Translation from Finnish
Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish
Ministry of Justice, Finland

Election Act
(714/1998; amendments up to 361/2016 included)

By decision of Parliament, the following is enacted:

PART I — COMMON PROVISIONS

Chapter 1
General provisions

Section 1 (563/2015)
Scope of application

In addition to the provisions concerning elections laid down in the Constitution of Finland and the Local Government Act (410/2015), this Act lays down provisions on how to carry out:
1) the election of members to the Parliament (*parliamentary elections*);
2) the election of the President of the Republic (*the presidential election*);
3) municipal elections;
4) the election of members to the European Parliament from Finland (*elections to the European Parliament*).

Provisions on municipal elections in the Province of Åland are laid down in the Provincial Legislation of the Åland Islands.

Section 2
Right to vote

In parliamentary elections, presidential elections and elections to the European Parliament, every Finnish citizen who has reached the age of 18 no later than on the election day is entitled to vote. In presidential elections, the voting age shall be reached no later than on the day of the first round of the presidential election.

In elections to the European Parliament, such a citizen of another Member State of the European Union is also entitled to vote who has reached the age of 18 no later than on the election day and whose municipality of residence referred to in the Municipality of Residence Act (201/1994) is in Finland or who works for the European Union or another international organisation in Finland or is a family member of such a person, and whose personal information has been entered in the Population Information System in the manner referred to in the Act on the Population Information System and the Certificate Services of the Population Register Centre (661/2009). However, a person who has lost his or her right to vote in the country of which he or she is a citizen (*home state*), due to a court decision in an individual civil or criminal matter, is not entitled to vote in Finland. (1213/2013)

Provisions on the right to vote in municipal elections are laid down in the Constitution of Finland and the Local Government Act. (563/2015)

Voting by proxy is not allowed.

Section 3 (563/2015)
Candidate eligibility

Provisions on the candidate eligibility in parliamentary elections and the eligibility of the President of the Republic are laid down in the Constitution of Finland. Provisions on the candidate eligibility in municipal elections are laid down in the Local Government Act. Provisions on the candidate eligibility in the elections to the European Parliament are laid down in section 164 of this Act.

Section 4 (247/2002)
Election procedure

Elections are conducted by organising *advance voting* and *voting on election day*. Local authorities are responsible for organising the advance voting and the voting on election day in Finland, while the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is responsible for organising the advance voting abroad.

Section 5 (361/2016)
Electoral districts in parliamentary elections

For the purpose of conducting parliamentary elections, the country has been divided into the following *electoral districts* in accordance with the provincial division:

1) the electoral district of Helsinki, which comprises the city of Helsinki;
2) the electoral district of Uusimaa, which comprises the municipalities of Askola, Espoo, Hanko, Hyvinkää, Inkoo, Järvenpää, Karkkila, Kauniainen, Kerava, Kirkkonummi, Lapinjärvi, Lohja, Loviisa, Myrskylä, Mäntsälä, Nurmijärvi, Pornainen, Porvoo, Pukkila, Raasepori, Sipoo, Siuntio, Tuusula, Vantaa, and Vihti;
3) the electoral district of Varsinais-Suomi, which comprises the municipalities of Aura, Kaarina, Kemiönsaari, Koski Tl, Kustavi, Laitila, Lieto, Loimaa, Marttila, Masku, Mynämäki, Naantali, Nousiainen, Oripää, Paimio, Parainen, Pyhäranta, Pöytyä, Raisio, Rusko, Salo, Sauvo, Somero, Taivassalo, Turku, Uusikaupunki, and Vehmaa;
4) the electoral district of Satakunta, which comprises the municipalities of Eura, Eurajoki, Harjavalta, Honkajoki, Huittinen, Jämijärvi, Kankaanpää, Karvia, Kokemäki, Luvia, Merikarvia, Nakkila, Pomarkku, Pori, Rauma, Siikainen, Säkylä, and Ulvila;
5) the electoral district of Åland, which comprises the municipalities of Brändö, Eckerö, Finström, Föglö, Geta, Hammarland, Jomala, Kumlinge, Kökar, Lemland, Lumparland, Mariehamn, Saltvik, Sottunga, Sund, and Vårdö;
6) the electoral district of Häme, which comprises the municipalities of Asikkala, Forssa, Hartola, Hattula, Hausjärvi, Heinola, Hollola, Humppila, Hämeenlinna, Janakkala, Jokioinen, Kärkölä, Lahti, Loppi, Orimattila, Padasjoki, Riihimäki, Sysmä, Tammela, and Ypäjä;
7) the electoral district of Pirkanmaa, which comprises the municipalities of Akaa, Hämeenkyrö, Ikaalinen, Juupajoki, Kangasala, Kihniö, Lempäälä, Mänttä-Vilppula, Nokia, Orivesi, Parkano, Pirkkala, Punkalaidun, Pälkäne, Ruovesi, Sastamala, Tampere, Urjala, Valkeakoski, Vesilahti, Virrat, and Ylöjärvi;
8) the electoral district of Southeast Finland, which comprises the municipalities of Enonkoski, Hamina, Heinävesi, Hirvensalmi, Iitti, Imatra, Joroinen, Juva, Kangasniemi, Kotka, Kouvolan Lappeenranta, Lemi, Luumäki, Miehikkälä, Mikkeli, Mäntyharju, Parikkala, Pertunmaa, Pieksämäki, Puumala, Pyhtää, Rantasalmi, Rautjärvi, Ruokolahti, Savitaipale, Savonlinna, Sulkava, Taipalsaari, and Virolahti;
9) the electoral district of Savo-Karjala, which comprises the municipalities of Iisalmi, Ilomantsi, Joensuu, Juankoski, Juuka, Kaavi, Keitele, Kitee, Kiuruvesi, Kontiolahti, Kuopio, Lapinlahti, Leppävirta, Lieksa, Liperi, Nurmes, Outokumpu, Pielavesi, Polvijärvi, Rautalampi, Rautavaara,

Rääkkylä, Siilinjärvi, Sonkajärvi, Suonenjoki, Tervo, Tohmajärvi, Tuusniemi, Valtimo, Varkaus, Vesanto, and Vieremä;
10) the electoral district of Vaasa, which comprises the municipalities of Alajärvi, Alavus, Evijärvi, Halsua, Ilmajoki, Isojoki, Isokyrö, Kannus, Karijoki, Kaskinen, Kauhajoki, Kauhava, Kaustinen, Kokkola, Korsnäs, Kristiinankaupunki, Kruunupyy, Kuortane, Kurikka, Laihia, Lappajärvi, Lapua, Lestijärvi, Luoto, Maalahti, Mustasaari, Närpiö, Pedersören kunta, Perho, Pietarsaari, Seinäjoki, Soini, Teuva, Toholampi, Uusikaarlepyy, Vaasa, Veteli, Vimpeli, Vöyri, and Ähtäri;
11) the electoral district of Central Finland, which comprises the municipalities of Hankasalmi, Joutsa, Jyväskylä, Jämsä, Kannonkoski, Karstula, Keuruu, Kinnula, Kivijärvi, Konnevesi, Kuhmoinen, Kyyjärvi, Laukaa, Luhanka, Multia, Muurame, Petäjävesi, Pihtipudas, Saarijärvi, Toivakka, Uurainen, Viitasaari, and Äänekoski;
12) the electoral district of Oulu, which comprises the municipalities of Alavieska, Haapajärvi, Haapavesi, Hailuoto, Hyrynsalmi, Ii, Kajaani, Kalajoki, Kempele, Kuhmo, Kuusamo, Kärsämäki, Liminka, Lumijoki, Merijärvi, Muhos, Nivala, Oulainen, Oulu, Paltamo, Pudasjärvi, Puolanka, Pyhäjoki, Pyhäjärvi, Pyhäntä, Raahe, Reisjärvi, Ristijärvi, Sievi, Siikajoki, Siikalatva, Sotkamo, Suomussalmi, Taivalkoski, Tyrnävä, Utajärvi, Vaala, and Ylivieska;
13) the electoral district of Lapland, which comprises the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari, Kemi, Kemijärvi, Keminmaa, Kittilä, Kolari, Muonio, Pelkosenniemi, Pello, Posio, Ranua, Rovaniemi, Salla, Savukoski, Simo, Sodankylä, Tervola, Tornio, Utsjoki, and Ylitornio.

Section 6
Division of parliamentary seats between electoral districts

With the exception of the electoral district of Åland, a total of 199 representatives are elected by proportional vote in the other electoral districts. In the electoral district of Åland, one representative is elected as provided below.

With the exception of the electoral district of Åland, the division of parliamentary seats is carried out on the basis of the number of those Finnish citizens who, according to the Population Information System, had their municipality of residence in Finland in the electoral district in question on the last day of the calendar month six months before the election day. Changes in the municipal division entering into force in the beginning of the election year shall be taken into account in the division of parliamentary seats. The division is carried out by dividing the number of Finnish citizens in each electoral district by the combined number of Finnish citizens in all electoral districts and multiplying this number by 199. The number of parliamentary seats for each electoral district corresponds to the whole number derived from this calculation. If all seats are not divided in this manner, the remainder of the seats are divided in descending order between the electoral districts according to the decimal fractions derived from the calculation. (1263/2007)

The Government carries out the division in good time before parliamentary elections by issuing a decision to be published in the Statute Book of Finland.

Section 7
Electoral districts in other elections

In presidential elections and elections to the European Parliament, the country forms one electoral district. In carrying out the technical arrangements for these elections, the electoral district division used in parliamentary elections is observed in the manner provided below.

In municipal elections, a municipality forms an electoral district. (563/2015)

Section 8
Voting districts

A municipality forms *a voting district* unless there are grounds for dividing it into several voting districts. The local council determines the voting districts. When making the decision, the changes in the municipal division entering into force in the beginning of the following calendar year shall be taken into account. The local council also determines which voting district those persons who do not have a registered place of residence in the Population Information System belong to.

The decision concerning the voting districts enters into force on 15 October, provided that the decision is made and notified to the local register office in the manner specified by the office in April of the same year at the latest. If a decision is made or notified to the local register office later, it enters into force on 15 October the following year. (247/2002)

If a decision to change the municipal division is made after the decision determining the voting districts, the local council or, where a ministry has made the decision, the local executive shall without undue delay review the voting district division.

A decision on the voting districts that has been notified to the local register office shall be observed regardless of an appeal submitted to an administrative court until the resolution of the appeal, unless the administrative court rules otherwise. A decision of the administrative court on the appeal is not subject to appeal. (247/2002)

Section 9
Advance polling stations and polling stations on election day

Advance polling stations are:
1) those general advance polling stations in Finland, the number and location of which the local executive determines. Unless there are specific grounds for deciding otherwise, there shall be at least one such advance polling station in each municipality;
2) Finnish diplomatic missions and their offices as determined by a government decree as well as general advance polling stations for municipal elections in the Province of Åland as specified by government decree;
3) hospitals, operational units of the social services offering round-the-clock treatment and other units determined by the local executive, as well as prisons (*institution*);
4) Finnish ships which are abroad when the advance voting is conducted.
(563/2015)

In addition, the advance voting may, under the conditions laid down below, be conducted at the voter's home (*at-home voting*).

Each voting district has *an election day polling station* determined by the local executive. For special reasons, the polling station may be located outside the voting district or the municipality, if this does not cause undue difficulty to the voters. (247/2002)

The local executive shall ensure that the name, address, opening days and daily opening hours of each general advance polling station in the municipality and the name and address of the election day polling station and other information specified by the Ministry of Justice are entered in *the polling station register* maintained by the Population Register Centre in the manner determined by the Population Register Centre without undue delay. Those general advance polling stations and election day polling stations in Finland which have been entered in the polling station register by the end of the day 51 days prior to the election shall be the polling stations used in the election

even if a claim for rectification submitted against the decision of the local executive referred to in this section has not been considered and even if the municipal appeal submitted to an administrative court seeking to amend the decision has not been resolved. A claim for rectification submitted to the local executive and a municipal appeal submitted against a decision of the local executive shall be considered urgently. A decision of the administrative court on the appeal is not subject to appeal. (247/2002)

Chapter 2
Election authorities

Section 9a (361/2016)
Impartiality of election authorities

The election authorities shall perform their duties impartially.

Section 10
Consideration of election affairs in the Government

In the Government, the Ministry of Justice acts as the highest election authority.

Section 11 (271/2013)
Constituency electoral committee

The Regional State Administrative Agency shall, in good time before parliamentary elections, appoint a constituency electoral committee for each electoral district referred to in section 5. The term of office of a constituency electoral committee continues until a new committee is appointed. The committee is appointed by the Regional State Administrative Agency in whose operational area the committee meetings are held.

The constituency electoral committee consists of a chairperson, deputy chairperson and three other members and four deputy members. Both the members and deputy members shall, insofar as possible, represent those political parties entered in the Party Register which in the previous parliamentary elections nominated candidates in the electoral district. A member or a deputy member who, according to a candidate application received by the committee, has been nominated as a candidate by a party or a constituency association cannot participate in the work of the committee in the elections in question.

The constituency electoral committee of Helsinki and the constituency electoral committee of Uusimaa hold their meetings in Helsinki, the constituency electoral committee of Varsinais-Suomi in Turku, the constituency electoral committee of Satakunta in Pori, the constituency electoral committee of Åland in Maarianhamina, the constituency electoral committee of Häme in Hämeenlinna, the constituency electoral committee of Pirkanmaa in Tampere, the constituency electoral committee of Southeast Finland in Mikkeli, the constituency electoral committee of Savo-Karjala in Kuopio, the constituency electoral committee of Vaasa in Vaasa, the constituency electoral committee of Central Finland in Jyväskylä, the constituency electoral committee of Oulu in Oulu, and the constituency electoral committee of Lapland in Rovaniemi.

Section 12 (361/2016)
Work of constituency electoral committee

The constituency electoral committee has a quorum when five members are present. If a member or a deputy member dies or is released from his or her duties, a new member or a deputy member shall be elected in his or her place for the remainder of the term of office.

Provisions on the disqualification of a member and a deputy member of a constituency electoral committee are laid down in sections 27–30 of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003).

The constituency electoral committee shall appoint a secretary and other necessary personnel. Apart from the persons who are entitled to participate in the meetings of the constituency electoral committee on the grounds of their duties referred to in this Act, the committee decides on other persons' right to be present and speak in its meetings.

Minutes shall be kept during the meetings of the constituency electoral committee. The chairperson signs and the secretary confirms the minutes and other committee documents.

Section 13
Central municipal election board

For the duration of its term of office, the local council shall appoint *a central municipal election board* for the municipality.

The central municipal election board consists of a chairperson, deputy chairperson and three other members as well as the necessary number of deputy members, of which there shall be a minimum of five. The deputy members shall be listed in the order in which they will replace the members. Both the members and deputy members shall, insofar as possible, represent the voter groups which in the previous municipal elections nominated candidates in the municipality. A member or a deputy member who, according to a candidate application received by the central municipal election board, has been nominated as a candidate by a party or a constituency association cannot participate in the work of the central electoral committee in the elections in question. (563/2015)

The provisions on the central municipal election board laid down in this Act apply, as appropriate, to the committee which in each municipality in the Province of Åland has been appointed for the purpose of conducting municipal elections and which shall act as the central municipal election board in parliamentary elections, presidential elections and elections to the European Parliament. (563/2015)

The central municipal election board shall notify the Population Register Centre of its contact information in the manner specified by the Centre. (247/2002)

Section 14 (361/2016)
Work of central municipal election board

The central municipal election board has a quorum when five members are present. If a deputy member dies or is prevented or disqualified from attending to his or her duties, the local executive may, if necessary, appoint a temporary deputy member.

Provisions on the disqualification of a member and a deputy member of the central municipal election board are laid down in sections 27–30 of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003).

The central municipal election board shall appoint a secretary and other necessary personnel. Apart from the persons who are entitled to participate in the meetings of the central electoral committee on the grounds of their duties referred to in this Act, the committee decides on other persons' right to be present and speak in its meetings.

