



VALG
e - vote 2011 - project

THE NORWEGIAN E-VOTING TRIALS – LEGAL FRAMEWORK

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e-voting conference 11 September 2011

12 September Local Elections

- 429 Municipal Council Elections
 - pilot: e-voting in 10 municipalities
 - pilot: reduced voting age in 20 municipalities
- 18 County Council Elections
 - pilot: e-voting in 10 municipalities
- In addition
 - Local referendums: each municipality may decide on advisory local referendums
 - Local Committees Elections in Oslo: each municipality may decide on election to local committees within the municipality
- 3 600 000 entitled to vote

Legal framework all elections

- Election Act from 2002
- Election Regulations 2003 set by the Ministry
- Election Act § 1-1 Purpose provision
 - *The purpose of this Act is to establish such conditions that citizens shall be able to elect their representatives to the Storting, county councils and municipal councils **by means of a secret ballot in free and direct elections.***

Pilots – legal basis

- Election law provision gives us the opportunity to try out **other ways to conduct elections** than required by law, without making law amendments
- Purpose: Not given what is the best alternative solution
- By this we use pilot schemes as a development tool
- Limitations: no deviations from basic principles of the conduct of elections

Election act § 15-1

The Ministry may give “consent for pilot schemes in which elections under this Act are conducted in other ways than those that follow from this Act”

The Ministry lays down “further conditions for such electoral pilots and in so doing determines from which statutory provisions any departure may be made”

→ e-voting regulations
31 March 2011



Legal framework – e-voting

e-voting regulations § 3:

Unless otherwise specified, provisions in the Norwegian Election Act and Regulations will apply

This means that neither the law nor the regulations can be read in isolation

The Council of Europe's REC (2004) recommendations on standards for e-voting shall form the basis of the trials, unless otherwise specified in the e-voting regulations

In order to maintain the principle of secrecy § 5

- Electronic voting is a **supplement**
- E-voting **only in advance period**
- A possibility for e-voters to **vote again** as many times as they wish (prevent undue influence and coercion)
- A valid **paper vote** will always **override** any electronic vote
- Identification and authentication solution (eID) based on a high level of security
- Technically safe and reliable system; it does not reveal any connection between the voter and his/her vote

The Norwegian Electoral System

- Local elections every four years
- Based on the principles proportional representation in multi-member electoral constituencies
 - Lists win representatives according to their relative support
- Voters can make changes to the ballot
 - Candidates get elected according to the number of personal votes

Electoral bodies

Municipal Level –

429 Electoral Committees

- ✓ approve list proposals
- ✓ print ballots
- ✓ voters register
- ✓ preparations and conduct of voting
- ✓ counting
- ✓ distribution of seats and candidates (municipality)

