



Socialdemokraterna

The Constitution

Swedish Social Democratic Party

Adopted by the ordinary party congress of 2009



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Chapter 1 Purpose

Social democracy aims to build a society based on the ideals of democracy and the equal value of every person. The aim of democratic socialism is free and equal individuals in a society based on solidarity.

Each person must be free to develop as an individual, control their own life and influence their own community. Freedom means freedom from external coercion and pressure, hunger, ignorance and fear of the future, as well as freedom to participate in decision-making, to develop themselves, to interact freely with others and to have the opportunity to control their own life and choose their own future.

This human freedom requires equality. Equality means that every individual, regardless of background, is given the same opportunity to build their own life and influence their society. This equality implies the right to choose and develop differently, without the differences leading to subordination and inequalities in power and influence over everyday life and society.

Freedom and equality concern both individual rights and collective solutions to achieve what is best for the common good, and also form the basis for the individual's life and opportunities. Human beings are social creatures who develop and grow in interaction with others, and much that is important for the well-being of the individual can only be created through cooperation with others.

The common good demand solidarity, the unity which arises from the realisation that we are all mutually dependent on each other and that the best society is based on cooperating with mutual consideration and respect. Everyone must have the same rights and opportunity to influence solutions, and everyone must have the same obligations to take responsibility for them. Solidarity does not expel the desire for individual development and success, but it does not accept the egotism which makes it permissible to exploit others for personal gain.

All power in society must come from the individuals who together make up the society. Economic interests never have the right to set limits to democracy; democracy always has the right to specify the conditions for the economy and set limits to the market.

Democracy must be exercised on many roads and levels. Social democracy strives for a social order in which people as citizens and individuals can influence both society



as a whole and community work at an everyday level. We strive for an economic order in which every individual as a citizen, a wage earner and consumer can influence the direction and distribution of production, and the organisation and conditions of working life.

Social democracy wishes to see these democratic ideals characterise all of society, as well as the mutual relationships between people. Our aim is a society free from superiority and submission, without class distinctions, segregation or ethnic divisions, a society without prejudices and discrimination, where everybody is needed and where there is room for everybody, where everybody has the same rights and the same value, where each child can grow up to become a free and independent adult, where each person is free to develop as an individual and in equal and loyal co-operation with others is free to search for the solutions which best serve the public good.

These ideas of democratic socialism have been passed down to us from previous generations, and have been shaped in the light of experience. They are the driving force of all political endeavours, now and in the future. The deepest roots of social democracy lie in the conviction that all people are of equal value and every individual is sacrosanct.

Chapter 2 The Party Constitution

§ 1 The Party's task

Social democracy in Sweden is a popular movement based on democracy. The party's political vision for the future of society depends on close contact with members and electors. The party must, therefore, be an active, modern popular movement firmly rooted in the everyday lives of the people.

The party is responsible for:

- bringing into the party everyone who shares the fundamental values of social democracy,
- influencing public opinion in favour of the ideals of social democracy on the basis of the party's programme,
- the development of social democratic ideas, programmes and policy,
- planning and coordinating election campaigns
- coordinating the political work of social democracy in municipalities and county councils, and in the Church of Sweden,
- coordinating the party's international activities,



- strategic development of trade union-political activities,
- the election of political representatives in the European Union,
- support for organisational development and activities in party districts,
- strategic planning for growth in party membership,
- the development of party-wide systems for members registers and the collection of membership fees.

§ 2 Organisation

Clause 1

The Social Democratic associations and local clubs are the local organisations of the party. The associations unite to form local branches, known as workers municipalities (arbetarekommuner), the primary local organisations of the party. The local branches unite to form districts, which are the regional main organisations of the party and which build the party.

Clause 2

The party consists of the following party districts:

Stockholm party district
Stockholm County party district
Uppsala County party district
Södermanland party district
Östergötland party district
Jönköping County party district
Kronoberg party district
Kalmar County party district
Gotland party district
Blekinge party district
Skåne party district
Halland party district
Göteborg party district
Bohus County party district
Norra Älvsborg party district
Älvsborg södra party district
Skaraborg party district
Värmland party district
Örebro County party district
Västmanland party district
Dalarna party district



Gävleborg party district
Västernorrland party district
Jämtland County party district
Västerbotten party district
Norrbotten party district

Clause 3

The congress is the supreme decision-making body of the party. Other bodies are the Party Council, the national board and its executive committee.