Stipulations of the administrative regulations referred to in the Local Government Act concerning the presence of a local executive representative and the chief executive or the mayor and their right to speak at meetings as well as the procedure when a matter is referred to a higher decision-making body for consideration are not applied to the central municipal election board.

Section 15 (361/2016)
Election board and electoral commission

The local executive shall, in good time before elections, appoint:
1) *an election board* for each voting district consisting of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and three other members as well as the necessary number of deputy members, of which there shall be a minimum of three; and
2) one or more *electoral commissions* for the purpose of conducting advance voting in institutions, each consisting of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and three other members as well as the necessary number of deputy members, of which there shall be a minimum of three.

Both the members and deputy members of the election board and the electoral commission shall, insofar as possible, represent those political parties entered in the Party Register which in the previous parliamentary elections nominated candidates in the electoral district in question. However, in municipal elections, the members and deputy members shall represent the voter groups which in the previous municipal elections nominated candidates in the municipality. The deputy members of the election board and the deputy members of the electoral commission shall be listed in the order in which they will replace the members.

A candidate cannot be a member or a deputy member of an election board. A candidate or his or her spouse, child, sibling or parent cannot be a member or a deputy member of an electoral commission. A spouse refers to a married spouse, a domestic partner and a partner in a registered partnership.

The names and contact information of the chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of the election boards and electoral commissions shall be notified to the central municipal election board.

Section 16 (361/2016)
Work of election board and electoral commission

The election board and the electoral commission have a quorum when three members are present.

The provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act on disqualification are not applied to the members and deputy members of the election board and the electoral commission.

The election board shall appoint one or more polling assistants for the voting on election day. The provisions on polling assistants are laid down in section 73. The election board may appoint assistant personnel for the purpose of counting and organising the ballots as well as for the purpose of using the voting register referred to in section 77 and other information systems of the Ministry of Justice.

Stipulations of the administrative regulations referred to in the Local Government Act concerning the drafting and examining minutes and making them available, the referral of a matter to a later meeting, the presence of a local executive representative and the chief executive or the mayor and their right to speak at meetings, presentation procedure, procedure when a matter is referred to a higher decision-making body for consideration, and financial management of the municipality are not applied to the election board and the electoral commission.

Section 17 (361/2016)
Election officials

Election officials manage the at-home voting process as well as the advance voting process at the general advance polling stations in Finland, in the Finnish diplomatic missions and on Finnish ships. At least two election officials shall be appointed for each general advance polling station in Finland. Where necessary, there may be two or more election officials also at other advance polling stations.

The central municipal election board appoints the election officials for the general advance polling stations in Finland. In other cases, the election officials are as follows:
1) in Finnish diplomatic missions, the Head of Mission or a person appointed by the Head of Mission;
2) on a Finnish ship, the master of the ship or a person serving on the ship appointed by the master of the ship.

For the purpose of conducting the advance voting at a general advance polling station in Finland, at least two election officials shall be present simultaneously. For the purpose of conducting the advance voting at other advance polling stations for which two or more election officials have been appointed or assigned, it is sufficient that one election official is present. One election official conducts each individual at-home voting.

A candidate or his or her spouse, child, sibling or parent cannot act as an election official. A spouse refers to a married spouse, a domestic partner and a partner in a registered partnership. The provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act on disqualification are not applied to election officials.

A candidate or a person close to a candidate as referred to above may, however, act as an election official in a Finnish diplomatic mission or on a Finnish ship, if no other person suitable for the task is available and the advance voting could not for this reason be otherwise conducted.

Chapter 3
Voting register

Section 18 (496/2013)
Establishing a voting register and information contained in it

The Population Register Centre establishes, no later than on the 46th day before the election day, a register where each person who according to the Population Information System has the right to vote in the upcoming elections is entered in (*voting register*).

The following information on each eligible voter as it appears in the Population Information System at midnight on the 51st day before the election day is entered in the voting register:
1) personal identity code;
2) full name;

3) with the exception of municipal elections, the electoral district referred to in section 5;
4) the municipality of residence in Finland as referred to in the Municipality of Residence Act;
5) the voting district;
6) the polling station to be used on the election day and its address;
7) the mother tongue of the person, if the language is Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish or Danish;
8) with the exception of municipal elections, the country of residence, if it is not Finland;
9) the local register office in whose administrative district the municipality of residence is located;
10) the date of registration;
11) information on an order of non-disclosure for personal safety reasons referred to in section 36 of the Act on the Population Information System and the certificate services of the Population Register Centre (661/2009).
(563/2015)

If an eligible voter does not have a municipality of residence in Finland 51 days prior to the election day, the population registration municipality referred to in the Municipality of Residence Act is entered in the voting register instead of the municipality of residence. If the said municipality is no longer part of the territory of Finland, the city of Helsinki is entered in the voting register instead. If a citizen of another state who is entitled to vote in the elections to the European Parliament or the municipal elections does not have a municipality of residence in Finland, the population registration municipality is entered in the voting register instead of the municipality of residence. In these cases, the eligible voter belongs to the voting district determined by the local council under section 8, subsection 1 for those persons who do not have a registered place of residence in the Population Information System. (563/2015)

After the voting register has been established, the following information concerning an eligible voter shall be entered in the register:
1) information on the death of the person, if the person has died;
2) an entry stating that the person has been entered in the voting register as ineligible to vote in the manner laid down in section 26;
3) information on any claims for rectification and decisions issued in the matter;
4) information on whether the eligible voter has exercised his or her right to vote;
5) information on an order of non-disclosure for personal safety reasons referred to in subsection 2, paragraph 11 above, if the order has been entered in the Population Information System after the voting register was established.

A citizen of another Member State of the European Union who has the right to vote in elections to the European Parliament in Finland is entered in the voting register for the elections to the European Parliament, if the person has filed a written notification stating that he or she wishes to exercise his or her right to vote in the elections in Finland. Furthermore, it is required that the person has not, if he or she has had a permanent municipality of residence in Finland after filing the notification, withdrawn the notification. The notification and the withdrawal of the notification shall be made to the local register office by 16.00 at least 80 days before the election day.

Section 19
***Additional information to be entered in voting register in municipal elections and elections to the European Parliament* (563/2015)**

In municipal elections, the following information on each person who is not a citizen of Finland but who has the right to vote is entered in the voting register in addition to what is provided in section 18, subsection 2:
1) nationality;

2) if the person is not a citizen of another Member State of the European Union, Iceland or Norway, the period of time the person has continuously had a municipality of residence in Finland. (563/2015)

In addition to what is provided in section 18, subsection 2, the nationality of each eligible voter is entered in the voting register in elections to the European Parliament, if the person is not a citizen of Finland.

Section 20
Use of voting register in presidential elections

In presidential elections, the same voting register is used in the first and second round of the election.

Section 21
Polling card

The Population Register Centre compiles *a polling card* concerning each person entered in the voting register. The card includes:
1) the information referred to in section 18, subsection 2, paragraphs 2, 5 and 6;
2) the address of the eligible voter as it appears in the Population Information System at midnight 51 days before the election day;
3) information stating in which elections and in which voting district or municipality the recipient of the polling card is entitled to vote;
4) information on the election day and the advance voting period;
5) contact information of the central municipal election board and the local register office which is given as the sender of the card;
6) information on the register or the information system on which the information included in the card is based; and
7) instructions drawn up by the Ministry of Justice on the use of the polling card and on the voting procedure. (1263/2007)

In addition, the information referred to in section 18, subsections 2 and 3 may be given in the polling card in optically readable form, insofar as this is necessary.

The polling card is compiled so that it can be used as a covering letter in advance voting with the exception of at-home voting. Additional information on the voting procedure and the body to be elected in the elections, drawn up by the Ministry of Justice, may be included in the polling card. (1263/2007)

The Population Register Centre shall ensure that the polling cards are sent on the 24th day before the election day at the latest to the eligible voters with a known address. In elections to the European Parliament, however, a polling card is not sent to a person who has been entered in the voting register as ineligible to vote by the Population Register Centre in accordance with section 26, subsection 5.

In presidential elections, two polling cards are sent to the eligible voters, one for each round of the election.

Section 22 (563/2015)
Informing citizens of other Member States of the European Union in municipal elections and elections to the European Parliament

Insofar as this is possible, the Population Register Centre shall, in an appropriate manner and in good time before municipal elections and elections to the European Parliament, inform all citizens of other Member States of the European Union who fulfil the conditions laid down for the eligible voters that these persons will, according to the information contained in the Population Information System, have the right to vote in the elections and that they will be eligible to stand as candidates. These persons shall also be informed of the procedure which is necessary in order for them to exercise their right to vote and to meet the candidate eligibility requirements.

Section 23 (496/2013)
Inspection of information in voting register

With the exception of the personal identity code, the information entered in the voting register under section 18, subsections 2 and 3 and section 19 are displayed for inspection at the local register offices, where they may be obtained free of charge by phone, and at other locations determined by the Population Register Centre during office hours on working days as of the 41st day before the election day.

The local register offices may issue extracts from the voting register. An extract is given free of charge to the person whose information is contained in the extract and to the authority referred to in this Act.

The Population Register Centre shall, in the Official Gazette or by other means considered suitable, inform the public of where the information contained in the voting register is available and how they can submit a claim for rectification.

If information on an order of non-disclosure for personal safety reasons, as referred to in section 18, subsection 2, paragraph 11 and in section 18, subsection 4, paragraph 5, has been entered in the voting register, only the information referred to in section 18, subsection 2, paragraphs 2, 7 and 10 of this Act may be displayed for inspection.

Section 24
Rectification request

A person who considers that he or she has been unlawfully omitted from the voting register or that the register entry concerning him or her is erroneous may submit a written rectification request to the local register office 16 days before the election day by 16.00 at the latest.

A rectification request may also be based on such factors affecting the right to vote which have occurred after the voting register was established.

If a notification of change of address as referred to in the Municipality of Residence Act filed by an eligible voter reaches the local register office later than 51 days before the election day, the person cannot request rectification of the information concerning him or her referred to in section 18, subsection 2, paragraphs 3–6 contained in the voting register based on this notification of change of address.

A rectification request may be submitted by using a form provided for this purpose. The Population Register Centre shall ensure that the local register offices and other locations which display the information contained in the voting register have these forms printed or copied.

Section 25
Decision of local register office

The local register office shall issue a decision on the rectification request by the 13th day before the election day at the latest and make any possible changes in the voting register by 12.00 on the 12th day before the election day at the latest.

The local register office shall, without delay, inform the party that has requested rectification of its decision. The decision shall be sent as a registered letter, but it may also be delivered in any other verifiable mode, if this does not cause a delay. If the decision involves entering the person in the voting register, the local register office shall at the same time deliver to him or her a polling card. If the recipient's postal address is unknown, the decision shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Section 26
Rectification by the Population Register Centre or a local register office

If the Population Register Centre or a local register office considers that someone has been unlawfully omitted from or included in the voting register, or if a register entry concerning someone is erroneous, it has the right, by virtue of office, to add the person to the register, list him or her as ineligible to vote or correct the erroneous entry. Changes shall be made by 12.00 on the 12th day before the election day at the latest.

When listing a person as ineligible to vote in the voting register, a written decision on this shall be issued and served on the person concerned in the manner provided in section 25, subsection 2. However, no written decision shall be made if the person is deceased or has been pronounced dead after the establishment of the voting register.

When adding a person to the voting register, a polling card shall be sent to him or her without delay.

When correcting an erroneous entry in the register, the person concerned shall be notified of this without delay, unless this is manifestly unnecessary.

If the Population Register Centre has, before the voting register for elections to the European Parliament became legally valid, received a notice from an authority in another Member State of the European Union stating that a person listed as eligible to vote in the voting register has been listed in the electoral roll for the same elections in the said state, it shall without delay ensure that the person concerned is listed in the voting register as ineligible to vote.

Section 27 (300/2009)
Appeal to administrative court

A decision of a local register office rejecting or dismissing a rectification request and a decision of the Population Register Centre or a local register office referred to in section 26, subsection 2 may be appealed against to an administrative court. The appeal shall be lodged at the latest on the seventh day after the person concerned has been served with the decision or the decision has been published in the Official Gazette. An appeal addressed to the administrative court may within the appeal period be delivered to a local register office, which then forwards it to the

administrative court. In other respects, the provisions of the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996) apply to the appeal.

The administrative court shall, without delay, inform the appellant and the local register office of its decision. If the decision involves entering the concerned person in the voting register or changing the information concerning him or her, the administrative court shall without delay also inform the Population Register Centre of the decision. The Centre is responsible for making the required changes in the voting register. If the administrative court issues such a decision after 19.00 on the fourth day before the election day, it shall without delay deliver the decision also to the central electoral committee of the municipality in question, which shall enclose it to the electoral roll referred to in section 71. If the appeal has been rejected or dismissed, the administrative court shall inform the Population Register Centre of this, and the Centre shall make an entry of it in the voting register.

A decision of the administrative court referred to in this section is not subject to appeal.

Section 28 (496/2013)
Validity of voting register

The voting register enters into force at 12.00 on the 12th day before the election day.

The legally valid voting register shall be adhered to without alterations. The voting register is considered legally valid even if an administrative court has not issued a decision on an appeal lodged with the court before the voting register entered into force.

If someone has, manifestly erroneously, been listed in the voting register as ineligible to vote under section 26, subsection 1 or 5, the Population Register Centre may delete the entry from a legally valid register.

A person who on the election day provides the election board with a decision of an administrative court or the Supreme Administrative Court stating that he or she is entitled to vote, has the right to cast a vote. The person is obliged to submit the decision or a copy of it to the election board.

Section 29
Use of voting register

Information on when and where an eligible voter has voted is entered in the voting register as provided in chapters 5 and 6. The entry may be made by an election official of a general advance polling station in Finland, the chairperson of the electoral commission, the election board, the central municipal election board or the local register office on the request of the central municipal election board. If the entry is found to be incorrect, it may only be corrected by the central municipal election board or, on its request, by the local register office.

Entries relating to voting are not public before the voting on the election day has ended. If a second round is conducted in the presidential election, the entries relating to the voting on the first round of the election do not become public until the voting on the election day of the second round has ended. (247/2002)
After the result of the election has become final, records determined by the Ministry of Justice are printed from the voting register for archive use. Thereafter, the Population Register Centre destroys the information in the register.

Chapter 4
Election authorities' duties in nomination of candidates

Section 30
Nomination of candidates

Provisions on the nomination of candidates by political parties entered in the Party Register (*party*) and by constituency associations established by eligible voters, on the application for publishing a list of candidates in a master list of candidates and the application for including a candidate in the list of presidential candidates (*candidate applications*), as well as on the delivery of the applications to the authority processing the candidate applications are laid down in Part II.

Section 31 (563/2015)
Authority processing candidate applications

The candidate applications are processed by:
1) the constituency electoral committee in parliamentary elections;
2) the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki in presidential elections and elections to the European Parliament;
3) the central municipal election board in municipal elections.

Section 32 (431/2010)
Notifications concerning political parties

The Ministry of Justice shall, no later than on the 55th day before the election day of the presidential election and on the 48th day before the election day of other elections, notify the authorities processing the candidate applications, with the exception of the constituency electoral committee of Åland, of the parties that have been entered in the Party Register and of the persons who are the authorised signatories for a given party.

Section 33 (431/2010)
Statutory meetings of authorities

An authority processing candidate applications holds a meeting at the invitation of the chairperson in good time and at the latest on the 55th day before the election day of the presidential election and on the 48th day before the election day of other elections, and thereafter, if there are matters to be dealt with, on the 47th, 41st, 39th and 38th day before the election day of the presidential election and on the 40th, 34th, 32nd and 31st day before the election day of other elections, on the election day, the day after the election day and on the 3rd day after the election day, as well as at any other time if there are matters to be dealt with.

Section 34 (431/2010)
Submission of documents and a public notice of this

In a meeting to be held no later than on the 55th day before the election day of the presidential election and on the 48th day before the election day of other elections, the authority processing candidate applications shall determine to whom, on which dates and at which times and where the candidate applications and other documents relating to the nomination of candidates intended for the authority shall be submitted.