3000 Polling Committees

- ✓ responsible at each polling station

County Level –

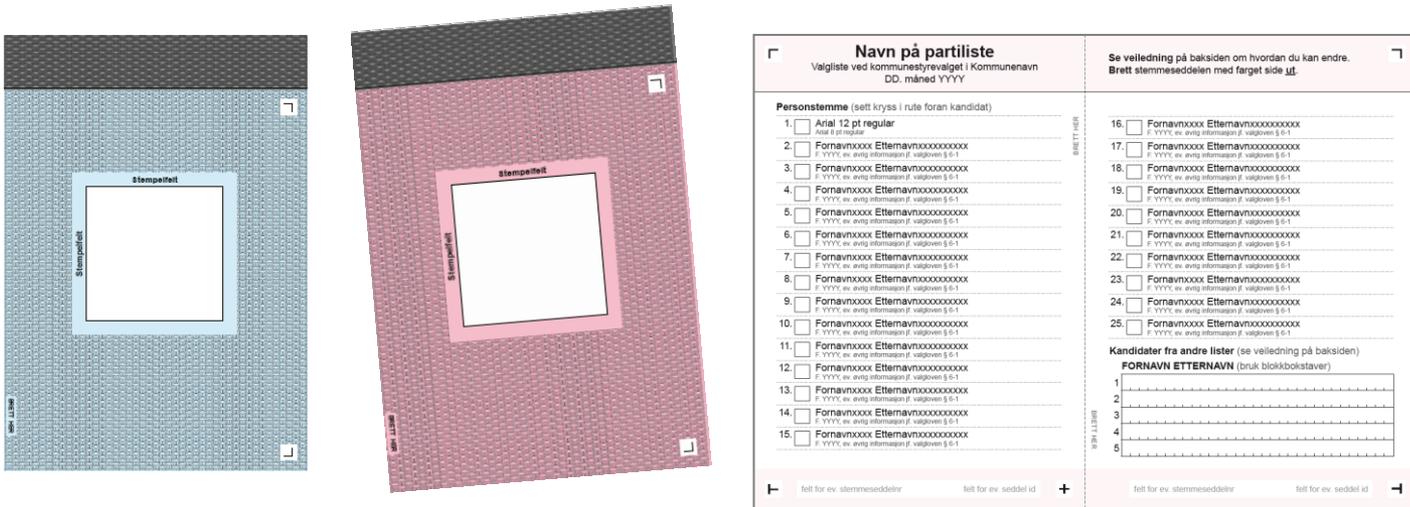
18 County Electoral Committees

- ✓ they check the electoral committees counting of votes in the county election
- ✓ distribution of seats and candidates (county)



Electoral lists - ballots

- Registered political parties and other groups may run for election and submit electoral lists
- Deadline for submitting 31 March
- Deadline for approval 1 June

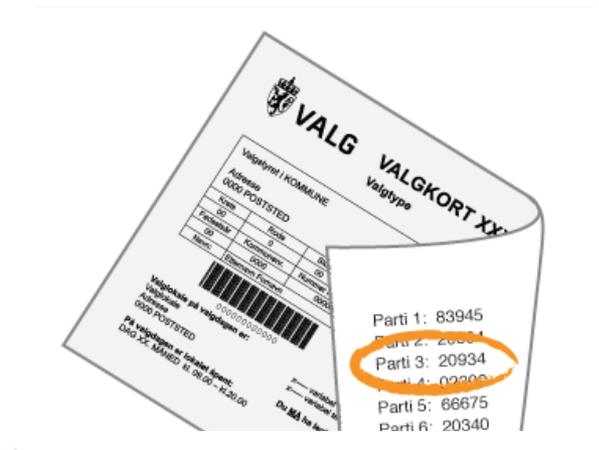


Entitled to vote

- Norwegian citizens
- Citizens from Nordic countries, if registered as residents as of 30 June
- Other citizens if registered as residents the three last years
- 18 years of age or turning 18 before the end of 2011
- Included in the electoral register
- The Electoral Committee is responsible for keeping and updating the electoral register

Voters register - Polling cards

- Population Register forms the basis for the voters register
- **Electronic voters register**
- On election day voters will be marked off in the voters register as they cast their votes
- Polling cards are sent to all entitled to vote
- Return codes on polling cards are used to control that votes are received correctly