§ 3 Membership register and fees

Clause 1

The national board is responsible for registering all individual members in the party's local organisations and for the collection of membership fees.

Each local organisation, local branches and party district is given access to the appropriate part of the members register.

Clause 2

Each member pays a membership fee which is the total of the association/club fee, the fee to the local branch, to the party district and to the party.

Members who hold their membership in women's clubs, Christian groups, student clubs or the Swedish Social Democratic youth clubs will pay a membership fee in accordance with § 3 clause 4 of the Constitution of Social Democratic Associations.

Membership fees are to be remitted to the national board of the party. Fees paid for each party district, local branch and the Social Democratic associations are paid out by the national board of the party to these on 30 June and 31 December of the year in which the fees were paid by the member.

Clause 3

Rules on affiliation of local trade unions are stipulated by the national board of the party.



§ 4 Party congress

Clause 1

The congress is the supreme decision-making body of the party.

The ordinary congress is held the year prior to the year the general election takes place. An intermediate congress is held if called for by the national board of the party, or by vote in accordance with § 11 of the party constitution. An intermediate congress can deal only with the issues specified in the notice convening the congress.

Clause 2

Notice convening the party congress is to be issued by the national board of the party no later than ten months before the congress is to be held. An intermediate congress can be summoned without observing this time period. In doing so, the national board of the party stipulates the times for the material issues regulated in §§ 4 and 5 of the constitution.

Clause 3

The Congress shall consist of 350 representatives of the party districts.

Clause 4

In each party district one delegate is elected for each whole number equivalent to one three hundred and fiftieth of the number of party members. The number of members refers to the reported party membership. The distribution of delegates is decided on the basis of the number of members on 31 December of the year prior to the congress year.

Clause 5

If the number of representatives to be elected according to clause 4 does not amount to 350, the remaining representatives shall be distributed with one representative each to the party districts which have the largest surplus numbers. If the surplus numbers are equal, the distribution will be determined by lot.

Clause 6

Nine months before the congress at the latest, the national board of the party decides and informs the party districts of the number of delegates each party district shall elect.



Clause 7

The parliamentary group of the Social Democratic Party and the Swedish Social Democratic group within the European Parliament appoint from among themselves one delegate for each group of ten members and each new group of up to ten members. The delegate must attend the congress and has the right to address congress and to propose motions at congress.

Clause 8

Auditors appointed by the party congress, members of the party programme commission, the chair of the party districts and two representatives from the party group on the board of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions have the right to attend the congress. They have the right to address congress and to propose motions.

Clause 9

The Social Democratic Women in Sweden, the Swedish Social Democratic Youth (SSU), the Swedish Christian Social Democrats and the Swedish Social Democratic Students' Association (SSF) each have the right to appoint one delegate to the congress. They have the right to address congress and to propose motions at congress.

Clause 10

The authorisation of delegates is issued by the district board and sent to the party office three months before the ordinary congress at the latest.

Clause 11

The auditing of authorisations is carried out by the auditors of the party and must be completed before the opening of the congress.

Clause 12

The order papers and the agenda of the congress shall be drawn up by the national board of the party.

Clause 13

The nominating committee and the audit committee are appointed by the Party Council. The congress can choose its own committees and determine the subjects they will work with.



Clause 14

The members of the party board have the right to address congress and to propose motions at the congress.

Clause 15

Only delegates have the right to vote at the congress. Every delegate has one vote. The right to vote may not be transferred.

Clause 16

Voting takes place by a show of hands. The election of individuals takes place by secret ballot when requested by a delegate.

In a secret ballot, the candidates are listed in alphabetical order on the ballot paper. A valid ballot must list the number of persons who are to be elected. A ballot paper listing more or fewer names is void. The person(s) receiving the highest number of votes will be elected, unless the congress decides that a simple majority is required for election.

