



VALG

Important voter information

2011 municipal and county council elections



Election day is 12 September. Remember to bring ID!

English | engelsk



KOMMUNAL- OG REGIONALDEPARTEMENTET

2011 municipal and county council elections

The **municipal council** is the highest governing body of the municipality in Norway. This is where key decisions are taken on local matters such as nursery schools, childcare, primary and secondary schools, health and welfare services, cultural initiatives, and refuse collection and disposal.

The **county council** is the highest governing body at county level in Norway. The county council takes key decisions on such matters as further education, county roads (along with connecting ferry services), local public transport and cultural initiatives.

In Oslo, elections are being held for city district councils, but not for the county council.

Local matters are the ones that affect you most on a day-to-day basis. By voting, you will be helping to decide who will represent you and your interests.

This brochure will provide you with information about what to do.

Election day is Monday, 12 September 2011

A lot of municipalities are also holding elections on Sunday, 11 September. Your municipality will tell you whether there are elections on both days, or on just one.

Remember to take ID when you vote!

In accordance with the Norwegian Representation of the People Act, the polling officers may require any voter that they do not recognise to provide proof of identity. A passport, driving licence or bank card with cardholder's photo are all acceptable as proof of identity, but you can also use other types of ID. The proof of identity must show the voter's name, date of birth and picture.

If you are currently residing in an institution, such as a nursing home, hospital or prison, you can get an employee of the institution to confirm your identity.

Each voter will be sent a polling card

This card will provide you with information about where and when you can vote on election day. You do not need to bring your polling card with you when you vote, but it may save you time. The polling card is *not* valid proof of identity.

Who can vote?

- Norwegian citizens who will be at least 18 years of age at the end of 2011 and who are, or have been, registered as resident in Norway.
- Citizens of other Nordic countries who will be at least 18 years of age at the end of 2011, and who were registered as resident in Norway as of 30 June 2011.
- Citizens of other foreign countries who will be at least 18 years of age at the end of 2011, and who have been registered as resident in Norway continuously for the three years preceding election day.

Where and when can you vote?

On election day: You must vote in the municipality in which you were registered as resident as of 30 June 2011. You can vote at any polling station in the municipality. See the illustrations on the next page showing how to vote on election day.

Advance voting: You can vote in advance up to and including Friday, 9 September, in any municipality. If you vote in advance, the procedure is slightly different from voting on election day itself.

How to vote in advance:

- a) Approach a polling officer, who will give you a special envelope for ballot papers and show you to a voting booth.
- b) Take the ballot papers you will use: one for the municipal council election and one for the county council election.
- c) Make any changes you wish to the ballot papers, e.g. by ranking or deleting a candidate or candidates.
- d) Place the ballot papers into the ballot-paper envelope. Take the envelope to the polling officer, who will place it and your polling card into a covering envelope, which will then be placed in the ballot box. Your vote will be sent to your home municipality to be counted. The ballot papers will not be stamped when you vote in advance.

If you are voting in a municipality other than your own, you must either use the general ballot papers that will be issued to you, or you must bring ballot papers from your municipality. The general ballot papers do not contain candidate names, but only party names. If you wish to give personal votes to candidates, you must therefore obtain ballot papers from your own municipality. The same applies if you cast your vote in a county other than your own.

If you are ill or disabled, you can apply to the municipality to be able to vote in advance at home.

The municipality will let you know where and when you can vote.

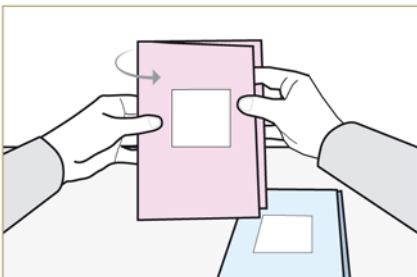
How to cast your vote on election day



1) Take the ballot papers you will use: one for the municipal council election and one for the county council election.