A public notice of the details concerning the submission of documents shall be served on the polling representatives appointed by the parties and displayed in the meeting facilities of the

authority as well as published, in municipal elections in the manner in which municipal notices normally are made available and in other elections in the Official Gazette. (563/2015)

Section 35
Obligation to check documents

The authority processing candidate applications shall check whether candidate applications and notifications of electoral alliances and joint lists have been submitted to it within the period of time determined in this Act and whether the documents have been drawn up in the form determined in and under this Act, as well as whether the candidates are eligible and whether there are any other statutory impediments to their candidacy.

It is not the duty of the authority processing the candidate applications to examine how the vote by members and the nomination procedures have been conducted within the political party or in its district, local or other organisation, or how the vote has been conducted in a municipal association representing the party members.

Section 36 (431/2010)
Processing and making remarks on candidate applications

Candidate applications and their appendices are checked in the meeting to be held on the 41st day before the election day of the presidential election and on the 34th day before the election day of other elections.

If a candidate application or a notification of electoral alliance has not been submitted to the authority within the determined period of time, it is not checked.

Remark shall be made to the polling representative of a political party, joint list or constituency association not belonging to a joint list without delay, if:
1) the candidate application or notice of electoral alliance has not been drawn up in compliance with what is provided in and under this Act, or the documents required under this Act have not been appended to the candidate application;
2) the candidate application documents are considered not to comply with the law for a reason other than that referred to in paragraph 1; or
3) such a candidate has been nominated who is not eligible or who has been nominated in two or more lists in the same elections.

Section 37
Determining the order of candidates

The order in which the parties, joint lists and constituency associations will appear in the master list of candidates and the order in which the candidates will appear in the list of presidential candidates are determined in the meeting referred to in section 36.

In parliamentary elections, municipal elections and elections to the European Parliament, a draw is conducted to determine:
1) the mutual order of the electoral alliances and parties that do not belong to any electoral alliance;
2) the mutual order of the parties that together have formed an electoral alliance; and
3) the mutual order of the joint lists.
(563/2015)

Constituency associations not belonging to a joint list are listed in alphabetical order.

In presidential elections, the order of the candidates is determined by a draw in the first round of the election, and the candidates are accordingly assigned a number starting with the number 2. The Chancellor of Justice shall be present at the draw. In the second round of the election, the candidates have the same number as in the first round.

Section 38 (431/2010)
Measures by polling representatives due to remarks

The polling representatives who have received remarks have the right to make any necessary rectifications due to the remarks and supplement the candidate application and the appended documents before 16.00 on the 39th day before the election day of the presidential election and before 16.00 on the 32nd day before the election day of other elections. Within the same period of time, the polling representatives have the right to make changes to the name, title, occupation or position, or municipality of residence of the candidate. If the remark concerns a notice of electoral alliance, the polling representatives of the parties have the right to supply a joint written proposal in order to correct the notice of electoral alliance.

If the remark was made for a reason specified in section 36, subsection 3, paragraph 3, the polling representative has the right to remove the candidate referred to in the said section within the period of time laid down in subsection 1 of this section.

Section 39 (431/2010)
Decisions on candidate applications

The candidate applications and their appendices that have arrived within the determined period of time are reviewed again in the meeting held on the 39th day before the election day of the presidential election and on the 32nd day before the election day of other elections. On the same occasion, decisions on the candidate applications as well as on the notices of electoral alliances and joint lists are made.

Those candidate applications and notices of electoral alliances and joint lists that have been received within the determined period of time and concerning which no remarks have been made shall be accepted.

Section 40 (431/2010)
Measures to be taken after decisions on candidate applications

If a remark referred to in section 38, subsection 2 has been made and no satisfactory notice of rectification has been supplied, or if a notice of removing the said candidate has not been delivered within the determined period of time, or if the candidate has deceased, the candidate shall not be included in the master list of candidates or in the list of presidential candidates. The polling representative of a party, constituency association or joint list is obliged without delay to notify the authority processing the applications of the death of a candidate.

A party or a constituency association whose notice of participating in an electoral alliance or a joint list has not been accepted has the right to withdraw its candidate application. The polling representative of a party or a constituency association shall submit a written notice of withdrawal to the authority processing the applications by 12.00 on the 31st day before the election day at the latest. The approval of the candidate application shall be dealt with again in consequence of the withdrawal.

Decisions in matters referred to in this section are made in the meeting held on the 38th day before the election day of the presidential election and on the 31st day before the election day of other elections, before compiling the list of presidential candidates or the master list of candidates.

Section 41 (496/2013)
Compilation of master list of candidates

The authority processing the candidate applications shall, in its meeting held on the 31st day before the election day starting at 16.00 at the latest, compile *a master list of candidates*, which contains the following information printed on the same side of a sheet:
1) a common heading to clarify for which elections the list has been compiled; and
2) the candidate lists of parties, the joint lists and the candidate lists of constituency associations not belonging to a joint list.

The candidate lists of parties not belonging to an electoral alliance and of the parties that have established an electoral alliance, as well as joint lists and candidate lists of constituency associations not belonging to a joint list are placed in the order referred to in section 37, subsections 2 and 3 so that first the candidate lists of parties are grouped from left to right, then the joint lists are grouped in the same manner and lastly the candidate lists of constituency associations not belonging to a joint list are placed one below the other in alphabetical order. The candidates are assigned a number in this order starting with the number 2.

If the number of parties, electoral alliances and joint lists is so large that grouping them from left to right would significantly impair the legibility of the master list, they or part of them may also be grouped one below the other following the order of the draw. The candidate lists of parties that form an electoral alliance shall be clearly enough distinguished from the candidate lists of parties that do not belong to any electoral alliance. It shall be indicated below the candidate lists of parties in an electoral alliance that the said parties form an electoral alliance.

Information on the candidates of parties and joint lists is given below the name of the party or the joint list in question grouped in one or two columns from top to bottom. Information on the candidates not belonging to a joint list is given in the farthest right, one below the other in numerical order and clearly distinguished from each other.

Each candidate's number, name as well as title, occupation or position using a maximum of two expressions and, in other elections than municipal elections, the municipality of residence are given in the master list. The first name of the candidate may be supplemented or replaced with a generally known other name or shortened name. Any other information about the candidate must not be given, unless this is necessary to specify the identity of the candidate. Personal identity codes are not given in the master list. (563/2015)

The names of the parties are given in the master list of candidates in compliance with the provisions of section 4 of the Act on Political Parties (10/1969) and section 9, subsection 2 of the Associations Act (503/1989). The name suggested for a joint list is given in the master list, or if the name does not comply with the provisions of Part II or if no name has been suggested, the authority processing the candidate applications assigns a name that merely signifies the order of the joint list in the master list with respect to the other joint lists. No name is given for constituency associations that do not belong to a joint list.

Section 42 (431/2010)
Lists of presidential candidates

After the Ministry of Justice has been notified of the candidates, the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki compiles, in its meeting held on the 38th day before the election day, *the list of presidential candidates*. The provisions on the master list of candidates in section 41 apply, as appropriate, to the list of presidential candidates.

If a second round of the presidential election is conducted, the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki compiles, without delay, a list of presidential candidates for the second round. In this list of candidates, the candidates are listed in the same order and with the same numbers as in the list of candidates for the first round. In other respects, the provisions of section 41 on the master list of candidates apply to the list of presidential candidates for the second round.

Section 43 (496/2013)
National candidate register

The Ministry of Justice establishes a register which contains all the candidates included in the master lists of candidates in the entire country in the elections in question or the candidates in the list of presidential candidates (*national candidate register*).

The authority processing the candidate applications shall, on the 38th day before the election day of the presidential election and on the 31st day before the election day of other elections, ensure that the national candidate register contains the information given about a candidate in the master list of candidates or in the list of presidential candidates, as well as the candidate's age on the election day and personal identity code.

The information contained in the candidate register is available free of charge to the candidate, the party and joint list that nominated the candidate, and to the authorities referred to in this Act.

If necessary, the Ministry of Justice provides a printout of the national candidate register containing the information concerning each candidate in a certain electoral district or municipality that is included in the master list of candidates. The Ministry shall ensure that a sufficient number of printouts are distributed to the central municipal election boards, electoral commissions, election officials of the advance polling stations in Finland as well as to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to be distributed to the Finnish diplomatic missions and Finnish ships serving as advance polling stations.

Section 44
Distribution and notification of master list of candidates and list of presidential candidates

The constituency electoral committee shall distribute a sufficient number of master lists of candidates in parliamentary elections
1) to the central municipal election boards in the electoral district in question to be distributed to the election boards, electoral commissions and election officials as well as to the local executives of the municipalities in the electoral district;
2) to other constituency electoral committees to be distributed to the central municipal election boards, election commissions and election officials of the general advance polling stations in these electoral districts;
3) to the polling representatives of parties, joint lists and constituency associations not belonging to a joint list which have nominated candidates in the electoral district; and

4) to the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, to be distributed to the election officials of advance polling stations abroad.

The master lists of candidates shall also be kept available to the public.

The central municipal election board shall inform the voters of the master list of candidates in municipal elections, or of the information therein, or of where the master list can be viewed in the manner in which municipal notices are normally made public as well as by displaying a notice in the meeting facilities of the central electoral committee. A sufficient number of the master lists shall be distributed well before the elections to the local executive, the election boards, the electoral commissions and the election officials in the general advance polling stations located in the municipality. In addition, the master lists shall be distributed to the polling representatives of the parties, joint lists and constituency associations not belonging to a joint list which have nominated candidates. The master lists shall also be kept available to the residents of the municipality. (563/2015)

The constituency electoral committee of Helsinki is responsible for distributing the master list of candidates in elections to the European Parliament and the list of presidential candidates in compliance with, as appropriate, the provisions in subsection 1 on the distribution of the master list of candidates in parliamentary elections. If the list of presidential candidates for the second round of the presidential election cannot be delivered to an advance polling station before the beginning of the advance voting in the second round, the election official and the electoral commission shall ensure that the information contained in the list of candidates is on display at the advance polling station as required by the Ministry of Justice. (247/2002)

Section 45
Prohibition of appeal

Decisions referred to in this chapter, with the exception of decisions concerning information to be provided from the candidate register, are not subject to appeal.

Chapter 5
Advance voting

Section 46 (431/2010)
Right to vote in advance

Every eligible voter may vote in advance at the general advance polling stations in Finland and in the Finnish diplomatic missions abroad.

An eligible voter who is in hospital, in a facility with round-the-clock treatment or another operational unit of social services designated by the local executive as an advance polling station or in a penal institution may vote in advance in the said institution. An eligible voter who is a member of the crew on a Finnish ship may vote in advance on board the ship while it is in foreign waters.

Eligible voters whose ability to move or function is limited to the degree that they are unable to come to the polling or advance polling station without undue difficulty may, under the provisions of section 55, vote in advance at their home in Finland in that municipality which has been entered in the voting register as their municipality of residence. An informal caregiver referred to in the Act on Support for Informal Care (937/2005) of a person entitled to vote at home, living in the same

household, may also vote at home, if the municipality in question is entered in the voting register as the informal caregiver's municipality of residence.

Section 47 (247/2002)
Advance voting period

The advance voting begins on the 11th day before the election day and ends abroad on the 8th day and in Finland on the 5th day before the election day. However, on board a Finnish ship the advance voting may, with the exception of the second round of the presidential election, begin already on the 18th day before the election day.

A general advance polling station in Finland is open for advance voting on all days during the time period referred to in subsection 1, unless for special reasons otherwise determined by a decision of the local executive.

The period of time allowed for advance voting in Finnish diplomatic missions and their offices may, as provided by government decree, be shorter than what is provided in subsection 1.

Section 48 (496/2013)
Advance voting times

Advance voting is conducted during the advance voting period:
1) at a general advance polling station in Finland at the times determined by a decision of the local executive, which may not be before 8.00 or after 20.00 on weekdays or before 10.00 or after 18.00 on Saturdays and Sundays;
2) in a Finnish diplomatic mission on each day at the times determined by the Head of Mission, with the exception of Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Whit Sunday, Midsummer Day, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and Boxing Day;
3) in an institution on a minimum of one day and a maximum of two days at the times determined by the electoral commission;
4) on board a Finnish ship on a minimum of one day at the times determined by the master of the ship;
5) in at-home voting at a specified time between 9.00 and 20.00 which the voter has been informed about.

In addition to what is provided in subsection 1, paragraph 1, advance voting is not conducted on New Year’s Eve and New Year's Day, Epiphany, Easter Sunday, May Day Eve and May Day, Ascension Day, Whit Sunday, Midsummer Eve and Midsummer Day, Independence Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Boxing Day.

An eligible voter who has arrived at an advance polling station within the time frame referred to in subsection 1 but has not been able to cast a vote during that time, may vote after the said time.

Section 48a (247/2002)
Advance voting facilities

The central municipal election board shall ensure that all general advance polling stations in Finland determined as such by a decision of the local executive have appropriate *advance voting facilities* and the necessary equipment.

The advance polling station shall also allow sufficient room for the voters that are waiting for their turn to vote.

Section 49
Informing about advance voting

The central municipal election board shall provide information about the general advance polling stations located in the municipality and about the voting times in the manner in which municipal notices are normally made public.

The election officials and the electoral commission are responsible for providing information about the voting times and arrangements for advance voting by posting notices at the advance polling station or, if necessary, by other suitable means. (247/2002)

The Ministry of Justice shall, in an adequate and suitable manner, provide information about the general advance polling stations and the voting times at these polling stations. (247/2002)

Section 50
Advance voting documents

The ballot, ballot envelope, covering letter and envelope for the covering letter (*advance voting documents*) provided by the Ministry of Justice shall be used in advance voting.

The polling card referred to in section 21 or a separate covering letter form shall be used as the covering letter. However, a separate covering letter form for at-home voting shall be used when voting at home.

Section 51 (300/2009)
Ballot

The ballot to be used in elections shall be printed on white paper, unless otherwise provided in subsection 3. The ballot shall include clear instructions on how to fold it, and it shall guarantee election secrecy.

The ballot shall be of standard size 148 x 210 mm. A heading stating which elections the ballot is for and a circle with a diameter of 90 mm, which itself is not folded when the ballot is folded, shall be printed on the inside. The abbreviation N:o shall be clearly printed in the middle of the circle to indicate where the voter shall mark the number of the candidate he or she wishes to vote for. The ballot must not contain any other markings.

If some other elections are held at the same time with statutory elections, the Ministry of Justice decides the colour of the ballot to be used in these other elections.

Section 52
Election stamp

The ballots are stamped with an election stamp, which is identical at all polling and advance polling stations. The stamp is approved by the Ministry of Justice, which has the stamps made and provides the central municipal election boards with instructions on the acquisition and storage of the stamps.

Section 53
Delivery of documents and election stamps

The Ministry of Justice shall well before the beginning of the advance voting period deliver, complete with the necessary instructions, the advance voting documents and forms for lists of voters to the election officials of general advance polling stations in Finland and to the central municipal election boards to be forwarded to electoral commissions. These documents and forms shall also be delivered to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to be forwarded to the Finnish diplomatic missions serving as advance polling stations and to the masters of Finnish ships.

The central municipal election board shall deliver election stamps to the election officials of the general advance polling stations in the municipality and to the electoral commissions. The central municipal election board of the city of Helsinki shall also deliver stamps to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to be forwarded to the diplomatic missions and masters of ships.

The master of the ship shall order the advance voting documents, the forms for the lists of voters and the election stamp from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs or from a Finnish diplomatic mission.

Section 54
Person present in at-home voting

The election official shall in connection with at-home voting ensure that, besides himself or herself, a person over 18 years of age appointed or approved by the voter, not acting in the capacity of an election official, is present in the at-home voting. A person standing as a candidate in the elections in question may not act in this capacity.

Section 55 (431/2010)
Preparatory measures for at-home voting

Persons entitled to vote at home shall, in writing or by telephone, notify the central municipal election board in their municipality of residence of their willingness to vote in advance at home by 16.00 on the 12th day before the election day. The notice may be submitted on the voter's behalf by a person appointed by the voter. The written notice, which shall be signed, may be made using the form provided for this purpose.