If an equal number of votes are cast for each candidate in a secret ballot, a second ballot can be held. In the case where only two candidates stand, the vote will be decided by lot.

If there are an equal number of votes in a show of hands, the vote will be decided by lot.

Clause 17

A motion may be moved by an individual party member or by a local Social Democratic organisation, and must be submitted to the executive of the local branch within the period of time stipulated by the latter. The motion shall be dealt with at the meeting of the local branch. The local branch can adopt the motion as its own, submit it as an individual motion or reject the motion. A motion can also be proposed by the executives of the party districts. Proposals can be put forward by the national board of the party and its executive committee and also by the programme commission. If the national board of the party so decides, the right to submit motions can apply until the intermediate congress. A motion to an intermediate congress can deal only with the issues specified in the notice convening the congress.



Clause 18

A motion must be submitted to the party office no later than six months before the congress. A motion submitted after this date will not be debated at the congress.

Clause 19

The national board of the party shall reply to proposed motions. Motions together with replies and proposals from the national board of the party shall be sent to local branches, party districts and congress delegates six weeks before the congress at the latest.

Clause 20

Before the national board of the party replies to a motion concerning the party programme, the motion must first be submitted to the programme commission.

Clause 21

The annual reports for the congress period shall be submitted by the national board of the party to the ordinary congress.

Clause 22

Congress decisions and amendments to the programme and constitution shall come into force immediately, unless the congress decides otherwise.

Clause 23

The minutes of the congress shall be sent out to districts, local branches and congress delegates no later than twelve months after the congress.

§ 5 Election of delegates to the party congress

Clause 1

For the election of congress delegates the party districts should be subdivided into constituencies. These are stipulated by the district board which also stipulates the number of delegates and deputies in each constituency.

Clause 2

The subdivision into constituencies and the time limit for nominating candidates shall be communicated in a circular to the local branches and the Social Democratic associations and clubs no later than eight months before the congress.



Clause 3

The elections of delegates shall start no earlier than six months and be concluded no later than four months before the congress.

Clause 4

The election of the delegates must be held over at least two days. The time(s) and place(s) for the election are to be decided by the executive of the local branch.

The executive of the local branch may also decide that the election of the delegates be by postal voting. If more than one local branch is included in a constituency, this decision is remitted to the district board. The rules for postal voting are stipulated by the district board.

Clause 5

The local branch of the Social Democratic Party shall, by way of an advertisement or a written communication no later than 14 days before the election, ensure that the members are informed of the election.

Clause 6

All party members who have paid their membership fees are entitled to vote in the election of congress delegates elected in the local branch where their membership is registered.

Clause 7

When voters cast their votes, membership of the local branch must be validated on request.

Clause 8

The election of delegates shall be by secret ballot.

Clause 9

Every member has the right to nominate candidates. Nominations shall be made to the executive of the local branch within the time stated by the latter. The local branch shall send the district board a list of all the candidates nominated. The district board produces ballot papers and sends them to local branches. All the candidates within the constituency shall be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order. The number of delegates nominated for election must be stated on the ballot. Only the ballot paper drawn up by the district board may be used in the election.



Clause 10

A valid ballot must include the number of delegates to be elected. A ballot paper that includes more or fewer names is invalid.

Clause 11

No later than eight days after the end of the election, the local branch shall send the ballot papers to the district board together with a protocol on the election in a sealed envelope, marked “Ballots”.

Clause 12

The envelopes are to be opened on the day of the count and the count is to be carried out by the district board or by the tellers appointed by the district board before the end of the 15th week before congress. The local branches and the Social Democratic associations and clubs shall be informed in advance of the time and place for the count.

Clause 13

The member(s) with the highest number of votes in every constituency is elected as a delegate. Deputies are those coming next in numbers of votes cast to the elected delegates. Delegates are summoned according to the votes they have received. When the number of votes is equal, the decision will be by lot.

Clause 14

The district board shall make public the result of the voting by circulars sent to the local branches and the Social Democratic associations and clubs immediately after the count.

Clause 15

The organisation of the election is to be determined by the district board.

