

## SWEDEN

**Date of Elections:** September 19, 1976

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the *Riksdag* on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Swedish Parliament, the *Riksdag*, comprises 349 members elected for 3 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Swedish citizens who have reached the age of 18 and are not under tutelage are entitled to vote. An added condition is registered residence in Sweden for the year in which the elections take place, although those citizens who have been registered as residents for some time during the seven years preceding the election also qualify, as long as they apply for special registration.

Electoral registers are drawn up for each election district and are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory. Postal voting is permitted.

Anyone who is entitled to vote may be elected as a member of the *Riksdag*. The parliamentary mandate is generally not incompatible with other public or private offices. Although Ministers (as well as the Speaker) may not serve as members of Parliament while in office, they may retain their seats which, in the meantime, are held by substitute members, and may take up their parliamentary duties if and when they leave the Government. Substitute members also serve for ordinary members who have obtained a leave of absence for at least one month.

Of the 349 members of the *Riksdag*, 310 are elected in 28 constituencies, under the party-list system, with proportional distribution of seats according to the St. Lague method (divisors: 1, 4, 3, 5, 7, etc.). To obtain a seat, a party must either obtain at least 4% of the votes cast throughout the country or 12% of the votes cast in a constituency.

The 39 remaining (or "compensatory") seats in the *Riksdag* are allotted on the basis of total votes throughout the country, though distributed by

constituencies; for this process, parties which have obtained seats only by means of the 12% rule are excluded.

If a seat in the *Riksdag* should become vacant between general elections, it is filled by a substitute member chosen at the same time as the elected member.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

As in the previous elections of 1973, the ruling Social Democratic Party and its left-wing ally, the Communist Party, were once again opposed by the centre-right bloc of three parties (Centre, Liberal and Moderate Conservative) that had held an equivalent amount of seats in the outgoing *Riksdag*.

During the campaign, Centre Party leader Thorbjorn Falldin spoke out strongly against the Social Democrats' plan to build more nuclear power centres in the country, while outgoing Socialist Prime Minister Olof Palme pointed to his Government's impressive record of wide-scale social reforms, rising salaries and improved working conditions in Sweden's factories.

On election day, a record percentage of registered voters cast ballots; included among them were some 500,000 new 18-year-old electors. Official results gave the non-socialist bloc 180 of the 349 parliamentary seats (reduced from 350 to avoid a stalemate similar to that of 1973), with gains registered by both the Liberals and Conservatives. This meant that the Social Democrats would be replaced in office for the first time in 44 years. Mr. Falldin was approved as Prime Minister by the *Riksdag* on October 7; he announced the composition of his 20-member Cabinet (8 Centre representatives, 6 Moderates, 5 Liberals, one non-party) the following day.

## Statistics

*1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Riksdag*

Number of registered voters. . . . .	5,938,788
Voters. . . . .	5,457,043 (91.88%)
Blank or void ballot papers. . . . .	19,295
Valid votes. . . . .	5,437,748

Political Group	Votes obtained	°	Number of Seats
Social Democratic Party . . . . .	2,324,603	42.7	152 (−4)
Centre Party. . . . .	1,309,669	24.1	86 (−4)
Moderate Party (Conservatives)	847,672	15.6	55 (+4)
Liberal Party. . . . .	601,556	11.1	39 (+5)
Communist Party. . . . .	258,432	4.7	17 (−2)
Christian Democratic Union . . .	73,844	1.4	− ( = )
Others . . . . .	21,972	0.4	− ( = )
			349*

\* Reduction of one seat in Parliament since last elections

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Employers and directors of companies			
Agriculture and fishing . . . . .	51	} 66	
Industry. . . . .	10		
Commerce and transportation . . . .	2		
Others . . . . .	3		
Civil servants			
Executives of public services	33		
Employees . . . . .	15	} 92	
Teachers . . . . .	44		
Representatives of associations in the public interest			
Political organizations . . . . .	24	} 64	
Trade union organizations. . . . .	21		
Interest groups . . . . .	16		
Representatives of the Free Church . . . .	3		
Administrative staff			
Industry. . . . .	8	} 45	
Commerce and transportation. . . . .	18		
Journalism. . . . .	19		
Workers . . . . .			33
Others . . . . .			49
			349

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

	Men	Women	Total
Social Democratic Party	119	33	152
Centre Party. . . . .	62	24	86
Moderate Party . . . . .	46	9	55
Liberal Party. . . . .	30	9	39
Communist Party . . . .	13	4	17
	270	79	349

*4. Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

20-24 years. . . . .	.1
25-29. . . . .	5
30-34. . . . .	21
35-39. . . . .	27
40-44. . . . .	39
45-49. . . . .	54
50-54. . . . .	72
55-59. . . . .	69
60-64. . . . .	53
65-69. . . . .	7
70-74. . . . .	.1
	349

Average age of Deputies: 50 years