

Estonia Today

ESTONIAN E-VOTING SYSTEM

The **Estonian e-voting system** has been under development since 2002 with the final pilot held at the end of 2004. Now it is used for the first time for local government council elections. There are 1,06 million registered voters, more than 80% of which have **ID-cards**. 2610 voters cast their vote electronically during the first day of e-voting.

Electronic voting is meant to supplement, not to replace the traditional methods of voting. The idea is to give voters the possibility to vote from the location of their choice (home or office), without the necessity of going to the polling station. Therefore remote voting is used.

Electronic voting takes place during advance polls (sixth to fourth day before election day) and government-issued ID-cards are used for voter identification.

Very briefly, the **voting procedure** goes like this:

1. The voter inserts the ID-card into card reader and opens the webpage for voting (<http://www.valimised.ee>).
2. The voter verifies him/herself using the PIN1 of ID-card.
3. The server checks if the voter is eligible (using the data from population register).
4. The voter is shown the candidate list of the appropriate electoral district.

5. The voter makes his/her voting decision, which is encrypted.

6. The voter confirms his/her choice with a digital signature (by inputting the PIN2-code).

7. At the vote count the voter's digital signature is removed and at the final stage the members of the NEC can collegially open the anonymous e-votes and count them.

There is a possibility of electronic **re-vote** – e-voter can cast his/her vote again electronically and the previous vote will be deleted.

The traditional means of voting (with a paper ballot) is given priority. Should the voter go to polling station during advance polls and cast a vote, his or her e-vote shall be deleted. On Election Day, 16 October, the registered electronic vote cannot be changed or made void.

After the electronic voting and advance polls end (4th day before election day) the list of voters who have voted electronically is comprised and sent to polling stations. The polling station makes a notice that the person has already voted to the voter list. This prevents them from voting for the second time on election day.

More information:

National Electoral Committee: www.vvk.ee