Clause 16

If a member considers that the election of delegates is in conflict with the constitution of the party and wishes to appeal against the election, this must be made known to the district board no later than five days after the result of the voting has been announced.

The district board shall submit such an appeal, together with its comments on the appeal, to the national board of the party. If the national board of the party finds that



the voting has not been carried out in accordance with the constitution and that this might have a bearing on the result of the vote, it shall recommend a new election within the constituency or the local branch concerned.

§ 6 The Party Council

Clause 1

The Party Council shall act as the advisory organ to the national board of the party.

Before every meeting the national board of the party determines the agenda and standing orders for the meeting.

Clause 2

The Party Council assembles at least once a year, and otherwise when summoned by the national board of the party.

Clause 3

A notice convening the Party Council shall be issued by the national board of the party no later than two weeks before the meeting.

Clause 4

The Party Council consists of 120 delegates distributed among the party districts according to the same principle of distribution as for the ordinary congress.

Representatives and deputies to the Party Council are elected by the district congress in the year following the ordinary congress for a period of four years.

Clause 5

The members of the executive committee and the national board of the party and the deputies of the executive committee shall be summoned to the Party Council meetings and they have the right to address the meeting and to propose motions.

When an ordinary member of the national board of the party is prevented from attending, the deputy delegates shall be summoned to the Party Council in the order in which they have been elected and they then have the right to address the meeting and to propose motions.



Clause 6

The Parliamentary group of the Social Democratic Party and the Swedish Social Democratic group within the European Parliament appoint from among their members one delegate for every thirty members and for each new group of up to thirty members. A delegate must attend the Party Council and has the right to address the meeting and propose motions at the Party Council.

Clause 7

Auditors appointed by the party congress, members of the programme commission, the chairmen of the party districts and two delegates from the party group on the board of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions have the right to attend the Party Council and the right to address the meeting and propose motions.

Clause 8

The Social Democratic Women in Sweden, the Swedish Social Democratic Youth (SSU), the Swedish Christian Social Democrats and the Swedish Social Democratic Students' Association (SSF) have each the right to appoint one delegate to the Party Council. They have the right to address the meeting and to propose motions.

Clause 9

The Party Council elects the nominating committee and audit committee for the period up to the next congress.

The nominating committee consists of eleven ordinary members and six deputy members.

When ordinary members are prevented from attending, the deputies take their places in the order in which they have been elected.

The nominating committee has the task of preparing the election of the national party board at congress, the executive committee, auditors, the programme commission and deputies in accordance with §§ 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the party constitution, and the election of committees in accordance with § 4 clause 13 of the party constitution.

Nominations shall be sent to the nominating committee within the time stipulated by the nominating committee



Clause 10

The Party Council applies the same rules on voting and secret ballots as congress.

Clause 11

Minutes of the Party Council are to be sent out to party districts, local branches and representatives no later than 6 months after the meeting.

§ 7 The national board of the party

Clause 1

The national board of the party is responsible for the management of the activities of the party in accordance with the party programme and constitution as well as the decisions of congress.

The national board of the party is the supreme decision-making body of the party when congress is not in session.

The national board shall determine the budget and working plan of the party for the coming working year.

The national board of the party shall determine the attestation rights and the rules for delegation to the executive committee, the party board and the party office.

The party board determines the list of Swedish Social Democratic candidates before an election to the European Parliament. The party board may, if it so wishes, delegate the task of determining the list to Party Council or to Congress.

Clause 2

Congress elects the national board of the party consisting of 33 members. Of these, seven are ordinary members of the executive committee.

Congress elects seven deputy members for the ordinary members of the executive committee. Congress also elects a further 15 deputy members for the other members of the party board. These shall be summoned to the meetings of the party board. They have the right to speak and to propose motions as well as the right to vote when they replace the ordinary member. They stand in the order in which they have been elected.



Clause 3

The chairs of the Social Democratic Women in Sweden, the Swedish Social Democratic Youth Association, the Swedish Christian Social Democrats' Association and the Swedish Social Democratic Students' Association have the right to attend the meetings of the party board and have the right to speak and to propose motions.

