

## FINLAND

**Date of Elections:** January 2 and 3, 1972

### **Reason for Elections**

Elections were held to renew all the members of Parliament upon its premature dissolution by the President of the Republic, on October 29, **1971**. The previous elections had been held in March 1970.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Finnish Parliament, the *Eduskunta*, is comprised of 200 Deputies elected for 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

Finnish citizens of either sex who have attained the age of 20 before the year in which the elections take place are entitled to vote, with the exception of those under guardianship, those who have been deprived by judicial decree of their right to vote or of their civil rights, those who have been convicted of vagrancy or certain irregularities connected with elections, and naturalized citizens whose naturalization is of less than 3 years' standing. \*

Voting is not compulsory and the electoral lists are revised annually.

Every member of the electorate may be elected, except those who are on active military service. Each candidature must be presented by at least 30 citizens with the right to vote.

Finland is divided into 15 constituencies.

In 14 of them, Deputies are elected by party-list system with preferential vote; the Province of Aland, which is very small, elects a single Deputy by simple plurality of vote.

Each elector votes by writing the number allotted to the candidate of his choice in the printed circle in the centre of the ballot paper.

The number of votes won by each list is determined by adding up the votes obtained by its candidates. The seats to be filled are then distributed proportionally among the lists according to the d'Hondt system.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. **10**.

For the distribution of seats within each list, candidates are classed according to the number of votes they have won. The leading candidate is deemed to have received a number of votes equivalent to the total number of votes polled by the list, the second candidate is given a comparison number equivalent to half the number of votes cast for the list, the third candidate a comparison number equivalent to one-third of this number of votes, etc. A candidate standing for more than one constituency is declared elected from the constituency where this comparison number is greatest. In the others, he is replaced by the " next-in-line " on the same list, who is also to replace him in the event of a vacancy in Parliament between general elections.

### General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

As a result of a dispute between the Social Democrats and the Centre Party on the question of agricultural subsidies, the 4-party coalition Cabinet, from which the Communists had been excluded on March 26, 1971, resigned, and the Parliament was dissolved, on October 29, 1971; a caretaker Government was appointed the same day, and President Kekkonen announced that general elections would be held on January 2 and 3, 1972.

The election campaign — generally calm — dealt principally with the country's economic policy as a whole, as well as the agricultural question. Nine parties and a total of 1295 candidates were in the running.

The elections culminated in a slight swing to the left. The governmental coalition (Social Democrats, Centre, Liberal and Swedish People's Party) obtained 108 seats, as against the 112 it held before. In the ranks of the new Parliament were 39 members elected for the first time and 144 from cities and urban areas. The only gainer among the non-socialist parties was the Christian League, which increased the number of its seats by 3.

A Social Democratic minority Government was sworn in on February 23, 1972.

### Statistics

#### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Parliament*

Number of registered voters. . . . .	3,178,011
Voters. . . . .	2,587,060 (81 %)
Blank or void ballot papers. . . . .	9,111
Valid votes. . . . .	2,577,949

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats in Parliament
Social Democratic Party . . . . .	199	664,724	25.8	55 (+3)
National Coalition Party (Conservative). . . . .	199	453,434	17.6	34 (-3)
Democratic League of the People of Finland (Communist) . . . . .	186	438,757	17.0	37 (+1)
Centre Party (ex-Agrarians) . . . . .	171	423,039	16.5	35 (-1)
Finnish Rural Party. . . . .	170	236,206	9.2	18 (= )
Liberal Party. . . . .	153	132,955	5.1	7 (-1)
Social Democratic Union of Workers and Small Farmers . . . . .	<b>92</b>	25,527	1.0	
Christian League . . . . .	73	65,228	2.6	4 (+3)
Swedish People's Party . . . . .	no	135,596	5.1	10 (-2)
Others . . . . .	2	2,483	0.1	

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## 2. Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Professional Category

Farmers. . . . .	41
Managers. . . . .	31
Party officials. . . . .	29
Teachers. . . . .	19
Workers. . . . .	13
Municipal officials. . . . .	11
Journalists. . . . .	9
Lawyers. . . . .	8
Doctors, surgeons. . . . .	8
University professors. . . . .	7
Engineers. . . . .	5
Clergymen. . . . .	5
Nurses. . . . .	4
Students. . . . .	2
Others. . . . .	8

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3. *Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	157
Women . . . . .	43
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4. *Average Age: 46.3 years*