The following shall be included in the notice:
1) the voter's full name, personal identity code, address, municipality of residence, telephone number and, if the notice is drawn up by a person appointed by the voter, the name and contact information of this person;
2) information stating that the voter's ability to move and function is limited to the degree that he or she is unable to come to the polling or advance polling station without undue difficulty, and that he or she wishes therefore to vote in advance at home;
3) whether the voter himself or herself can arrange a person referred to in section 54 to be present in at-home voting; and
4) the full name, personal identity code and telephone number of an informal caregiver referred to in section 46, subsection 3 as well as information on the validity of the informal care contract, if the informal caregiver also wishes to vote at home.

The election official shall, if possible and necessary, remove any errors in the notice and ensure that the notice has been drawn up by the said voter or the person appointed by the voter.
The chairperson of the central municipal election board shall ensure that the voter is without delay notified either in writing or by telephone of the time at which the election official will arrive at his

or her home, with an accuracy of at least two hours. The telephone number of the election authorities shall be provided in the notification in case the voter wishes to contact the authorities. If the election official is prevented from coming at the notified time, the voter shall immediately be informed of this and of the time of a new visit.

If it has not been possible to remove such an error in the notification that affects the voting procedure, or if the notification to the central municipal election board has been made after the determined time limit has expired, or if it is not possible to conduct the at-home voting at all due to a breakdown in transport services or another force majeure, the voter shall be notified in the manner determined in subsection 4 that the at-home voting will not be conducted.

Section 56
Order at advance polling station

It is prohibited to give speeches, display or distribute printed or written exhortations or in some other way influence or try to influence the voters' electoral freedom at an advance polling station or in its immediate vicinity. (247/2002)

Voting at an advance polling station is to be organised in a manner that maintains the election secrecy. Those present shall follow the orders given by the election official or the electoral commission to maintain order and to secure the undisturbed conduct of the voting.

If the voter's electoral freedom or the undisturbed conduct of the voting cannot be secured in at-home voting, the election official shall discontinue the voting. An entry of the discontinuation and, if the voting cannot be completed, also of the termination of the voting shall be made in the list of at-home voting.

Section 57
Commencement of advance voting at advance polling station

An eligible voter who wishes to vote in advance shall report to the election official or the electoral commission at the advance polling station. Where necessary, advance voting conducted in an institution shall be organised in different units and patient rooms.

The voter is obliged to present a proof of his or her identity to the election official or the electoral commission. Thereafter, he or she is given a ballot, a ballot envelope and a covering envelope and, if needed, a covering letter form.

The voter shall be provided with an opportunity to familiarise himself or herself with the master list of candidates for his or her electoral district or municipality, compiled especially for the election in question, with the master list of candidates for the election to the European Parliament, or with the list of presidential candidates, or with the national candidate register or a printout thereof.

Section 58 (361/2016)
Voting in advance

A voter has in parliamentary elections and municipal elections the right to vote for a candidate in the master list of candidates for the electoral district or municipality in which the voter is registered as eligible voter in the election in question, in elections to the European Parliament to vote for a candidate in the master lists of candidates, and in the presidential election to vote for a candidate in the list of presidential candidates.

The voter shall mark the number of the candidate he or she is voting for in the ballot in such a manner that there can be no uncertainty as to whom he or she has voted for. The marking shall be made in the voting booth or somewhere else in a manner that maintains the election secrecy.

On the request of the voter, an election official or a member of the electoral commission shall assist him or her in the voting. A person whose ability to mark the ballot is essentially weakened may, during the voting, use the help of an assistant he or she has chosen. A candidate or his or her spouse, child, sibling or parent cannot act as an assistant. A spouse refers to a married spouse, a domestic partner and a partner in a registered partnership. The assistant shall conscientiously comply with the directions of the voter and keep secret the information received in connection to voting.

Section 59 (496/2013)
Covering letter

The covering letter shall be addressed to the central electoral committee of that municipality which is entered in the voting register next to the voter.

The covering letter shall contain the following information on the voter:
1) full name;
2) personal identity code, if a marking referred to in section 60, subsection 2 is made on the covering letter;
3) personal identity code or date of birth and the current address, if a separate covering letter form or covering letter form for at-home voting, on which no marking referred to in section 60, subsection 2 is made, is used as the covering letter.

The voter shall sign a declaration on the covering letter stating that he or she himself or herself has, maintaining the election secrecy, filled in the ballot and enclosed it stamped in the ballot envelope.

In at-home voting, the voter shall also sign a declaration on the covering letter form for at-home voting stating that his or her ability to move or act is limited to the degree that he or she cannot go to the polling or advance polling station without undue difficulty.

Section 60
Conclusion of advance voting

The voter shall give the folded ballot to the election official or, in an institution, to the electoral commission to be stamped and, immediately after the ballot is stamped, enclose it in the ballot envelope in front of the election authority. The closed ballot envelope, on which no markings are to be made, and the signed covering letter shall thereafter be given to the election official or the electoral commission.

When the voting register is used at the advance polling station, the election official or the chairperson of the electoral commission shall:
1) check in the register that the voter has the right to vote;
2) make an entry in the register indicating that the voter has used his or her right to vote; and
3) make a marking on the covering letter in the manner determined by the Ministry of Justice indicating that the entry referred to in paragraph 2 has been made in the register (*marking on the covering letter*), in which case the name of the institution, if the voting has been conducted in an institution, shall not be indicated on the marking.

When the voting register is not used at the advance polling station, a list of voters shall be kept.

Section 61 (247/2002)
Election authorities' duties at the end of advance voting

The election official or the chairperson of the electoral commission shall sign an attestation on the covering letter stating that the voting has been conducted as provided by law, and if no marking referred to in section 60, subsection 2 is made on the covering letter, also enter the date and the name of the advance polling station or, if advance voting has been conducted in an institution or as at-home voting, the name of the municipality where the voting has been conducted. The election official for at-home voting shall also ensure that the person present in at-home voting as referred to in section 54 signs the covering letter. Thereafter, the ballot envelope and the covering letter shall be enclosed in the covering envelope. The election official and the electoral commission shall store the covering envelopes in their possession in a careful and reliable manner.

Section 62
Delivery of covering envelopes to central municipal election board

The election official and the electoral commission of a general advance polling station in Finland shall ensure that the covering envelopes addressed to the municipality's own central electoral committee are without delay delivered to the central electoral committee in the manner determined by it, and that the covering envelopes addressed to the central electoral committees of other municipalities are without delay delivered to these central electoral committees by mail or by another reliable means. The election official and the electoral commission shall obtain a receipt from the person to whom the covering envelopes are handed over stating that he or she has received the covering envelopes. (247/2002)

The election official of a Finnish ship shall without delay deliver the covering envelopes to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs or to a Finnish diplomatic mission in the country where the ship is or where it first arrives. The election official in a Finnish diplomatic mission, or, if the mission does not serve as an advance polling station, the Head of Mission, shall ensure that the covering envelopes that have been given there or that have arrived there are delivered to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in a manner determined by it. The Ministry shall ensure that the covering envelopes are delivered without delay to the central electoral committee of the municipality in question, complying with the provisions of section 62, subsection 1, where applicable.

Section 63
Inspection of advance voting documents

The advance voting documents that have arrived at the central municipal election board shall be inspected without opening the ballot envelopes in meetings which are to be held so that the advance voting documents that have arrived before 19.00 on the Friday preceding the election day can be dealt with in these meetings. Covering envelopes that arrive after the determined time limit are left unopened and disregarded.

A vote shall be disregarded, if:
1) the person who has voted in advance has not been entered in the voting register;
2) a marking concerning the voter or a candidate or another inappropriate marking has been made on the ballot envelope; (247/2002)
3) the covering letter is so deficient or unclear that it is not possible to be certain of whether the voting has taken place as provided by law or who the voter is, or;
4) in at-home voting, the signature referred in section 54 is missing from the covering letter.

If a vote is disregarded, information on this shall be entered in the minutes that are kept of the meeting, and the disregarded ballot envelope with its covering letter and envelope shall be enclosed to the minutes.

If a covering letter with no marking referred to in section 60, subsection 2 on it and a ballot envelope enclosed to it can be accepted, an entry indicating that the voter specified in the covering letter has used his or her right to vote shall be made in the voting register. If the acceptance takes place later than at 19.00 on the 4th day before the election day, a marking indicating that the person specified in the covering letter has voted shall also be made in the electoral roll in the manner determined by the Ministry of Justice. If the central municipal election board has for special reasons, under section 71, subsection 3, been delivered electoral rolls printed from the voting register immediately after it had become legally valid, the marking is to be made only on the electoral roll.

After the advance voting documents have been inspected, the central municipal election board shall sort the accepted ballot envelopes by voting districts, count the number of ballot envelopes by voting districts, and enter the numbers in the minutes. The accepted ballot envelopes, sorted by voting districts and separated from the covering letters, shall be kept unopened in a safe place. (247/2002)

Section 64 (247/2002)
Delivery of ballot envelopes to constituency electoral committee

In other elections than municipal elections, the central municipal election board shall pack the ballot envelopes, sorted by voting districts, in a durable wrapping. Information about the number of ballot envelopes in the groups into which they have been sorted shall be enclosed to the consignment. The consignment shall be sealed and marked with the address of the constituency electoral committee and the sender. The consignment shall urgently be delivered to the constituency electoral committee in the manner determined by it. (563/2015)

If the central municipal election board determines, under section 82, that the advance votes of a certain voting district are to be counted together with the election day votes of the same district, it shall without delay notify the constituency electoral committee of this. In such a case, the ballot envelopes of the voting district in question are not delivered to the constituency electoral committee.

Section 65
Returning of election stamps

After the advance voting has ended, the election stamps are returned from the advance polling stations of the municipality to the central municipal election board. The election stamps that have been used by election officials at advance polling stations abroad are returned to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which delivers them to the central electoral committee of the city of Helsinki.

Section 66
Prohibition of appeal in matters concerning advance voting

Decisions by the election authorities referred to in this Chapter are not separately subject to appeal.

Chapter 6
Voting on election day

Section 67
Conducting the voting on election day

The voting on election day is conducted simultaneously in all municipalities and voting districts. An eligible voter is only allowed to vote in the voting district entered in the voting register next to his or her name.

The election boards are responsible for organising the voting in each voting district.

The central municipal election board shall inform the voters of the election day and of the polling stations in the voting districts in the manner in which municipal notices are normally made available.

Provisions on the election day are laid down in Part II.

Section 68
Voting time

Voting on election day begins at 9.00 and continues without interruption until 20.00.

All voters who have arrived at the polling station before 20.00 to wait for their turn to vote are entitled to vote. The waiting room shall be closed at 20.00. Before this, the voters present shall be informed about the closing.

Section 69
Voting facilities (247/2002)

The central municipal election board shall ensure that each voting district has adequate *voting facilities* and the equipment needed for the voting on election day, provided for this purpose by the local authorities. (247/2002)

There shall also be enough room in the polling station for those voters who are waiting for their turn to get to the polling room to vote.

Section 70
Preparatory measures

The central municipal election board shall undertake all measures necessary to conduct the voting on election day, and to that end, among other things, ensure that each election board has for its use in the polling station:
1) such voting booths for marking the ballot that guarantee the election secrecy;
2) the necessary number of ballots referred to in section 51, election stamps referred to in section 52, and forms for the election record referred to in section 79;
3) master lists of candidates or lists of presidential candidates, which shall be displayed in the polling room, waiting room and each polling booth;
4) seals and sealing equipment;
5) an electoral roll; and
6) a ballot box.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for delivering the ballots, forms needed for the election record, sealing equipment and, if necessary, ballot boxes to the election boards.

Section 71 (496/2013)
Electoral rolls and their delivery

After the advance voting period has ended, the Ministry of Justice shall ensure that *an electoral roll* for each voting district is printed out from the voting register starting on the 4th day before the election day at 19.00 and delivered to the central municipal election boards in good time before the election day. The Ministry may order that the central municipal election board is responsible for printing out the electoral rolls for the voting districts in the municipality. The Ministry may also order that the information included in the electoral rolls be delivered to the central municipal election board in electronic form.

Only those persons who have not, according to the entries made in the voting register, used their right to vote in the advance voting will be included in the electoral rolls. Voting-district specific electoral rolls are printed out following the alphabetical order of the names of the voters in the voting district, or in the manner determined by the Ministry of Justice. The heading of an electoral roll specifies the electoral district in parliamentary elections, presidential elections and elections to the European Parliament and, in all elections, the municipality and the voting district in question. An electoral roll contains the full name and personal identity code of each voter included in the roll. If information on an order of non-disclosure for personal safety reasons referred to in section 18, subsection 2, paragraph 11 or section 18, subsection 4, paragraph 5 has been entered in the voting register, an entry concerning this is printed also on the electoral roll.

The Ministry of Justice may, if necessary, for special reasons order the electoral rolls to be printed out from the voting register immediately after the register has become legally valid and to be delivered without delay to the central municipal election board in question.

The central municipal election board shall ensure that the electoral rolls are at the disposal of the election boards before the voting on election day begins. Electoral rolls are not public before the voting on election day has ended. If a second round is conducted in the presidential election, the electoral rolls of the first round of the election do not become public until the voting on the election day of the second round has ended. However, the information in the electoral rolls is not public when it comes to persons concerning whom an entry indicating an order of non-disclosure for personal safety reasons referred to in subsection 2 has been printed on the roll.

Section 72
Order at polling station

It is prohibited to give speeches, display or distribute printed or written exhortations or in some other way influence or try to influence the voters' electoral freedom at a polling station or in its immediate vicinity.

Voting is to be organised in a manner that maintains the election secrecy. Those present shall follow the orders given by the election board to maintain order and to secure the undisturbed conduct of the voting.

Section 73 (361/2016)
Assistant

There shall be *a polling assistant* assigned by the election board present at all polling stations, wearing distinctive marks or signs, who, on the request of a voter, assists him or her in marking the ballot.

A voter who wishes to use a member of the election board as an assistant in marking the ballot has the right to do so if this does not delay the voting process. In that case, the provisions on the polling assistant apply to the member of the election board.

A person whose ability to mark the ballot is essentially weakened may use the help of an assistant he or she has chosen in marking the ballot.

A candidate or his or her spouse, child, sibling or parent cannot act as a polling assistant or as an assistant chosen by the voter. A spouse refers to a married spouse, a domestic partner and a partner in a registered partnership.

The assistant shall conscientiously comply with the directions of the voter and keep secret the information received in connection to voting.

Section 74
Commencement of voting on election day

When voting on election day begins, the chairperson or the deputy chairperson of the election board shall show the voters who are present that the ballot box is empty, and after this close the ballot box in a manner determined by the Ministry of Justice and open the wrapping which contains the ballots that have been sent to the election board. The ballot box must not be opened after it has, in the beginning of the election day, been closed before the counting of the votes begins after the voting has been concluded.

Section 75
Reporting to vote

The voter shall report to the election board in the polling station of his or her voting district, and the election board shall ensure that the voter is not allowed to vote before his or her right to vote has been ascertained.

The voter is obliged to present a proof of his or her identity to the election board.

Section 76 (496/2013)
Voting on election day

A voter has in parliamentary elections and municipal elections the right to vote for a candidate in the master list of candidates for the electoral district or municipality in which the voter is registered as eligible voter in the election in question, in elections to the European Parliament to vote for a candidate in the master lists of candidates, and in the presidential election to vote for a candidate in the list of presidential candidates. (563/2015)

The voter shall mark the number of the candidate he or she is voting for in the ballot in such a manner that there can be no uncertainty as to whom he or she has voted for. The marking shall

be made in a voting booth or, if this is not possible without causing undue difficulty to the voter, somewhere else in a manner that maintains the election secrecy.

Section 77
Conclusion of voting

A voter who has marked the ballot shall present the folded ballot to the election board in order for it to be stamped. The stamp shall be placed in the middle of the reverse side of a folded ballot. Thereafter, the voter shall put the ballot in the ballot box.