Clause 4

The party board elects the party treasurer.

The party treasurer must attend meetings of the executive committee and of the national board of the party, has the right to address the meetings and to propose motions.

Clause 5

The national board of the party shall hold an annual general meeting in April each year. In addition to this, a meeting is held when the executive committee finds it necessary or when at least five members of the national board of the party call for a meeting.

Clause 6

At the annual general meeting of the national board of the party the executive committee shall present a report on the accounts and the work of the party for the previous year.

§ 8 The executive committee

Clause 1

The executive committee administers the day-to-day management of the work of the party and is responsible to the party board.

The committee is responsible for ensuring that the decisions made by the congress and the party board are carried out. The executive committee is responsible for ensuring that the archives are kept and preserved in a secure manner.

The executive committee is the responsible employer for the staff employed at the party office.

Clause 2

The executive committee consists of seven ordinary members and seven deputies.



The chair and secretary are elected separately from the standing members of the committee.

Deputy members of the executive committee shall be summoned to the meetings of the committee and the party board except for meetings held in accordance with clause 4. They have the right to speak, to propose motions and to vote when standing in for an ordinary member. They stand in the order in which they have been elected.

Clause 3

The chairs of the Social Democratic Women in Sweden, the Swedish Social Democratic Youth, the Swedish Christian Social Democrats and the Swedish Social Democratic Students' Association have the right to attend meetings of the committee, to speak and to propose motions, except for meetings held in accordance with clause 4.

Clause 4

For extraordinary reasons, the executive committee may meet with attendance limited to ordinary members.

§ 9 The Programme commission

Clause 1

The programme commission consists of five members and five deputy members, who are elected by the ordinary party congress. The deputies shall be summoned to the meetings of the programme commission. They have the right to speak, to propose motions and to vote when standing in for an ordinary member. They stand in the order in which they have been elected.

Clause 2

The programme commission shall reply to proposals governed by § 4, clause 20 of the constitution, before the party board replies to such proposals.

Clause 3

The members and deputy members of the programme commission have the right to attend the meetings of the national board of the party when proposals from the commission are to be discussed and they then have the right to speak and to propose motions.



§ 10 Audit

Clause 1

For the ongoing audit of the work of party executive, the executive committee and financial affairs of the party, the ordinary congress elects three auditors and three deputy auditors. When an ordinary auditor is prevented from attending, the deputies are summoned in the order in which they have been elected.

The national board of the party has the task of appointing an authorised accountant.

Clause 2

At the annual general meeting of the national board of the party the auditors present their statement on the accounts and the work of the executive committee for the previous year.

Clause 3

To audit the work of the national board and the executive committee of the party during the congress period ending, the Party Council elects an audit committee to report to the ordinary congress. Its remit is to prepare the congress' procedure in respect of the national board's administration report and the auditors' reports.

The audit committee shall consist of nine members and four deputies. The committee elects a chair from among its members, who will present the committee's report to congress.

The committee presents a report to congress on the accounts and the work of the national board of the party during the congress period ending, and recommends whether or not discharge from liability should be granted.

Clause 4

The auditors appoint among themselves a chair who submits the report to the executive committee, the national board of the party and the congress.

Clause 5

The auditors' remuneration is set by the congress.



§ 11 General voting

Clause 1

The national board of the party can allow a vote be held within the party on an issue raised. Such a vote shall be consultative. At the same time as the matter to be decided by vote is being sent out, the national board of the party shall make public the period of time within which the vote is to be carried out and the protocol on it sent to the district and the national board of the party. The issue can be dealt with at a meeting summoned by the local branch, by means of a postal vote or in some other way according to the rules set by the national board of the party.

Clause 2

If a vote takes place at a meeting summoned by the local branch, the executive of the local branch shall send a protocol on the voting to the district board. On the protocol the total number of votes cast is to be stated as well as the number of votes for and against the proposals submitted. The district board sends the protocols and a summary of them to the national board of the party.

Clause 3

If at least five percent of the party members, according to the latest membership report submitted, support the submitted motion for a vote, the national board of the party is obliged to hold a vote.

