

# **Act no. 83 of 22 June 2018 relating to municipalities and county authorities (the Local Government Act)**

*Prop.46 L (2017–2018), Proposition to the Storting (Bill), Innst.369 L (2017–2018) Recommendation to the Storting, Statute 81 (2017–2018). The first and second reading of the Storting on 7 and 11 June 2018, respectively. Put forward by the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation.*

*The following Acts are repealed:*

*Act no. 107 of 25 September 1922 relating to municipalities and county authorities (the Local Government Act).*

Most recently amended: Act no. 97 of 23 June 2020 brought into effect 30 December 2020

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# **Part I**

## **General provisions**

# Chapter 1. The purpose and scope of the Act

## **Section 1-1 The purpose of the Act**

The purpose of this Act is to promote local self-government and provide the necessary frameworks for this. The Act shall facilitate the local representative government and a strong representative local democracy with active inhabitant participation.

The Act shall facilitate that municipalities and county authorities can provide services and engage in community development for the benefit of the inhabitants. The Act shall also facilitate the exercise of public authority by the municipalities and the county authorities. Furthermore, the Act shall help the municipalities and the county authorities to be efficient, confidence-inspiring and sustainable.

## **Section 1-2 The scope of the Act**

The Act applies to the activity of municipalities and county authorities.

# Chapter 2. Municipal and county self-government

## **Section 2-1. Municipal and county self-government**

Norway is divided into municipalities and county authorities with their own popularly elected leadership.

Each municipality and county authority is a separate legal entity and can make decisions on its own initiative and responsibility.

The municipalities and the county authorities exercise their self-government within national frameworks. Limitations in the municipal and county authority self-government must be authorised by law.

## **Section 2-2. Principles for national authorities' relations with municipal and county authority self-government**

The municipal and county authority self-government should not be limited more than is necessary to safeguard national objectives.

Public duties should preferably be assigned to the administrative level closest to the inhabitants. Within the frameworks of national economic policy, municipalities and county authorities should have a free income that provides a financial scope of action.