The election board makes a marking in the electoral roll indicating that the voter has used his or her right to vote. The marking shall, however, be made in the voting register when the election board has access to the register.

Section 78
Ending the voting on election day and preliminary counting of votes

After the chairperson or the deputy chairperson of the election board has announced that the voting on election day has ended, the ballots shall without delay be taken from the ballot box and counted. Similarly, the number of persons that have used their right to vote on the election day is counted based on the entries made in the electoral roll or the voting register.

After the ballots have been counted, the election board inspects the ballots. Ballots that are to be regarded as invalid are sorted into their own group. The remaining ballots are sorted into groups so that the ballots given for each candidate are placed in a separate pile. The ballots in each group are counted (*preliminary counting of the votes*).

The election board shall conduct the sorting and counting of the ballots without interruption.

After the preliminary counting of the votes has been completed, the ballots, sorted as provided in subsection 2, shall be packed in a durable wrapping that is carefully sealed in the manner determined by the Ministry of Justice. The wrapping shall be marked with the address of the recipient referred to in section 81, subsection 1, the content of the consignment, and the sender.

Section 79
Election record

The election board shall appoint one of its members to keep *an election record*, in which the following shall be entered:
1) the date and times at which the voting on election day began and was declared as having ended;
2) the members of the election board who were present;
3) the polling assistants and assistants chosen by the voters themselves;
4) the number of those who voted;
5) the total number of the ballots given and their number in each of the groups that they have been sorted into under section 78, subsection 2;
6) the date and time at which the ballots were packed in the wrapping; (218/2004)
7) the polling representatives of parties, constituency associations and joint lists or persons authorised by them who were present when the ballots were sorted and counted, as well as other persons who were present and had the right to be there; (218/2004)

8) in small voting districts, where information specified in paragraph 5 is not entered in the election record, information on the measures taken under section 82 to guarantee the election secrecy. (218/2004)

Information on those members of the central municipal election board who have delivered ballot envelopes to the polling station in accordance with the provisions of section 82 is also entered in the election record, as well as the number of the ballots they delivered and were put in the ballot box. (218/2004)

The letters of authorisation submitted to the election board concerning the persons referred to in subsection 1, subsection 7 who have been authorised by the polling representatives shall be enclosed to the election record.

Lastly, the election record is read aloud, checked, and signed by the chairperson or the deputy chairperson of the election board and at least one other member of the election board, and enclosed with the appendices in an envelope which shall be marked with the address of the recipient, as referred to in section 81, subsection 1 or section 82, subsection 2, information on the contents of the consignment, and information on the sender.

Section 80
Announcement of preliminary election results

The constituency electoral committees, central municipal election boards and election boards shall announce the preliminary election results in the manner determined by the Ministry of Justice.

Section 81
Delivery of ballots and election record by election boards

The chairperson or the deputy chairperson and one other member of the election board shall together, without delay, deliver the consignment containing the ballots and the consignment containing the election record to the central municipal election board in municipal elections and to the constituency electoral committee in other elections. (563/2015)

The constituency electoral committee and the central municipal election board may also order that the consignments are to be delivered in some other way.

Section 82 (247/2002)
Guaranteeing election secrecy in small voting districts

If the voting district has less than fifty ballot envelopes approved in accordance with section 63, or if there is good reason to believe that less than fifty people will vote in the voting district on the election day, the central municipal election board shall order that the advance votes and the election day votes are to be counted together. On such occasion, the election board does not perform the preliminary counting of the election day votes, but delivers the ballots to the central municipal election board for preliminary counting.

If there is good reason to believe that a total of less than fifty people will vote in the voting district in advance and on the election day combined, or if guaranteeing the election secrecy so requires, the central municipal election board shall in good time before the election day order and, in elections other than municipal elections, inform the constituency electoral committee that the advance votes and election day votes of the voting district and the advance votes and election day votes of another voting district or other voting districts shall be counted together. On such

occasion, the election boards of the voting districts in question do not perform the preliminary counting of the election day votes but deliver the ballots to the central municipal election board for preliminary counting. (563/2015)

The election board of a voting district referred to in subsection 1 and the election boards of the voting districts referred to in subsection 2 shall, after the ballots have been taken out of the ballot box in a manner that maintains the election secrecy and counted, pack the ballots in a durable wrapping in the manner determined by the Ministry of Justice. The address of the central municipal election board, information on the contents of the consignment and information on the sender shall be marked on the wrapping. The consignment shall be delivered without delay to the central municipal election board. (218/2004)

The central municipal election board shall open the ballot envelopes of the voting district referred to in subsection 1 and the ballot envelopes of the voting districts referred to in subsection 2, and combine the ballots in them with the ballots given in these voting districts on the election day and, in addition, mix the ballots of the voting districts referred to in subsection 2 together. The central municipal election board shall perform the preliminary counting of these votes in compliance with the provisions of section 78, where applicable. In elections other than municipal elections, the central municipal election board delivers thereafter the ballots, the minutes of the meeting of the central municipal election board, and the election records of the election boards to the constituency electoral committee in compliance with the provisions of section 64, subsection 1. (563/2015)

The advance votes and election day votes of a voting district referred to in subsection 1 may, by derogation from what is provided in this section above and if the central municipal election board so orders, be counted together so that the chairperson or the deputy chairperson and one other member of the central municipal election board take the approved ballot envelopes containing the advance votes to the polling station of the voting district in question, open the envelopes in the presence of the election board and drop them in the ballot box in a manner that guarantees the election secrecy. This shall be done on the election day before the voting has ended. (218/2004)

Section 83
Prohibition of appeal against decisions by election authorities

Decisions by the election authorities referred to in this chapter are not separately subject to appeal.

Chapter 7
Counting of votes and confirmation of election results

Section 84 (563/2015)
Authorities responsible for counting of votes

The counting of advance votes and the recount of election day votes is performed:
1) in parliamentary elections, presidential elections and elections to the European Parliament by the constituency electoral committee in its meetings;
2) in municipal elections by the central municipal election board in its meetings.

Section 85
Invalidity of a ballot

A ballot is invalid, if

1) the ballot envelope contains something else or more than one ballot;
2) a marking concerning the voter or a candidate or another inappropriate marking has been made on the ballot envelope; (247/2002)
3) something other than a ballot printed by the Ministry of Justice has been used as the ballot;
4) the ballot has not been stamped;
5) the candidate number has been written so that it is not completely clear which candidate the vote was cast for;
6) the voter's name or a distinctive mark or some other inappropriate marking has been made on the ballot;
7) the ballot has, in parliamentary elections, been used to vote for a candidate who has been nominated as a candidate in two or more electoral districts.

Such a marking made on the ballot that only clarifies which candidate the voter has intended to vote for is not considered inappropriate.

Section 86
Counting of advance votes

The counting of advance votes that are enclosed in ballot envelopes may be started on the election day at 15.00 at the earliest or, for special reasons, even earlier at the discretion of the election board, however not earlier than at 12.00. Invalid ballots are sorted into their own group. The other ballots are sorted into groups so that the ballots given for each candidate are placed in a separate pile. The ballots in each group are counted.

The result of the advance voting is counted separately for each voting district of the municipality, except in cases referred to in section 82. (247/2002)

The results of the advance voting are announced in a manner determined by the Ministry of Justice. (247/2002)

Section 87 (496/2013)
Recount of votes

On the Monday following the election day at 12.00 at the latest, a recount of the election day votes and checking of the calculations made by the election boards and, in cases referred to in section 82, subsection 4, the calculations by the central municipal election boards shall be commenced. In the recount of the votes, it shall be decided which votes for a candidate are regarded as valid and which votes are disregarded as invalid.

The valid votes for each candidate given both in the advance voting and on election day shall be counted.

Section 88
Counting of votes received by candidates

The total number of votes received by the candidates is counted so that the votes cast for the candidates of the parties forming an electoral alliance are counted for the said electoral alliance, the votes cast for the candidates of a party that does not belong to an electoral alliance are counted for the said party, and the votes cast for the candidates of a constituency association in a joint list are counted for the said joint list.

If it turns out that a candidate is ineligible or deceased or has also been nominated as a candidate in the same elections to the European Parliament in another Member State of the European Union, the votes received by that candidate shall, however, be counted for the electoral alliance, party or joint list which the candidate is a member of.

Section 89
Method of counting the election result

The mutual ranking order of candidates representing a party that is not in an electoral alliance or the mutual ranking order of candidates representing a joint list is determined by the number of personal votes cast for the candidates. In this order, the candidates are given a comparative index so that the first ranked candidate in each party or joint list gets the total number of votes cast for the said party or the said joint list as his or her comparative index, the second ranked candidate half of the number, the third ranked candidate one third of the number, the fourth candidate one fourth of the number and so forth.

The mutual ranking order of candidates representing parties that belong to an electoral alliance is, regardless of the party, determined by the number of votes cast for each candidate. In this order, the candidates are given a comparative index so that the first ranked candidate receives as his or her comparative index the total number of votes cast for the electoral alliance, the second candidate half of the number, the third candidate one third of the number, the fourth candidate one fourth of the number and so forth.

A candidate representing a constituency association that does not belong to a joint list has the number of votes cast for him or her as the comparative index.

Section 90
Deciding by lot

If the numbers of votes or the comparative indexes are equal, the order of the candidates is decided by lot.

Section 91 (563/2015)
Determining election results in parliamentary and municipal elections

In order to determine the results of parliamentary and municipal elections, the names of all candidates are written in the order of their comparative indexes and the comparative index of each candidate is written beside the name of the candidate. As many candidates are chosen from the beginning of this name list as are to be elected in the electoral district to the Parliament or in the municipality to the local council.

Section 92
Deputy Members of Parliament

The deputy representative of a Member of Parliament is the first candidate who was not elected from the party or from the joint list which the elected Member represented, or if there was an electoral alliance, the first candidate who was not elected from the said electoral alliance which the elected Member represented.

If there is no other way to appoint a deputy Member of Parliament, the deputy Member is the first candidate who was not elected in the name list referred to in section 91.

If a deputy Member becomes a Member of Parliament or for some other reason is no longer available, the constituency electoral committee shall appoint a new deputy Member for the said Member in compliance with the provisions of subsections 1 and 2.

If a parliamentary seat becomes vacant in the electoral district of Åland and there is no such deputy member as specified in subsections 1 and 2, new parliamentary elections shall, without delay, be held in the said electoral district. The Ministry of Justice determines the time of the election and issues a public notice of it. Advance voting is conducted only in the electoral district of Åland.

Section 93
Deputy councillors

Deputy councillors for the local councillors are elected as provided in section 11 of the Local Government Act.

If the number of deputy councillors becomes incomplete during the term of office of the local council, the central municipal election board shall, on the request of the chairperson of the council, appoint new deputy councillors as provided in section 11 of the Local Government Act.

If all deputy councillor seats are not filled under the provisions laid down in this section, the number of deputy councillors remains incomplete.

Section 94 (496/2013)
Confirmation and publication of results of parliamentary elections and informing about results

The constituency electoral committee confirms the results of the elections on the 3rd day after the election day in its meeting which begins at 18.00 at the latest.

The constituency electoral committee shall publish the election results complete with appeal instructions by issuing a notice in the committee. The names of the deputy Members of Parliament shall also be given in the notice. The committee shall also draw up, without delay, Member's credentials for each elected Member of Parliament and submit them without delay to the Parliament to be handed to the elected Members.

The constituency electoral committee shall immediately inform the Ministry of Justice of the election results in the manner specified by the Ministry as well the central municipal election boards in the electoral district. The committee shall also publish the results, comparative indexes and the numbers of votes given for the elected Members of Parliament in those newspapers which have the greatest circulation in the said electoral district and which represent those parties whose candidates were elected in the elections.

Section 95 (496/2013)
Confirmation and publication of results of municipal elections and informing about results

The central municipal election board confirms the results of the elections on the 3rd day after the election day in its meeting which begins at 18.00 at the latest.

The central municipal election board shall without delay:

1) publish the election results by displaying the record that includes the results and the appeal instructions on the public notice board of the municipality for a period of seven days;
2) submit the list of the elected councillors and their deputies to the local council and inform the public about the said list in the manner municipal notices normally are made public in the municipality; and
3) inform the Ministry of Justice of the election results in the manner specified by the Ministry.

Section 96
Provisions on presidential elections and elections to the European Parliament

Provisions on the counting of the votes in presidential elections and elections to the European Parliament as well as the method of counting, determining, confirming and publishing as well as informing about the results of the said elections are laid down in Part II.

Section 97
Deputy Members of the European Parliament

The provisions of section 92 on the deputy Member of Parliament apply, where appropriate, to the appointment of a deputy Member for an elected Member of the European Parliament.

Section 98
Entering election result in minutes

After the election results have been confirmed, the authority confirming the results shall mention in the minutes the names of both the elected persons and those persons who, if parliamentary seats become vacant, will replace the Members of Parliament in the capacity of deputy Members or those who have been elected as deputy councillors.

The minutes shall contain the elected person's name and title, profession or occupation and, with the exception of municipal elections, his or her municipality of residence, as well as his or her comparative index and the number of votes he or she received. (563/2015)

Section 99 (1404/2009)
Storage of documents and instruments

If the counting or processing of the ballots is interrupted, all ballots and calculations shall be stored in such a manner that no unauthorised person has access to them.

After the election results have been confirmed, the ballots and a copy of the master list of candidates or a copy of the list of presidential candidates shall be packed in a wrapping, which shall be sealed in the manner determined by the Ministry of Justice. These are to be stored until the next corresponding elections have been conducted. The calculations shall be kept as an appendix to the minutes. The constituency electoral committee shall submit the documents and the instruments used in the election to the Regional State Administrative Agency for storage.

Chapter 8
Appeal

Section 100
Object of appeal

A decision by which the election results have been confirmed is subject to appeal as provided in this chapter.

Decisions on the confirmation of the result of the first and second round of the presidential election are not subject to appeal.

Section 101
Right of appeal and grounds for appeal

Those whose interests or rights are violated by a decision as well as those who have been candidates in the election and parties and joint lists who have submitted candidate applications have the right of appeal on the grounds that the decision is unlawful.

In addition, the following persons may appeal against a decision on the grounds that the election has been conducted in an incorrect order and that this might have had an effect on the election result:
1) every eligible voter in the electoral district or municipality in question;
2) in municipal elections, members of the municipality.
(563/2015)

Section 102 (300/2009)
Lodging and processing of an appeal

An appeal shall be lodged with the competent administrative court within 14 days from the confirmation of the election results. In elections to the European Parliament, the appeal shall, however, be always lodged with Helsinki Administrative Court.

In other respects, the provisions of the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act apply to the lodging and processing of an appeal.

Appeals shall be processed without delay.

Section 103
Decision of appellate authority

If a decision or a measure of an election authority has been unlawful and this unlawfulness has evidently may have affected the election results, new elections shall be held in the said electoral district or municipality, or in the case of elections to the European Parliament, in the entire country, if the election result cannot be rectified.

If a constituency electoral committee or a central municipal election board has, when counting the election results or confirming the results, acted unlawfully and this unlawfulness has affected the election results, the results shall be rectified.

Section 104 (300/2009)
Service of decision

In parliamentary elections and elections to the European Parliament, the decision of the administrative court shall be served on the appellant, the constituency electoral committee in question, the polling representatives of parties and joint lists as well as the Ministry of Justice. In addition, the decision shall be announced in a broadcast of a public broadcasting company without delay, if the decision means that the elections results shall be rectified or that new elections shall be held.

In municipal elections, the decision of the administrative court shall be served on the appellant, the local executive and the central municipal election board, the polling representatives of parties and joint lists and, if the decision means that the election results shall be rectified or that new elections shall be held, on the Ministry of Justice. The central municipal election board shall, without delay, make the decision of the administrative court available also to the members of the municipality by displaying the decision on the public notice board of the municipality for seven days. (563/2015)

Section 105 (300/2009)
Continued appeal

A decision of an administrative court may be appealed against to the Supreme Administrative Court within 30 days from the service of the decision.

