. It is also a good idea to bring your polling card, as this facilitates the process.

When the polling station staff have confirmed that you are entitled to vote, you will be given ballot papers – one or two depending on your right to vote. The ballot papers should be completed inside the polling booth so that no one can see what you are writing. The candidate lists will also be displayed inside the polling booth.

Remember that the ballot paper for the parliamentary election is white and the ballot paper for the municipal election is green!

When you have completed the ballot papers, they must be stamped. You should then put them in the ballot box.



Assistance will be available at the polling station if you need help. You may also choose someone to assist you.

Who can put themselves forward as a candidate in the election?

All those entitled to vote may also put themselves forward as candidates, with a few exceptions. For example, if you work in a senior position in the municipality, you cannot put yourself forward.

How are candidates put forward for the elections?

If you would like to put yourself forward as a candidate in the elections, get in touch with one of Åland's political parties. You do not need to be a member of the party to put yourself forward as a candidate, but the party has the right to stipulate requirements for you as a candidate.

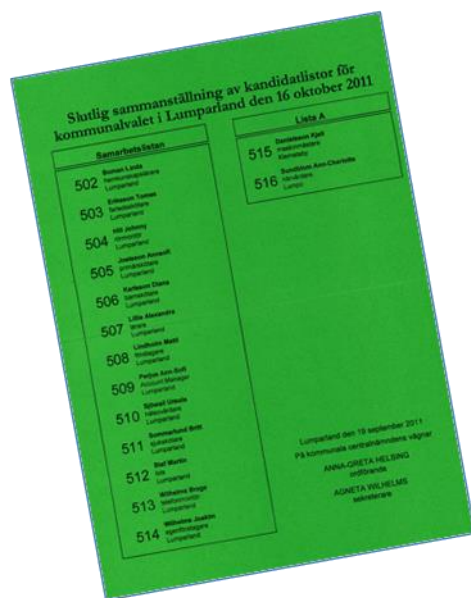
You may also put forward candidates yourself by establishing a so-called voters' association. This involves gathering a sufficiently large number of voters to support the candidate you would like to put forward. Ten supporters are required for a parliamentary candidate and three for a municipal candidate. If you are a candidate, you cannot also be a member of the voters' association.

Slutlig sammanställning av kandidatlistorna för lagtingsvalet 2011

Ålands Socialdemokrater rf	Valmansförening för Frenark Ågölebyväk	Öbunden Samling på Åland rf	Ålands Framtid rf	Åländsk Center rf	Moderaterna på Åland rf	Liberalerna på Åland rf
2	28	54	88	129	172	204
3	29	55	89	130	173	205
4	30	56	90	131	174	206
5	31	57	91	132	175	207
6	32	58	92	133	176	208
7	33	59	93	134	177	209
8	34	60	94	135	178	210
9	35	61	95	136	179	211
10	36	62	96	137	180	212
11	37	63	97	138	181	213
12	38	64	98	139	182	214
13	39	65	99	140	183	215
14	40	66	100	141	184	216
15	41	67	101	142	185	217
16	42	68	102	143	186	218
17	43	69	103	144	187	219
18	44	70	104	145	188	220
19	45		105	146	189	221
20	46		106	147	190	222
21	47		107	148	191	223
22	48		108	149	192	224
23	49			150	193	225
24	50				194	226
25	51				195	227
26	52				196	228
27					197	229
					198	230
					199	231
					200	232
					201	233
					202	234
					203	235

Centralnämnden för lagtingsval

You can team up with other people to produce a candidate list with several candidates. There must still be a sufficient number of supporters in the voters' association, i.e. ten people for each parliamentary candidate and three for each municipal candidate.



If you would like to put forward candidates, you may use the form available at www.val.ax

The elections are direct, confidential and proportional

The Åland elections are direct. This means that you vote directly for the candidate you would like to be elected. You must also always use your own vote; you cannot transfer your vote to someone else.

Our elections are confidential. This means that no one will find out how you voted. This is an important democratic right. That is why there are polling booths with screens in both the early voting locations and the polling stations.

The ballot paper can be folded before being stamped by the polling station staff and put it in the ballot box.

We have proportional elections on Åland. This means that the election results reflect the support that the different groups received during the elections as closely as possible. A group that receives 15 per cent of the votes will also win approx. 15 per cent of the seats in the parliament or on the municipal council.

To ensure that the election results are as proportional as possible, a counting system is used that makes use of the D'Hondt method. This method of counting is described in greater detail in the Åland Election Act.

Election results

Counting will begin as soon as the polling stations close on Election Day. The early votes will already have been counted during the day and are usually reported soon after 8 pm. The Åland newspapers and *Ålands Radio och TV* usually provide rolling coverage of the vote count.

The preliminary election result is usually ready no later than midnight. During the days following the election, the votes will all be recounted before the final result is confirmed.

Further information

Most of what you need to know about the parliamentary and municipal elections in Åland can be found at www.val.ax. This leaflet is also available in other languages.