

# Proposition 67 L

(2020–2021)

**Proposition to the Storting (Bill)**

**Amendments to the Election Act (assistance when voting)**

*Recommendation from the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation on 18 December 2020, approved in the Council of State on the same date.  
(Solberg Government)*

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## 1 Main contents of the Proposition

In this Proposition, the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation proposes certain amendments to Act no. 57 of 28 June 2002 relating to parliamentary and local government elections (the Election Act).

The Ministry proposes an amendment to the provision relating to the duty to be on a list at parliamentary elections. The proposal entails that if a person does not wish to be on an electoral list, it is sufficient for an exemption to be granted that the person submits a written declaration. The proposal brings the provision in the Election Act into line with an amendment made to the Constitution of Norway (Constitution). The Ministry also proposes an amendment to the Election Act which would enable voters with mental or physical disabilities who require assistance to vote to choose a helper themselves. The proposal entails that the requirement for an election official also having to be inside the polling booth shall be repealed. The Proposition also includes a proposal that the municipalities no longer need to send all polling cards from advance voting to the county electoral committee.

## 2 Background

In June 2017, the Government appointed an Election Act Commission to establish proposals for a new Election Act and to assess the electoral system. The Commission was to examine all aspects of the election process. The Commission submitted its report, Norwegian Official Report (NOU) 2020: 6 *Free and Fair Elections – New Election Act*, on 27 May 2020. The report was sent for an extensive consultation process with a deadline of until the end of the year. Based on proposals from the Commission and input during the consultation process, the Ministry will present the Storting with a proposal for a new Election Act. The new Election Act will apply from the 2025 parliamentary election at the earliest.

However, the Ministry still sees a need to propose certain amendments that can enter into force before the 2021 parliamentary election. The proposal regarding the duty to be on a list at parliamentary elections in Chapter 4 of the Proposition brings the Election Act into line with the Constitution. Amendments should be adopted before the county electoral committee commences the processing of list proposals in spring 2021. The proposal in Chapter 5 on the right to assistance when voting is a fundamentally important proposal, and the Ministry is of the view that it would be too long to wait for the new Election Act to enter into force.

## 3 The consultation process

On 29 June 2020, the Ministry sent for consultation a proposal for amendments to the Election Act, Election Regulations and Regulations relating to elections to the Sami Parliament. The deadline for submitting remarks was 30 September 2020. The proposal was sent to the following consultative bodies:

The Ministry

The National Archival Services of Norway

The Norwegian Ombudsperson for Children  
The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family  
The Brønnøysund Register Centre  
The Norwegian Data Protection Authority  
The Norwegian Digitalisation Agency  
The Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection  
The Anti-discrimination Tribunal  
The Consumer Authority  
The Consumer Council of Norway  
The Norwegian Directorate of Health  
The Directorate of Integration and Diversity  
The Norwegian Mapping Authority  
The Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud  
The Norwegian Media Authority  
The Norwegian National Human Rights Institution  
The Norwegian National Security Authority  
The Research Council of Norway  
The Norwegian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights  
The Party Act Board  
The Norwegian Directorate of Taxes  
Statistics Norway  
The Governor of Svalbard  
The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training  
The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration  
The Norwegian Directorate of Elections

Nord University  
The Norwegian University of Life Sciences  
Oslo Metropolitan University  
The University of Agder  
The University of Bergen  
The University of Oslo  
The University of Stavanger  
The University of South-Eastern Norway  
The University of Tromsø

The Parliamentary Ombudsman for the Norwegian Armed Forces  
Office of the Auditor General of Norway  
The Sami Parliament  
The Sami Parliament Youth Policy Committee  
The Parliamentary Ombudsman

The county authorities