If the decision means that the election results shall be rectified or that new elections shall be held, those specified in section 101 and, in municipal elections, the local executive have the right of appeal. Those who have not separately been served with the decision are considered to have been informed of the decision when it for the first time was announced in a broadcast of a public broadcasting company or when it was placed on the public notice board of the municipality for display. (563/2015)

The provisions of section 104 on a decision of an administrative court apply to the service and announcement of a decision of the Supreme Administrative Court.

Section 106
New elections due to appeal

If new elections are held due to an appeal, the election day of the new elections is:
1) in parliamentary elections and elections to the European Parliament, the first Sunday after 50 days from the entry into force of the decision of the appellate authority;
2) in municipal elections, the Sunday determined by the central municipal election board. (563/2015)

The same electoral authorities conduct the new elections as the invalid elections. However, if the term of office of the central municipal election board has already expired, the new elections are conducted by the new central municipal election board having replaced the said committee.

In the new elections, the same voting district division is applied and the same legally valid voting register and the same master list of candidates are used as in the invalid election, unless the appellate authority otherwise orders in its decision. The Population Register Centre sends a new polling card to those who are included in the said voting register. Advance voting is conducted only in that electoral district or in that municipality that is subject to the decision on the new elections.

In other respects, the provisions on the regular elections apply, as appropriate, to the conduct of the new elections.

The members and councillors who have been elected in the invalid elections shall keep their posts until the results of the new elections have been confirmed.

The Parliament shall, without delay, be informed of the results of new parliamentary elections, and the local council of the municipality in question shall, without delay, be informed of the results of new municipal elections. (563/2015)

PART II – PROVISIONS CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL ELECTIONS

Chapter 9
Parliamentary elections

Time of parliamentary elections

Section 107 (431/2010)
Election day

The election day in parliamentary elections is the third Sunday in March.

If the President of the Republic has ordered that new parliamentary elections shall be held, the election day for the new elections is, as ordered by the President, at the earliest the first Sunday after 50 days and at the latest the first Sunday after 75 days from the time when the order to hold the new elections was published.

When the President has issued an order that new elections are to be held, the order shall, in addition to what is provided in section 67, subsection 3, be made public at least in the Finnish diplomatic and consular missions with public notices and, if necessary, in any other appropriate way.

General provisions on the nomination of candidates

Section 108
Right to nominate candidates

In parliamentary elections, candidates may be nominated by:
1) political parties;
2) eligible voters who have founded a constituency association.

When political parties nominate candidates, two or more parties may form *an electoral alliance* by mutual agreement. Similarly, two or more constituency associations may form *a joint list*.

Section 109
Maximum number of candidates

A party, an electoral alliance or a joint list may nominate a maximum of 14 candidates in each electoral district. However, if more than 14 Members of Parliament are elected from an electoral district, a party, an electoral alliance or a joint list may nominate as many candidates as there are members to be elected from the said electoral district.

Section 110
Nomination of candidates and the maximum number of candidates in the electoral district of Åland

In the electoral district of Åland, a constituency association, founded for the next parliamentary elections by at least 30 eligible voters in the electoral district, has the right to nominate a candidate in parliamentary elections. Two or more constituency associations have the right to form a joint list. There may be a maximum of four candidates on the joint list.

In other respects, the provisions of this Act apply, as appropriate, to the establishment of a constituency association, candidate applications made by a constituency association, forming and notifying of a joint list, and the duties of the authorities related to the nomination of candidates in the electoral district of Åland.

Section 111
Prohibition against multiple nomination

In the same elections, a person can be nominated as a candidate by only one party or one constituency association and in only one electoral district.

Nomination of candidates by parties

Section 112
Vote by members

In order to nominate candidates, a party shall conduct a secret *vote by members* based on equal voting rights, in which the individual members of the party and of its local organisations residing in the electoral district are entitled to participate.

A vote by members is not, however, obligatory, if only as many candidates are proposed to be nominated in the electoral district as the party has the right to nominate.

Section 113
Application of rules of a party in vote by members

The vote by members shall be conducted and the candidates nominated in accordance with the rules and regulations of the party in question. In those respects that the rules and regulations of the party contain no provisions on the vote by members or the nomination of candidates, the provisions of this Act apply, as appropriate, to the vote by members and the nomination of candidates.

Section 114
Proposing candidates for vote by members

An association which belongs to a party and which operates in the electoral district and has only human members (*local organisation*) has the right to propose candidates for a vote by members. The decision on the proposal is made by the decision-making body of the local organisation, or, with its authorisation, by the board of the local organisation.

A person who has been proposed in writing by at least 15 members of a local organisation operating in the electoral district shall be included as a candidate in the vote by members. A

person can also be proposed as a candidate by at least 30 members that may belong to different local organisations operating in the same electoral district. A member of a local organisation may endorse only one proposal referred to in this subsection.

A person who has not given his or her written consent cannot be proposed as a candidate for the vote by members.

Section 115
Right to vote in vote by members

Those members of a party or its local organisation who reach the age of 18 no later than on the election day have the right to vote in the vote by members.

A member of a local organisation can only vote as a member of one association.

Section 116
Decision on the number of candidates and on nomination of candidates

The decision on the number of candidates and the nomination of candidates is made by the association acting as the district organisation of a party in the electoral district (*district organisation*). The decision is made by the decision-making body of the district organisation, or with its authorisation, by the board of the district organisation.

Those who have received the most votes in the vote by members shall be nominated as candidates in the elections. If no vote by members has been conducted for the reason referred to in section 112, subsection 2, those who have been proposed as candidates in the vote by members, or some of them, shall be nominated as candidates.

Section 117
Right of change

With the consent of the board of a party, it is possible to deviate from the results of the vote by members by at most one fourth of the number of candidates nominated by the party (*right of change*). Even in that case, at least half of the candidates that the party nominates shall be those who received the most votes in the vote by members.

When exercising the right of change, a person who cannot be nominated as a candidate due to ineligibility, refusal or other similar reason is not counted in the results of the vote by members.

Section 118
Agreement on vote by members among district organisations

If a party has two or more district organisations in the same electoral district, the district organisations shall agree on how the vote or votes by members are carried out in the electoral district and how the candidates of the party are nominated. If the district organisations cannot agree on the matter, the decision is made by the board of the party.

Establishment of a constituency association

Section 119
Number of members in a constituency association and drawing up a charter

A minimum of 100 eligible voters in the same electoral district may establish a constituency association in order to nominate a candidate in parliamentary elections.

A constituency association is established by drawing up a dated and signed charter which shall contain the following information:
1) a reference to the parliamentary elections in question;
2) the candidate's name and title, occupation or position using no more than two expressions, and his or her municipality of residence;
3) the name, date of birth and address of each member;
4) an affirmation signed by each member stating that they are entitled to vote in the elections in question in the said electoral district;
5) the name and contact information of the polling representative and the deputy polling representative of the constituency association.

An eligible voter may be a member of only one constituency association. If a person is a member of two or more constituency associations, the constituency electoral committee shall remove his or her name from all the charters.

Candidate application in parliamentary elections

Section 120 (496/2013)
Polling representatives

Each party and constituency association nominating candidates shall have a polling representative in the electoral district (*polling representative of a party* and *polling representative of a constituency association*), and each polling representative shall have a deputy. In addition, those constituency associations which form a joint list shall authorise a polling representative of one of the constituency associations to act as *the polling representative of the joint list* and another one as his or her deputy.

The polling representative of a party or a joint list may not act as the polling representative of another party or a joint list. The polling representative of a constituency association may not act as the polling representative of a party, another constituency association or a joint list other than the one which his or her constituency association belongs to. The polling representative of a party or a constituency association may not be a member or a deputy member of a constituency electoral committee or a central municipal election board.

An application, notification or rectification referred to in this Act may on behalf of the polling representative be made by a person authorised in writing by the polling representative in question. The provisions of this Act on polling representatives of a party, joint list or constituency association apply, as appropriate, to deputy polling representatives.

A party shall notify the name, personal identity code and contact information of the polling representative of the party and his or her deputy to the constituency electoral committee on the 48th day before the election day at the latest.

Section 121
Submission of candidate applications

The polling representative of a party, a joint list or a constituency association shall submit the candidate application to the constituency electoral committee by 16.00 on the 40th day before the election day.

Section 122
Candidate application of a party

The following shall be appended to the candidate application of a party:
1) a proposal for the list of candidates of the party, stating the name and title, profession or occupation of each candidate using no more than two expressions, and their municipality of residence in the order in which the candidates are placed in the master list of candidates; along with or instead the given name, a generally known name of the person or his or her abbreviated first name may be used; the list of candidates shall not include any other entries, unless they are necessary to clarify the identity of the candidate; and
2) a signed document from each candidate including the candidate's personal identity code and stating that he or she consents to stand as a candidate for the party that has nominated him or her and that he or she consents to assume the Member's responsibilities, as well as containing an affirmation that the candidate has not agreed to stand as a candidate for another party or a constituency association or as a candidate in another electoral district in the same elections.

The polling representative of a party shall date and sign the candidate application and affirm that the candidates are eligible.

Section 123
Notification of an electoral alliance

If parties have agreed to form an electoral alliance, they shall draw up a joint notification where all the parties participating in the electoral alliance are listed. The notification shall be signed by the polling representatives of all the parties joining the electoral alliance. The polling representative of a party that is taking part in the electoral alliance shall submit the notification to the constituency electoral committee simultaneously with the candidate application of the party.

Section 124 (496/2013)
Candidate application of a constituency association

The following shall be appended to the candidate application of a constituency association:
1) a proposal for the list of candidates of the constituency association containing information on the candidate as referred to in section 122, subsection 1, paragraph 1;
2) a document signed by the candidate, including the candidate's personal identity code and stating that he or she consents to stand as a candidate for the constituency association that has nominated him or her and that he or she consents to assume the Member's responsibilities, and containing an affirmation that the candidate has not agreed to stand as a candidate for another constituency association or a party or as a candidate in another electoral district in the same elections; and
3) the charter of the constituency association.

The polling representative of the constituency association shall date and sign the candidate application, enter his or her personal identity code in the application and affirm that the candidate

is eligible and that the members of the constituency association have personally signed the charter.

Section 125
Notification of a joint list

If a constituency association has agreed to form a joint list with one or more other constituency associations, a notification of the joint list and the constituency associations belonging to it and the candidates in the order the candidates will be presented in the master list of candidates shall be submitted simultaneously with the candidate application of the constituency association. The notification is signed by the polling representatives of the constituency associations that have formed the joint list.

The notification shall also include the name and contact information of the polling representative and deputy polling representative of the joint list.

The notification may contain a proposal for the name of the joint list to be given in the master list of candidates. The proposed name shall include the expression "joint list" (in Finnish: *yhteislista*). The name must not be inappropriate or generally or otherwise misleading. The name of the joint list may always contain a name which has been entered in the Register of Associations and which the constituency associations forming the joint list have verifiably been given permission by the association to use. The name must not, however, include the name of a party that is registered in the Party Register.

Member's credentials

Section 126
Form of Member's credentials

The Member's credentials read as follows:
"In the parliamentary elections conducted in the electoral district of ... on the ... day of the month of … in …, – –, residing in …, has been elected to be a parliamentary representative as of this day until the next parliamentary elections.
This certificate serves as the Member's credentials."
Place and date.

If a parliamentary seat has become vacant, the constituency electoral committee gives the Member's credentials to the person who under section 92 will replace the former representative. In this case, the Member's credentials read as follows:
"As the parliamentary seat of – –, residing in ... and elected in the parliamentary elections conducted in the electoral district of ... on the …day of the month of … in … to be a parliamentary representative as of the … day of the month of ... until the next parliamentary elections, has become vacant, – –, residing in …, will, under the Election Act, replace him or her as a Member of Parliament.
This certificate serves as the Member's credentials."
Place and date.

If a Member of Parliament has been elected as a Member of the European Parliament, the constituency electoral committee gives the Member's credentials to the person who under the Constitution will replace the Member of Parliament during the time he or she is carrying out his or her duties as a Member of the European Parliament. In this case, the Member's credentials read as follows:

"As – –, residing in ... and elected in the parliamentary elections conducted in the electoral district of ... on the …day of the month of … in … to be a parliamentary representative as of the …..day of the month of….until the next parliamentary elections, has in elections to the European Parliament conducted in Finland on the ... day of the month of ... been elected as a Member of the European Parliament and his or her term as a Member of Parliament is thus discontinued, – –, residing in …, will as his or her deputy Member of Parliament, under the Constitution and the Election Act, replace him or her as a Member of Parliament for the time that the representative is carrying out his or her duties as a Member of the European Parliament.
This certificate serves as the deputy Member's credentials."
Place and date.

Chapter 10
Presidential election

Time of the presidential election

Section 127 (431/2010)
Election day

The first round of the presidential election is conducted on the fourth Sunday of January of the sixth year after the year in which the previous President of the Republic was inaugurated.

If a second round is required, the election day is the second Sunday after the first round of the presidential election.

If measures need to be undertaken in order to elect President because the current President, the President-elect or a presidential candidate has become permanently incapacitated or has deceased, the Government determines, by decision published in the Statute Book of Finland, the Sunday, following as soon as possible, on which the presidential election shall be held.

Nomination of presidential candidates

Section 128
Right to nominate presidential candidates

In presidential elections, candidates may be nominated by
1) a political party that in the previous parliamentary elections had at least one candidate elected to the Parliament from its list of candidates;
2) at least 20,000 eligible voters who have founded a constituency association.

An eligible voter may be a member of only one constituency association. If a person is a member of two or more constituency associations, the constituency electoral committee shall remove his or her name from all the charters.

A party or a constituency association entitled to nominate a presidential candidate may only nominate one candidate. Parties and constituency associations may nominate the same candidate. No electoral alliances or joint lists are to be formed to nominate a common candidate.

The nominated candidates stand as candidates in the entire country.

Section 129
Nomination of a presidential candidate by a party

A presidential candidate is nominated by a party in a manner that secures the possibilities of the party members to exercise democratic influence as determined in the rules and regulations of the party.

Section 130
Establishment of a constituency association

A constituency association is established by drawing up a dated and signed charter which shall contain the following information:
1) a reference to the presidential election in question;
2) the candidate's name and title, occupation or position using no more than two expressions, and his or her municipality of residence;
3) the name and contact information of the polling representative and the deputy polling representative of the constituency association.

A minimum of 20,000 support cards, signed by the members entitled to vote, shall be appended to the charter. The support cards shall contain the following information:
1) a declaration that the eligible voter wishes to nominate the person mentioned on the card as a candidate in the presidential election;
2) the name, date of birth and address of the eligible voter;
3) an affirmation of the eligible voter that he or she is entitled to vote in the first round of the presidential election;
4) the date, which may be no more than one year old on the closing date of the period reserved for submitting the candidate application;
5) authorisation for a certain person to act as the polling representative of the constituency association and for another person to act as his or her deputy, and the contact information of these two persons.

Each support card appended to the same application shall authorise the same persons to act as the polling representative of the constituency association and as his or her deputy.

Presidential candidate application

Section 131 (496/2013)
Polling representatives

Each party and constituency association nominating a candidate shall have a polling representative, and each polling representative shall have a deputy.

The polling representative of a party may not act as the polling representative of another party. The polling representative of a constituency association may not act as the polling representative of a party or another constituency association. The polling representative of a party or a constituency association may not be a member or a deputy member of a constituency electoral committee or a central municipal election board.

An application, notification or rectification referred to in this Act may, on behalf of the polling representative, be made by a person authorised in writing by the polling representative in question. The provisions of this Act on a polling representative of a party or constituency association apply, as appropriate, to his or her deputy.

A party and a constituency association shall notify the name, personal identity code and contact information of the polling representative of the party or the constituency association and his or her deputy to the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki on the 48th day before the election day at the latest.

Section 132 (431/2010)
Submission of candidate applications

The polling representative of a party or a constituency association shall submit the candidate application to the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki by 16.00 on the 47th day before the election day.

