



# **The Finnish law on e-voting pilots adopted by Parliament in October 2006**

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# 2006 is Democracy Celebration Year In Finland





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- Exactly 100 years ago the most advanced election system in Europa was taken in use in Finland
- The election law was stipulated in 1906 and first elections were held in 1907
- The earlier Parliament Act was based on the four estates (nobility, clergy, townsman, pheasant)
- 1907 new Parliament had only one chamber, all 24-year-old citizens had common and equal suffrage (number of people entitled to vote increased ten times)
- Even the women got suffrage for the first time in Europe (for the third time in the whole world)
- The women can stand as a candidate for the second time in the world
- **The women were elected as members of parliament for the first time in the world (19 female MP:s)**
- During these 100 years our Parliamentary election system has proved its trustworthiness and there has been very few changes
- About 20.000 election authorities (elected by political parties) in 15 Electoral Discrits and 430 Municipalities administer the electoral procecces in practice according the strict orders by the Ministry of Justice



## 2006: The election system works smoothly

- The voting activity is quite high
- The election system is fast enough (preliminary results are ready in 1-1,5 hours after the closing of polling stations)
- The voters and the election authorities trust the election system
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- In these circumstances there is no big enthusiasm to any changes (message from electoral authorities and mass media representatives on the feed back seminar last spring: don't change anything!)
- For these reasons still at the end of the year 2004 there wasn't much call for eVoting in Finland when the e-voting recommendation (IP1 EE) of COE was released

# Why then develop e-voting at all in Finland

- There is a mention in our present government platform concerning e-voting study and the Ministry of Justice as the election steering ministry got the order to do something for it
- In Spring 2005 the Ministry of Justice set the committee to prepare e-voting provisions in our electoral law
- But even earlier (year 2003) the Ministry of Justice made preliminary definitions and it was found some added values of e-voting system
  - The advance voting system (40 % of all votes) used in Finland is very expensive: material, human work, post cost; the e-voting will minimize the cost radically
  - The voting process can be faster and easier both for the voter and the election authorities
  - The voter can be sure that the right candidate got the vote (the name is presented in the screen of the voting terminal)
  - No manually counting of votes

## eVoting – Law -Drafting 2005

- The committee took the following stands in the work:
  - To adopt the recommendation of COE (IP1EE) with only one exception: the blank vote would be possible only when using paper ballot
  - To make first a law for the pilot system (e-voting only in few municipalities) for the 2007 Parliamentary Elections
  - After that the Ministry of Justice could expand the e-voting if the experience of the piloting were positive (voters and authorities)
  - e-voting could be possible only under controlled circumstances (in the polling stations and in the advance polling places; no remote e-voting)
- The memorandum of the committee and the draft of the proposed law were ready in the autumn of 2005
- Sent to large circulation for comments to the political parties, the researchers and the legislation experts

# Changes to Law-Drafting in the Parliament

- The Parliament insisted the following changes to the law-draft
- The Ministry of Justice can't make decisions on expanding the use of e-voting (the Parliament wants to do that)
- The possibility of the blank e-vote must be included to the system
- The expansion principle (not in law, but it was as a preparation order): e-voting should be possible in all polling places within one electoral area (in the Parliamentary Elections one electoral district, in the Municipal Elections one municipality, in the European Parliamentary Elections and the Presidential Elections the whole country)
- The e-voting pilot system must be postponed from the 2007 Parliamentary Elections to the 2008 Municipal Elections
- After these changes the Parliament accepted in October 2006 the eVoting law as the pilot law (only in the 2008 Municipal Elections and in three named municipalities)



# How to proceed with the e-voting in the future

- All depends experience of the pilot e-voting elections 2008
- As there is only 8 months between the 2008 Municipal Elections and the 2009 European Parliamentary Elections there isn't time to make the new law or the technical enlargement
- So, in practice the further expansion of the e-voting in Finland is possible not earlier than in the 2011 Parliamentary Elections
- The technical readiness:
  - Our pilot system works on the internet base
  - If the remote e-voting would be some day possible (e.g. voting abroad) we don't have to make big renovation in our IT -system

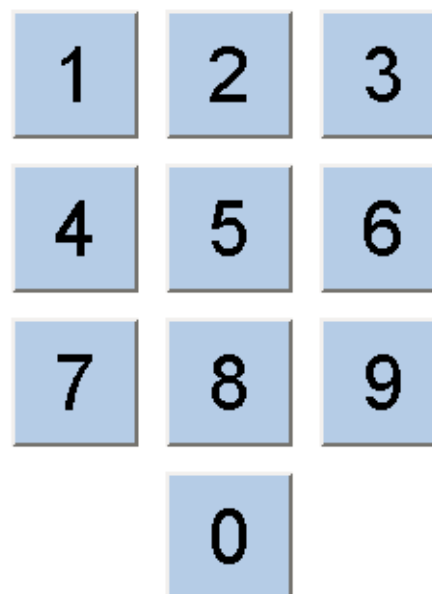
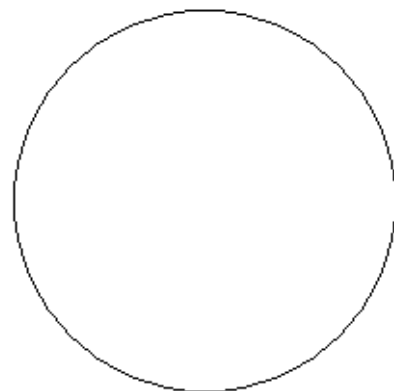


