



When was the opportunity to vote online first introduced in Estonia?

- In 2005, Estonia became the first country in the world to hold nation-wide elections using this method, and in 2007, it made headlines as the first country to use i-Voting in parliamentary elections.
- In the Local Elections in 2021, 46,9% of voters cast their ballots in this way.
- In the 2023 Parliamentary Elections, internet voting accounted for 51% of the votes cast. Estonians worldwide cast their votes from 100 different countries.
- The number of i-voters has constantly increased with each election since 2005.

Is online voting safe?

- Sometimes online voting can even be safer than conventional voting. Digital ballots move to the central server in encrypted form. Such ballots can only be checked and changed by the respective citizens themselves.
- A submitted ballot is only visible to members of the Estonian National Electoral Committee.
- Ballots are opened and counted only after the personal data is separated from the ballots.
- During the voting period everyone can change their ballots — only the last ballot sent by each citizen is taken into account.

How is the security of the voting ensured?

In order to conceal and securely transmit the vote, the voting system uses cryptography, which ensures the same voter identity for the certificates in the document. After the vote, it is possible to use a QR code with a mobile phone and to verify the accuracy of your vote through a different communication channel.

What does i-voting look like from a technical point of view?

In order to vote through the internet, voters must connect their ID-card during the early-voting period using a smart card reader or using their mobile ID.

How many Estonians actually vote online?

Percentage of votes cast using i-voting:

1.9% - Local Elections 2005

5.5% - Parliamentary Elections 2007

14.7% - European Parliament Elections 2009

15.8% - Local Elections 2009

24.3% - Parliamentary Elections 2011

31.3% - European Parliament Elections 2014

30.5% - Parliamentary Elections 2015

31.7% - Local Elections 2017

43.8% - Parliamentary Elections 2019

46.7% - European Parliament Elections 2019

46.9% - Local Elections 2021

51.1% - Parliament Elections in 2023

If i-Voting is so convenient and easy, why aren't larger countries already using the system?

- To ensure a safe and comfortable i-Voting system, Estonia has come a long way. In order for online ballots to be valid, the legislation should make digital signatures and physical signatures equal. Each citizen must have a unique digital identity. Movement of data between different systems must be secure and must allow both the voter and the Electoral Committee to make sure that the ballot is correct. In Estonia, all the necessary prerequisites have been met.

As a result, for example, during the recent parliamentary elections, over 40% of all voters cast their votes online.

- Although no other country has used i-Voting as widely as Estonia, various small-scale experiments have been carried out elsewhere. In other countries solutions are often used where a voter can vote in a controlled environment using a special machine.