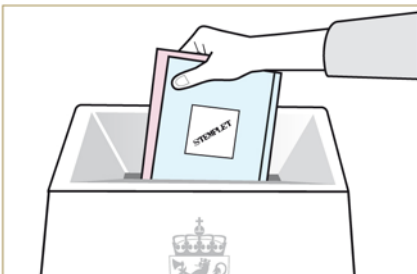
2) Make any changes you wish to the ballot papers (see the instructions on the next page).



3) Fold each of the ballot papers in such a way as to conceal the party name, but keeping the space for the stamp still visible. In this way, no one can see how you are voting. The ballot papers should not be placed in any sort of envelope or cover.



4) Approach a polling officer and get your ballot papers stamped on the outside. Both ballot papers must be stamped in order to be valid.



5) Place the stamped ballot papers in the ballot box.

How to make changes on the ballot papers

If you wish to influence which candidates will be elected, you must give personal votes to these candidates. It is up to you to decide whether to change the ballot paper by giving personal votes.

How to give personal votes:



For the municipal council election:

- Place a cross in the box next to the name of each candidate you want to vote for. You can give personal votes to as many candidates as you wish.



- Write the name of any candidate from other parties or groups you wish to vote for in the space provided on the ballot paper. It will say on the ballot paper how many candidate names you can enter.

Note that if you give personal votes to candidates from other parties or groups, part of your vote will be transferred to the other party or group. The value of your vote for the party or group you are voting for will then be reduced accordingly.



For the county council election:

- Place a cross in the box next to the name of each candidate you want to vote for. You can give personal votes to as many candidates as you like.

Do not be afraid to make changes. The procedure is explained on the ballot paper. Your vote will not be discounted even if you make a mistake.

Who will be elected?

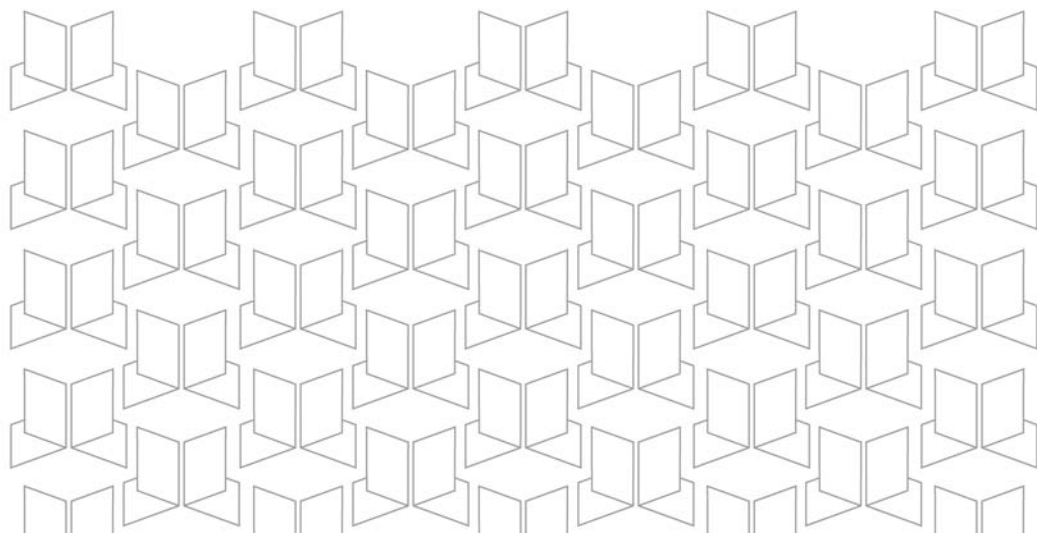
First, the electoral committee works out how many representatives the various parties or groups will have on the municipal council or county council. The electoral committee then counts the personal votes to find out which candidates will be elected from each party or group.

Two trials in 2011

In 20 municipalities, 16- and 17-year-olds will be able to vote in the municipal council election.

In ten municipalities, voters can vote via the Internet in the municipal council election and county council election.

More information is available on www.valg.no



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For more information about the election, please see **www.valg.no** or contact your municipality.