Section 133
Candidate application of a party

The candidate application of a party shall include:
1) the name and title, profession or occupation of the candidate, using no more than two expressions, and his or her municipality of residence; along with or instead the given name, a generally known name of the person or his or her abbreviated first name may be used; the candidate application shall not include any other information on the candidate, unless it is necessary to clarify the identity of the candidate; and
2) a document signed by the candidate, including the candidate's personal identity code and stating that he or she consents to stand as a candidate for the party that has nominated him or her and that he or she consents to assume the President's responsibilities.

The application shall be dated and signed by the authorised signatories for the party.

Section 134
Candidate application of a constituency association

The candidate application of a constituency association shall include:
1) the name and title, profession or occupation of the candidate, using no more than two expressions, and his or her municipality of residence; along with or instead the given name, a generally known name of the person or his or her abbreviated first name may be used; the candidate application shall not include any other information on the candidate, unless it is necessary to clarify the identity of the candidate; and
2) a document signed by the candidate, including the candidate's personal identity code and stating that he or she consents to stand as a candidate for the constituency association that has nominated him or her and that he or she consents to assume the President's responsibilities.

The charter of the constituency association and the support cards referred to in section 130 shall be appended to the application.

The polling representative of the constituency association shall date and sign the candidate application and affirm that the members of the constituency association have personally signed the support cards.

Section 135 (496/2013)
Communication concerning presidential candidates

The constituency electoral committee of Helsinki shall, on the 38th day before the election day at the latest, draw up a communication concerning the candidates nominated in the presidential election and publish it in the Statute Book of Finland.

Section 136
Election of the only candidate as President

If only one presidential candidate is nominated by the expiration of the set time limit, this candidate shall be elected President without an election. The constituency electoral committee of Helsinki shall notify the Government of the matter without delay. After having declared that the candidate is elected President of the Republic, the Government shall notify the candidate of this in writing and issue a public notice of the matter to be published in the Statute Book of Finland.

First round of presidential election

Section 137 (247/2002)
Votes cast in electoral districts

In a meeting starting at 10.00 on the second day after the election day of the first round of the presidential election, the constituency electoral committee shall confirm the number of votes cast for each candidate in the first round in the electoral district in question and report, without delay, the confirmed numbers of votes and the total number of votes to the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki in the manner determined by the Ministry of Justice.

Section 138
Election of the President

After receiving the reports referred to in section 137 from all constituency electoral committees, the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki shall, without delay, confirm the final number of votes cast nationally for each candidate in the first round and the total number of votes and report them to the Ministry of Justice in the manner determined by the Ministry. (247/2002)

If one of the candidates has received more than half of all the votes cast nationally in the first round of the presidential election, the Government shall declare that this candidate has, under the Constitution, been elected President of the Republic, inform the candidate of this in writing, and issue a public notice of this to be published in the Statute Book of Finland. The public notice shall also include the number of votes cast for each presidential candidate nationally and the total number of votes cast. (1258/1999)

Section 139 (247/2002)
Public notice of the second round of presidential election

If none of the candidates has received more than half of the votes and thus no president has been elected in the first round of the presidential election, the Ministry of Justice shall, without delay after having established this, on the second day after the election day issue a public notice of the election results to be published in the Statute Book of Finland. The number of votes cast nationally for each presidential candidate shall be mentioned in the public notice. The notice shall also state that a second round will under the Constitution be conducted and mention the identities of the two

candidates entering the second round and their numbers determined in accordance with section 42, subsection 2.

Second round of presidential election

Section 140
Ballot

In the second round, the ballot shall be of different colour than the one in the first round.

Section 141
Votes cast in electoral districts

In a meeting starting at 18.00 on the third day after the election day of the second round of the presidential election, the constituency electoral committee shall confirm the number of votes cast for each candidate in the electoral district in question and report the confirmed numbers of votes and the total number of votes to the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki in the manner determined by the Ministry of Justice.

Section 142
Election of the President

After receiving the reports referred to in section 141 from all constituency electoral committees, the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki shall, without delay, confirm the final number of votes cast nationally for each candidate in the second round and report the confirmed number of votes immediately to the Government.

On the fourth day after the election day of the second round, the Government shall declare which one of the two candidates has received more votes in the second round of the election and has thus, under the Constitution, been elected President of the Republic. After declaring the election result, the Government shall inform the elected candidate of the result in writing and issue a public notice of the result of the presidential election to be published in the Statute Book of Finland. The number of votes cast nationally for each presidential candidate in the second round shall be mentioned in the public notice. (1258/1999)

Restarting election procedure

Section 143
Death or permanent incapacity of a presidential candidate or elected President

The presidential election procedure shall be restarted as soon as possible, if:
1) a candidate nominated in accordance with the procedure laid down in law becomes permanently incapacitated or dies before the completion of the election procedure in the first round;
2) a candidate in the second round of the election becomes permanently incapacitated or dies before the completion of the election procedure in the second round; or
3) a candidate who has been elected President becomes permanently incapacitated or dies before entering office.

The Government decides on the new election day as provided in section 127, subsection 3.

The Ministry of Justice shall urgently report the Government's decision to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the constituency electoral committees and the Population Register Centre, which shall ensure that the information is transmitted to other election officials. Election officials shall suspend preparations for the election. The Ministry of Justice issues more specific orders and instructions for the official procedures to be followed due to the Government's decision.

The provisions of sections 129–134 apply to the nomination of candidates and submission of candidate applications in the cases referred to in this section. A candidate nominated by a party or a constituency association in accordance with the above-mentioned procedures is, however, still considered a candidate for the party or the constituency association without a new application, unless the party or the constituency association has withdrawn the previous application or the candidate has withdrawn the consent referred to in section 133 or 134. The constituency electoral committee of Helsinki shall be notified of the withdrawal of the application or consent by 16.00 on the 40th day before the election day.

Chapter 11
Municipal elections (563/2015)

Time of municipal elections (563/2015)

Section 144 (563/2015)
Election day

The election day in municipal elections is the third Sunday in April.

Nomination of candidates in municipal elections

Section 145
Public notice of the number of councillors to be elected

The central municipal election board shall issue a public notice of the number of councillors to be elected in the municipality. The public notice shall be published without delay in the manner in which the municipal notices are normally made available and displayed in the facilities where the central municipal election board holds its meetings. The notice may be issued together with the notice referred to in section 34, subsection 2.

Section 146
Right to nominate candidates

In municipal elections, candidates may be nominated by:
1) political parties;
2) eligible voters who have founded a constituency association.
(563/2015)

When political parties nominate candidates, two or more parties may form an electoral alliance by mutual agreement. Similarly, two or more constituency associations may form a joint list.

Section 147
Maximum number of candidates

Each party, constituency association and joint list has the right to nominate a number of candidates equalling the number of councillors to be elected in the municipality multiplied by one and a half.

Section 148
Prohibition against multiple nomination

In the same elections, a person may be nominated as a candidate by only one party or one constituency association.

Section 149
Nomination of candidates by parties

The candidates of a party are nominated by the association representing the members of the party in the municipality, which the party has reported to the central municipal election board.

Section 150 (563/2015)
Establishment of a constituency association

A minimum of ten municipal residents entitled to vote may establish a constituency association for municipal elections. In a municipality where the number of residents according to the Population Information System is at most 1,500 at the end of 30 November in the year preceding the election year, a constituency association may be established by a minimum of three municipal residents entitled to vote, and in a municipality with more than 1,500 but less than 2,000 residents, a constituency association may be established by a minimum of five municipal residents entitled to vote.

A constituency association is established by drawing up a dated and signed charter which shall contain the following information:
1) a reference to the municipal elections in question;
2) the candidate's name and title, occupation or position using no more than two expressions;
3) the name, date of birth and address of each member;
4) an affirmation signed by each member stating that they are entitled to vote in the elections in question in the said municipality;
5) the name and contact information of the polling representative and the deputy polling representative of the constituency association.

An eligible voter may be a member of only one constituency association. If a person is a member of two or more constituency associations, the central municipal election board shall remove his or her name from all the charters.

Candidate application in municipal elections (563/2015)

Section 151
Polling representatives

Each party and constituency association nominating candidates shall have a polling representative, and each polling representative shall have a deputy. In addition, those constituency associations

which form a joint list shall authorise the polling representative of one of the constituency associations to act as the polling representative of a joint list and another one as his or her deputy.

The polling representative of a party or a joint list may not act as the polling representative of another party or a joint list. The polling representative of a constituency association may not act as the polling representative of a party, another constituency association or a joint list other than the one which his or her constituency association belongs to. The polling representative of a party or a constituency association may not be a member or a deputy member of the central municipal election board.

An application, notification or rectification referred to in this Act may on behalf of the polling representative be made by a person authorised in writing by the polling representative in question. The provisions of this Act on polling representatives of a party, joint list or constituency association apply, as appropriate, to deputy polling representatives.

Section 152
Submission of candidate applications

The polling representative of a party, a joint list or a constituency association shall submit the candidate application to the central municipal election board by 16.00 on the 40th day before the election day.

Section 153 (496/2013)
Candidate application of a party

The following shall be appended to the candidate application of a party:
1) a proposal for the list of candidates of the party, stating in the order in which the candidates will be placed in the master list of candidates the name and title, profession or occupation of each candidate, using no more than two expressions, and their municipality of residence; along with or instead the given name, a generally known name of the person or his or her abbreviated first name may be used; the list of candidates must not include any other entries, unless they are necessary to clarify the identity of the candidate;
2) a signed document from each candidate including the candidate's personal identity code and stating that he or she consents to stand as a candidate for the party that has nominated him or her and that he or she consents to assume the councillor's responsibilities, as well as containing an affirmation that the candidate has not agreed to stand as a candidate for another party or a constituency association in the same elections;
3) a notice given by the authorised signatories of the party stating that the association on whose behalf the polling representative is acting represents the members of the party in the municipality; and
4) a notice given by the association representing the party including the name, personal identity code and contact information of the polling representative of the party and the deputy polling representative, and a mandate issued to them by the association.

The polling representative of a party shall date and sign the candidate application and affirm that the candidates are eligible.

Section 154
Notification of an electoral alliance

If parties have agreed to form an electoral alliance, they shall draw up a joint notification where all the parties participating in the electoral alliance are listed. The notification shall be signed by the

polling representatives of all the parties joining the electoral alliance. The polling representative of a party that is taking part in the electoral alliance shall submit the notification to the central municipal election board simultaneously with the candidate application of the party.

Section 155 (496/2013)
Candidate application of a constituency association

The following shall be appended to the candidate application of a constituency association:
1) a proposal for the list of candidates of the constituency association containing information on the candidate as referred to in section 153, subsection 1, paragraph 1;
2) a document signed by the candidate including the candidate's personal identity code and stating that he or she consents to stand as a candidate for the constituency association that has nominated him or her and that he or she consents to assume the councillor's responsibilities, as well as containing an affirmation that the candidate has not agreed to stand as a candidate for another party or a constituency association in the same elections; and
3) the charter of the constituency association.

The polling representative of the constituency association shall date and sign the candidate application, enter his or her personal identity code in the application and affirm that the candidate is eligible and that the members of the constituency association have personally signed the charter.

Section 156
Notification of a joint list

If a constituency association has agreed to form a joint list with one or more other constituency associations, a notification of the joint list and the constituency associations belonging to it and the candidates in the order the candidates will be presented in the master list of candidates shall be submitted simultaneously with the candidate application of the constituency association. The notification is signed by the polling representatives of the constituency associations that have formed the joint list.

The notification shall also include the name and contact information of the polling representative and deputy polling representative of the joint list.

The notification may contain a proposal for the name of the joint list to be given in the master list of candidates. The proposed name shall include the expression "joint list" (in Finnish: *yhteislista*). The name must not be inappropriate or generally or otherwise misleading. The name of the joint list may always contain a name which has been entered in the Register of Associations and which the constituency associations forming the joint list have verifiably been given permission by the association to use. The name must not, however, include the name of a party that is registered in the Party Register.

Supplementary provisions

Section 157
Electing councillors without an election

If the number of candidates approved for the elections is the same as the number of councillors to be elected, no elections are held, but the central municipal election board, in a meeting held on the Sunday referred to in section 144, declares instead that the approved candidates are elected

councillors. If the number of candidates is smaller than the number of councillors to be elected, the number of the councillors remains incomplete for the time being. (563/2015)

In case of a situation referred to in subsection 1, a party and a constituency association have the right to nominate a deputy candidate for a candidate. The provisions on candidates laid down in this Act apply to deputy candidates.

The deputy candidates referred to in subsection 2 are appointed as deputy councillors. If need be, a deputy councillor is called to join the local council to replace a councillor, or, if the councillor has no deputy, he or she will be replaced by some other deputy councillor from the same party not belonging to an electoral alliance, the same electoral alliance or the same joint list in the order stated by the polling representative of the party or, in the case of an electoral alliance, the polling representatives of the parties together or the polling representative of a joint list. If the order of the deputy councillors has not been reported to the central municipal election board before the meeting referred to in subsection 1, the central municipal election board decides the order.

Section 158
Supplementary elections

If the number of councillors of the municipality during the electoral term decreases so that it is less than three quarters of the number laid down in the law, the chairperson of the local council shall notify the Ministry of Justice of this. The Ministry may then order supplementary elections to be held, and at the same time it shall order the number of councillors to be elected in the supplementary elections. The provisions of this Act on elections apply, as appropriate, to supplementary elections. However, advance voting is only conducted in the municipality for which the councillors are elected.

Section 159
Setting a new time for elections

If municipal elections or the related procedures cannot for some reason be conducted at the times provided in this Act, or if the number of candidates elected when determining the election results or the number of candidates declared elected under section 157, subsection 1 at the time referred to in that subsection is smaller than the number of councillors to be elected in the municipality, the Ministry of Justice may, at the proposal of the local council, set a new time for the elections. If elections are not held before the end of the electoral term, the current councillors and deputy councillors stay in office until the results of the new elections are published. The provisions of this Act on new elections apply, as appropriate, to these elections.

Chapter 12
Elections to the European Parliament

Time of elections to the European Parliament

Section 160
Election day

Elections to the European Parliament are held every fifth year.

The election day for elections to the European Parliament is the Sunday that coincides with the four-day period from Thursday to Sunday in June determined by the Council of the European Union. If the elections cannot be held in the Member States during the above-mentioned time

period, the Council of the European Union determines another time period for the elections, in which case the election day is the Sunday included in this time period.

Exercising the right to vote

Section 161
Prohibition against voting more than once

No person may vote in more than one Member State of the European Union in the same elections to the European Parliament.

Section 162
Obligation of the Population Register Centre to notify

Immediately after the time period determined in section 18, subsection 5 has expired, the Population Register Centre shall inform the authorities in another Member State of the European Union of those citizens of the Member State entitled to vote who have notified that they wish to exercise their right to vote in Finland.

The number of members to be elected and candidate eligibility

Section 163 (300/2009)

[Section 163 was repealed.]

Section 164
Candidate eligibility and posts and positions impeding membership of the European Parliament

The provisions on candidate eligibility in parliamentary elections apply to the candidate eligibility of Finnish citizens in elections to the European Parliament. A citizen of another Member State of the European Union who is entitled to vote in Finland is eligible to stand as a candidate in the elections to the European Parliament in Finland, unless he or she has lost his or her candidate eligibility in the elections to the European Parliament in his or her home state.

A Member of the European Parliament cannot be:
1) a member of the Government;
2) a member of the European Commission;
3) a Judge, Advocate-General or Registrar of the Court of Justice of the European Communities or of the Court of First Instance;
4) a member of the executive board of the European Central Bank;
5) a member of the European Court of Auditors;
6) the European Ombudsman;
7) a member of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities or of the European Atomic Energy Community;
8) a member of the Committee of Regions;
9) a member of a committee or another body responsible for the financial administration or a permanent administrative function of the Community, appointed by virtue of the founding treaties of the European Community and the European Atomic Energy Community;
10) a member of the Board of Directors or Board of Governors of the European Investment Bank or a member of staff of the European Investment Bank;

11) a public official or a clerical worker employed by a body of the European Communities or by a special body connected to such or by the European Central Bank;
12) a person who is in such a post or position that he or she under the Constitution cannot be a Member of Parliament.
(868/2003)

If a person elected a Member of the European Parliament from Finland loses his or her candidate eligibility or is appointed or selected for a post or position referred to in subsection 2, his or her membership in the European Parliament is terminated.