## E-voting in Finland (pilot work flow)

- Voter comes to the advance polling place or to the polling station on the election day
- Election authority (municipal) identifies the voter (who needs some person card f.e. the passport)
- Election authority enters id-number of the voter to EIS (Election Information System)
- EIS checks eligibility of the voter (should be in the voter register and been not voted before)
- The voter can make choice if he/she votes manually or by e-voting device (the touch screen in the polling booth)
- If voter chooses e-voting, EIS prints electric voting card to the e-voter
- e-voter goes to the polling booth, push the card to the reader and EIS identifies the e-voter
- e-voter enters number of some voting option to the screen, checks it and accepts it
- EIS makes registration of the casted vote to central e-ballot box

Merkitse numeroita  
painelemalla sen  
ehdokkaan numero, jolle  
haluat antaa äänesi ja  
paina OK.

Paina tyhjä -painiketta, jos  
haluat käyttää  
äänioikeutesi antamatta  
ääntäsi kenellekään  
asetetuista ehdokkaista.



Tyhjä

Korjaa

OK

Keskeytä

555

Valitsemaasi numeroa ei ole ehdokaslistalla. Paina Korjaa-painiketta.

1

2

3

Tyhjä

4

5

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7

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9

0

Korjaa

OK

Keskeytä

55

Kansallinen Kokoomus r.p.

**Seppälä, Jarkko**

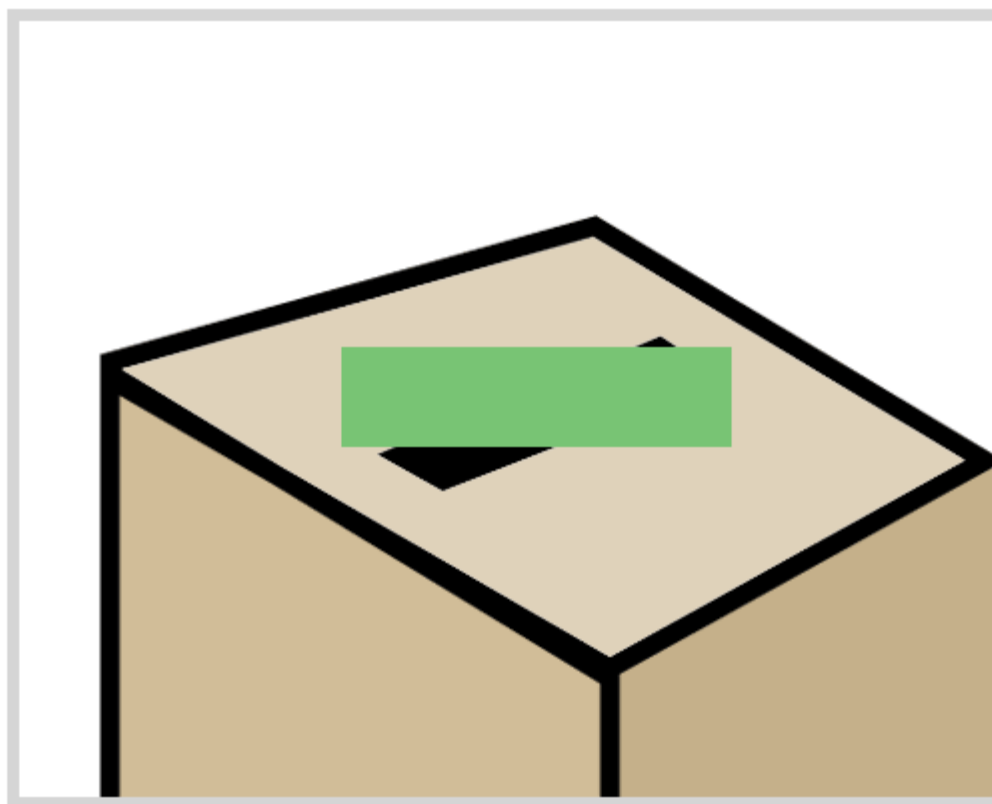
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Karkkila

OK

Peruuta

## Olet äänestänyt



Ota äänestyskortti kortinlukijasta ja palauta se vaaliviranomaiselle. Kiitos!