Advance voting

All voters must provide proof of identity in order to be able to cast a vote

Online voting: MinID

Abroad

- Starts 1 July Ends 2 September

Early voting Inland

- Starts 1 July Ends 9 August

Regular Advance voting Inland

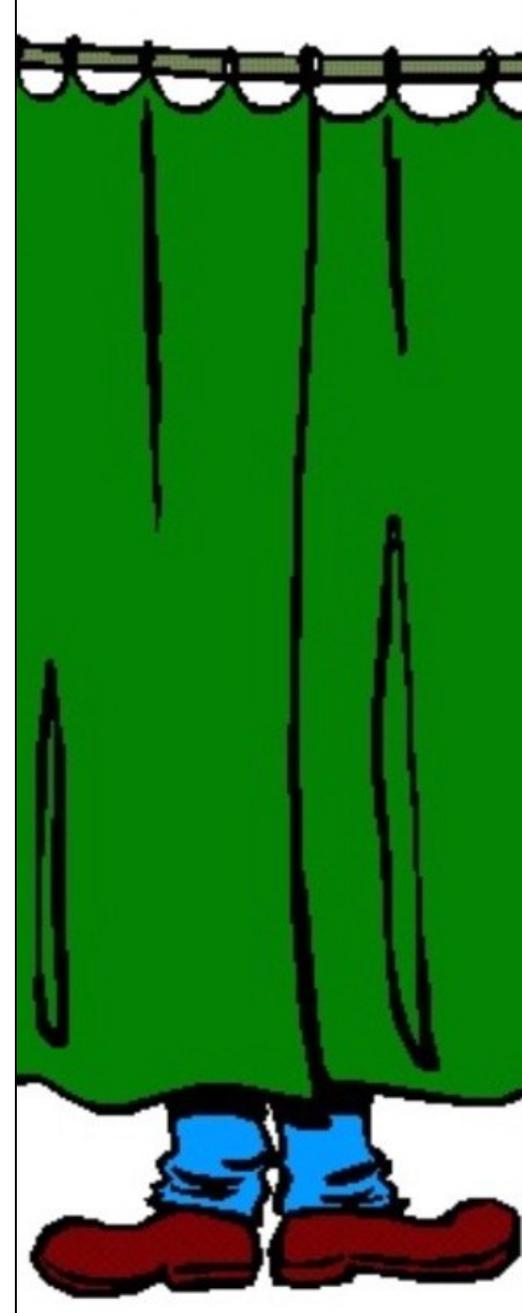
- Starts 10 August Ends 9 September
- E-voting: 10 August – 9 September

Voters may cast their vote in any municipality of their choice



Voting on Election Day

- No e-voting
- Voters must cast their votes in the municipality in which they are registered as voters
- Voting in a secluded room and unobserved
- Voters who need assistance may ask members of the Polling Committee for help
- Pilot: Electronic crossing of in the voters register on election day



Counting

- Counting is performed by
 - the Municipal Electoral Committee
 - the Ministry/Key board
- Preliminary and final counting
- Ballots cast in advance and on Election Day must be kept separate
- During counting each vote/ballot is assessed and approved or rejected



Counting all votes

Ballots cast in advance - papervotes

- always counted by the Electoral Committee
- first counting - two stages
 - 1) no later than 4 hours before the polling station close
 - 2) after closing of polling stations

Ballots cast in advance - electronic votes

- at the Ministry – by the Key board
- clarification and decryption. Preliminary result

Both p-votes and e-votes

- second counting

Ballots cast in Election Day

- first counting – usually at the polling station by the Polling Committee
- counting starts as soon as the polling station close
- second counting – centrally by the Electoral Committee (often electronically)

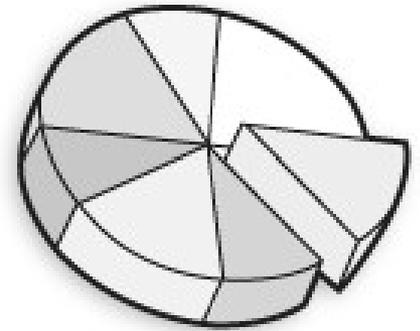
Counting of e-votes(preliminary)

1. The system corrects for approved paper votes from the voter
If the voter has cast a paper vote, this shall be approved
2. The system then corrects for multiple electronic votes by the same voter
3. The preliminary approved electronic votes shall then be decrypted

Final approval of e-votes has to be done after all paper votes have been approved

Tabulation

- How many seats is the individual list to have? (Allocation of seats)
 - Method of calculation: Sainte-Laguë's modified method
- Which candidates are to have these seats? (Return of members)
 - Method of calculation: varies from county and municipal election



Complaints and approval

- Voters may complain about **conditions in connection with the preparations for and conduct** of the election
- Deadline: 7 days after election day
- Complaints election result: 7 days after the decision
- Municipal election – results approved by the Municipal Council
- County election – results approved by the County Council
- If not approved
 - A new election is determined by the Ministry at local elections

Technical security chapter 9

The requirements relating to the system shall be available online

(infrastructure, servers, data in the system, procedures, guidelines for deleting return codes, roles, access, technical documentation, testing, time plans, security copying procedures, etc.)

The system shall enable independent third parties verification

Documentation relating to how the system has been built up and works, including detailed specifications and architectural documents shall be available online



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Thank you for your attention

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