Nomination of candidates in elections to the European Parliament

Section 165
Right to nominate candidates

In elections to the European Parliament, candidates may be nominated by:
1) political parties;
2) eligible voters who have founded a constituency association.

When political parties nominate candidates, two or more parties may form an electoral alliance by mutual agreement. Similarly, two or more constituency associations may form a joint list.

The nominated candidates stand as candidates in the entire country.

Section 166
Maximum number of candidates

A party, an electoral alliance or a joint list may nominate a maximum of 20 candidates.

Section 167
Prohibition against multiple nomination

In the same elections to the European Parliament, no person may stand as a candidate in more than one Member State of the European Union. In the same elections, a person may be nominated as a candidate by only one party or one constituency association.

Section 168
Nomination of candidates by parties

The candidates of a party shall be nominated in a manner that secures the possibilities of the party members to exercise democratic influence as determined in the rules and regulations of the party.

Section 169
Establishment of a constituency association

A minimum of 2,000 eligible voters may establish a constituency association in order to nominate a candidate in elections to the European Parliament.

A constituency association is established by drawing up a dated and signed charter which shall contain the following information:
1) a reference to the elections to the European Parliament in question;

2) the candidate's name and title, occupation or position using no more than two expressions, and his or her municipality of residence;
3) the name, date of birth and address of each member;
4) an affirmation signed by each member stating that they are entitled to vote in the elections in question;
5) the name and contact information of the polling representative and the deputy polling representative of the constituency association.

An eligible voter may be a member of only one constituency association. If a person is a member of two or more constituency associations, the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki shall remove his or her name from all the charters.

Candidate application in elections to the European Parliament

Section 170 (496/2013)
Polling representatives

Each party and constituency association nominating candidates shall have a polling representative, and each polling representative shall have a deputy. In addition, those constituency associations which form a joint list shall authorise the polling representative of one of the constituency associations to act as the polling representative of a joint list and another one as his or her deputy.

The polling representative of a party or a joint list may not act as the polling representative of another party or a joint list. The polling representative of a constituency association may not act as the polling representative of a party, another constituency association or a joint list other than the one which his or her constituency association belongs to. The polling representative of a party or a constituency association may not be a member or a deputy member of a constituency electoral committee or a central municipal election board.

An application, notification or rectification referred to in this Act may on behalf of the polling representative be made by a person authorised in writing by the polling representative in question. The provisions of this Act on the polling representative of a party, joint list and constituency association apply, as appropriate, also to the deputy polling representative.

A party shall notify the name, personal identity code and contact information of the polling representative of the party and his or her deputy to the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki on the 48th day before the election day at the latest.

Section 171
Submission of candidate applications

The polling representative of a party, joint list or constituency association shall submit the candidate application to the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki by 16.00 on the 40th day before the election day.

Section 172 (496/2013)
Candidate application of a party

The following shall be appended to the candidate application of a party:
1) a proposal for the list of candidates of the party, stating in the order in which the candidates are placed in the master list of candidates, the name and title, profession or occupation of each candidate, using no more than two expressions, and their municipality of residence; along with or

instead the given name, a generally known name of the person or his or her abbreviated first name may be used; the list of candidates must not include any other entries, unless they are necessary to clarify the identity of the candidate;
2) a signed document from each candidate including the candidate's personal identity code and stating that he or she consents to stand as a candidate for the party that has nominated him or her and that he or she consents to assume the responsibilities of a Member of the European Parliament, as well as containing an affirmation that the candidate has not agreed to stand as a candidate for another party or a constituency association or as a candidate in the same elections;
3) an affirmation where each candidate who is a citizen of another Member State of the European Union confirms that he or she has not agreed to stand as a candidate in another Member State in the same elections or lost his or her candidate eligibility in the elections to the European Parliament in his or her home state, as well as a notification stating the citizenship of the candidate, the electoral district or municipality in the candidate's home state in which he or she most recently was entered in the electoral roll for the elections to the European Parliament, and his or her most recent address in the home state.

The polling representative of a party shall date and sign the candidate application and affirm that the candidates are eligible.

Section 173
Notification of an electoral alliance

If parties have agreed to form an electoral alliance, they shall draw up a joint notification where all the parties participating in the electoral alliance are listed. The notification shall be signed by the polling representatives of all the parties joining the electoral alliance. The polling representative of a party that is taking part in the electoral alliance shall submit the notification to the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki simultaneously with the candidate application of the party.

Section 174 (496/2013)
Candidate application of a constituency association

The following shall be appended to the candidate application of a constituency association:
1) a proposal for the list of candidates of the constituency association containing information on the candidate as referred to in section 172, subsection 1, paragraph 1;
2) a document signed by the candidate including the candidate's personal identity code and stating that he or she consents to stand as a candidate for the constituency association that has nominated him or her and that he or she consents to assume the responsibilities of a Member of the European Parliament, as well as containing an affirmation that the candidate has not agreed to stand as a candidate for any party in the same elections;
3) an affirmation where the candidate who is a citizen of another Member State of the European Union confirms that he or she has not agreed to stand as a candidate in another Member State in the same elections or lost his or her candidate eligibility in the elections to the European Parliament in his or her home state, as well as a notification stating the citizenship of the candidate, the electoral district or municipality in the candidate's home state in which he or she most recently was entered in the electoral roll for the elections to the European Parliament, and his or her most recent address in the home state;
4) the charter of the constituency association.

The polling representative of the constituency association shall date and sign the candidate application, enter his or her personal identity code in the application and affirm that the candidate is eligible and that the members of the constituency association have personally signed the charter.

Section 175
Notification of a joint list

If a constituency association has agreed to form a joint list with one or more other constituency associations, a notification of the joint list and the constituency associations belonging to it and the candidates in the order the candidates will be presented in the master list of candidates shall be submitted simultaneously with the candidate application of the constituency association. The notification shall be signed by the polling representatives of the constituency associations that have formed the joint list.

The notification shall also include the name and contact information of the polling representative and deputy polling representative of the joint list.

The notification may contain a proposal for the name of the joint list to be given in the master list of candidates. The proposed name shall include the expression "joint list" (in Finnish: *yhteislista*). The name must not be inappropriate or generally or otherwise misleading. The name of the joint list may always contain a name which has been entered in the Register of Associations and which the constituency associations forming the joint list have verifiably been given permission by the association to use. The name must not, however, include the name of a party that is registered in the Party Register.

Certain duties of election authorities relating to nomination of candidates

Section 176
Notification of multiple nomination

If the Population Register Centre has received a notification from an authority of another Member State of the European Union stating that a person eligible to stand as a candidate in Finland has been nominated as a candidate in the same elections in the country in question, the Population Register Centre shall, without delay, notify the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki of this.

Section 177 (496/2013)
Checking the candidate eligibility of a citizen of another Member State of the European Union

The constituency electoral committee of Helsinki shall without delay notify the Population Register Centre if it has received a candidate application concerning a citizen of another Member State of the European Union. The Population Register Centre shall without delay submit the necessary information included in the application to the competent authority of the home state of such a candidate in order to check the candidate eligibility.

Counting of votes and confirmation of election results

Section 178
Votes cast in electoral districts

In a meeting starting at 18.00 on the third day after the election day, the constituency electoral committee shall confirm the number of votes cast for each candidate and each party, electoral alliance or joint list in the electoral district and report the confirmed numbers of votes and the total number of votes to the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki in the manner determined by the Ministry of Justice.

Section 179
Confirmation of election results

When the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki has received the report referred to in section 178 from all constituency electoral committees, it shall without delay confirm the election results in compliance with the provisions of sections 88–91 on comparative indexes, deciding by lot and determining the election results, as appropriate.

Section 180 (1263/2007)

[Section 180 was repealed.]

Section 181
Publication of election results

The constituency electoral committee of Helsinki shall immediately inform the Ministry of Justice of the election results and issue a public notice of the results to be published in the Statute Book of Finland.

Section 182
Form of Member's credentials for Members of the European Parliament

After the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki has confirmed the election results, the committee shall, without delay, draw up and submit to each elected candidate Member's credentials, which read as follows:
"In the elections to the European Parliament conducted on the ... day of the month of ..., ---, residing in ..., has been elected a Member of the European Parliament as of the next plenary session of the European Parliament until the first plenary session after the next elections to the European Parliament is opened.
This certificate serves as the Member's credentials."
Place and date.

If a parliamentary seat in the European Parliament has become vacant, the constituency electoral committee of Helsinki shall submit the Member's credentials to the person who is to replace the Member of the European Parliament. In this event, the Member's credentials read as follows:
"As the parliamentary seat of – –, who was elected a Member of the European Parliament in the elections to the European Parliament conducted in Finland on the … day of the month of ..., has become vacant, – –, residing in …., shall replace him or her as a Member of the European Parliament in accordance with the Election Act.
This certificate serves as the Member's credentials."
Place and date.

PART III – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Chapter 13
Supplementary provisions

Section 183
Prohibition of appeal against a decision of a party

The provisions of the Associations Act on the voidness or contesting of decisions of an association do not apply to the decisions of a political party or its district, local or other organisation, if the decision concerns nomination of candidates for elections, election procedures or candidate applications.

Section 184 (496/2013)
Polling representatives' and election observers' right to be present

The polling representatives of parties, joint lists and constituency associations not belonging to any joint list as well as persons authorised by polling representatives, in writing and separately for each election authority, have the right to attend the meetings of the election board, central municipal election board and constituency electoral committee that are held to determine the candidate numbers, to organise or count the ballots or to determine the election results.

The Ministry of Justice may authorise a domestic or a foreign election observer to observe elections in the entire country, and a central municipal election board may authorise a domestic or a foreign election observer to observe elections in the municipality. The election observer has the right to be present when the election authorities referred to in this Act perform their duties.

Section 185
Criminal liability of election authorities

If a member of a constituency electoral committee, central municipal election board, election board or electoral commission or an election official or any other person in the course of his or her duties as an election authority referred to in this Act neglects his or her obligations, he or she shall be punished as a public official is punished for an offence in public office.

Section 186
Offences in elections

The provisions on the punishments for electoral offence, electoral bribery, fraudulent voting and falsification of election returns are laid down in chapter 4, sections 1–4 of the Criminal Code.

Section 187 (496/2013)
Issuing extracts and copies

If an extract or a copy of a document referred to in this Act is given to someone other than the person the document concerns or to an authority which performs duties referred to in this Act or arising from it, the personal identity code of the person concerned shall be omitted from the document. Provisions on mass delivery of information are laid down separately.

Section 188
***Division of expenses between election authorities* (247/2002)**

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for:
1) the expenses for the voting register, the national candidate register and polling station register as well as other information systems and result calculation software of the Ministry of Justice that are used in the elections;
2) the expenses for the production of polling cards and their delivery to the eligible voters;
3) the expenses for ballots, electoral rolls and other election documents as well as election stamps, sealing equipment and ballot boxes as well as their delivery to the central municipal election boards;
4) the expenses for delivering the covering envelopes referred to in section 62 to be used in connection with advance voting;
5) the expenses for organising advance voting abroad;
6) the expenses incurred by the constituency electoral committees.
(247/2002)

The local authorities are responsible for the expenses incurred by the operations of the central municipal election board, election boards, electoral commissions, election officials in the advance polling stations and at-home voting, as well as for other expenses for conducting the elections than those referred to in subsection 1. In all other elections than municipal elections, the Ministry of Justice pays the local authorities a lump sum compensation in euros, confirmed by the Ministry, which is based on the number of eligible voters in the municipality. (563/2015)

Other authorities are responsible for other expenses than those referred to in subsection 1 incurred when carrying out their duties.

Section 189 (496/2013)
Rescheduling of election day and other appointed dates

If the election day falls on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Epiphany, May Day Eve, May Day, Whit Sunday, Independence Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or Boxing Day, the voting on election day is conducted on the following Sunday. If the election day falls on Easter Day or the Sunday following Easter Day, the voting on election day is conducted on the Sunday preceding Easter Day. However, the provisions of section 160, subsection 2 apply to the determination of the election day for elections to the European Parliament.

If an appointed date provided or determined for another purpose than for voting on election day, starting or ending advance voting, declaration of the elected councillors without conducting an election or confirming election results falls on a public holiday, an ordinary Saturday or Midsummer Eve or Christmas Eve, the first following weekday is considered to be the appointed date. If necessary, the Ministry of Justice has the right to reschedule such an appointed date to the closest appropriate day, if new elections are to be conducted due to an appeal or if new parliamentary elections or supplementary municipal elections are ordered to be held or if a presidential election has been ordered to be restarted or if municipal elections have been ordered to be conducted at a new time.

Section 190
Transportation services for disabled persons

The provisions on transportation services laid down in the Act on Services and Assistance for the Disabled (380/1987) apply to the transportation of disabled eligible voters to the polling and advance polling stations.

Section 191
Parties in member association relations

If any of the parties registered in the Party Register maintained by the Ministry of Justice have such a relationship as referred to in section 2, subsection 2 of the Act on Political Parties, they are considered to be one party when this Act is applied.

Section 192 (1404/2009)
Local register administration authority in the province of Åland

The duties of a local register administration authority performed by the local register offices in parliamentary elections, presidential elections and elections to the European Parliament are in the province of Åland performed by the State Department of Åland.

Section 193
Templates

The Ministry of Justice confirms the necessary templates for the documents and forms to be used in elections and issues more detailed instructions on the form of the master list of candidates and the list of presidential candidates.

Section 194
Schedule for nomination of candidates in elections conducted on an exceptional date

If the President of the Republic has ordered extraordinary parliamentary elections to be held, the nomination of candidates and the related duties of the election authorities are conducted on the 39th, 31st, 27th, 24th and 23rd days before the election day, instead of the dates determined in this Act as being the 48th, 40th, 34th, 32nd and 31st day before the election day.

If measures need to be undertaken in order to elect President because the current President, the President-elect or a presidential candidate has become permanently incapacitated or has deceased, the Government shall, in its decision referred to in section 127, subsection 3, issue provisions on the nomination of candidates and the schedule for the related duties of the election authorities.

Section 195 (1263/2007)
Further provisions

If necessary, further provisions on the duties of the election authorities referred to in this Act are issued by decree of the Ministry of Justice.

Chapter 14
Entry into force and transitional provisions

Section 196
Entry into force

This Act enters into force on 8 October 1998.

This Act repeals the following Acts, as amended:
1) Act on Parliamentary Elections of 13 June 1969 (391/1969);
2) Act on Presidential Elections of 22 July 1991 (1076/1991);
3) Act on Municipal Elections of 12 May 1972 (361/1972); and
4) Act on the European Parliament Elections of 3 March 1995 (272/1995)

Measures necessary for the implementation of this Act may be undertaken before the Act's entry into force.

Section 197
Transitional provisions

If an election or a consultative referendum is conducted before 90 days has passed since the entry into force of this Act, the regulations which were in force when this Act entered into force apply. In parliamentary elections that are conducted on 21 March 1999 or before that and in presidential election and elections to the European Parliament that are conducted before the next parliamentary elections conducted after the parliamentary elections referred to in this subsection, the provisions on the electoral district division laid down in section 1 of the Act on Parliamentary Elections are applied instead of the provisions on the electoral district division laid down in section 5 of this Act.

Pursuant to section 3 of the Act on Parliamentary Elections, the term of a central committee of an electoral district continues until a constituency electoral committee has been appointed in accordance with section 11. The central municipal election board appointed by the local council for its term under section 4 of the Act on Municipal Elections functions as the central municipal election board referred to in section 13 until the end of its term.

References in other acts and decrees to the acts repealed by this Act are after the entry into force of this Act considered to refer to this Act.