Clause 4

The final decision on matters which have been subject to general voting is taken by the national board of the party.

§ 12 The parliamentary group of the Social Democratic party

Clause 1

The parliamentary group, which is responsible to the party congress, shall submit a report on its work during the previous year to the annual general meeting of the national board of the party. This report is added to the annual reports of the national board of the party for the next party congress.



Clause 2

A joint meeting with the national board of the party and the parliamentary group is held when it is regarded necessary by either party. Minutes of such a meeting are included in the minutes of the national board of the party.

Clause 3

The rules for the parliamentary group are set by the national board of the party based on proposals from the parliamentary group.

§ 13 The European Parliament party

Clause 1

The Swedish Social Democratic group within the European Parliament, which is responsible to the party congress, shall submit a report to the annual general meeting of the national board of the party on its work during the previous year. This report is added to the annual reports of the national board of the party to the next party congress.

Clause 2

A joint meeting of the national board of the party and the Swedish Social Democratic group within the European Parliament is held when it is regarded necessary by either body. Minutes of such a meeting are included in the minutes of the national board of the party.

Clause 3

The rules for the Swedish group in the European Parliament are set by the national board of the party on proposals from the Swedish group in the European Parliament.

§ 14 Other groups

Rules for the Social Democratic synod groups of the Church of Sweden and the Social Democratic groups on the boards of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions are set by the national board of the party on proposals from the groups concerned.



§ 15 General rules

Clause 1

Only party members can be elected to positions of trust within the party. A member who leaves the party thereby resigns from the position of trust to which he/she was appointed by the party. Party membership is also required for positions of trust under a Social Democratic mandate in municipalities, county councils and central government, as well as for bodies within the Church of Sweden.

Clause 2

A member who behaves disloyally towards the party, who makes propaganda in obvious violation of the general principles of the party or who in any other way deliberately damages the party and its work can be expelled by the national board of the party. For exclusion $\frac{3}{4}$ of the votes cast is required.

The decision to expel a member is prepared by an expulsion commission, which is appointed by the national board of the party at its first meeting after the ordinary party congress. The commission consists of a chair and an additional four members.

The initiative for the expulsion of a member can be taken by a Social Democratic association, local branch, party district or by the expulsion commission.

Clause 3

In cases where the executive committee does not have the right to make decisions in accordance with clause 4, a member, who is proposed for expulsion, can be suspended from his/her membership in the party by the executive committee until the national board of the party has made a decision in the matter.

Clause 4

When an accusation in a case of expulsion refers to disloyal behaviour in a trade union conflict, a membership in another political party or actions against the party in a general election, the case can be dealt with by the executive committee. Decisions by the executive committee must be unanimous.

Clause 5

It is incumbent upon the executive of the local branch to inform an affiliated union or club if a member has been expelled from the party.



Clause 6

If an expelled member wishes to renew his or her party membership, the application will be decided by the national board of the party. In cases of renewal of membership, the decision must be supported by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the votes cast.

Clause 7

Exemption from the rules for party districts and local branches and from Rules for drawing up ballot papers in general elections and elections within the Church of Sweden can be granted by the national board of the party.

Clause 8

If a decision taken is in conflict with the rules for party districts, local branches or Social Democratic associations, a party member may appeal that decision to the national board of the party. The appeal must be in writing and must be received by the national board no later than one week after the date on which the appealed decision was taken.

The national board of the party may quash the appealed decision if, after an investigation has been carried out, there is reason to do so.

Clause 9

These rules, as well as the party programme, can only be amended or suspended by an ordinary party congress.

Chapter 3 The rules for party district organisations

§ 1 The party districts' purpose

The party district is responsible for:

- external opinion forming in favour of the party's ideas and policies within their area of operation,
- the election campaign organisation in their area of operation,
- developing and coordinating policies within the county council,
- nominating representatives at county level,
- communication support for members of parliament at county level,



- contact with the local party organisations within the district and with the national board of the party,
- cooperating with the child and youth organisations of the working-class movement,
- trade union political activities and other organisational activities,
- supporting the organisational and operational development of the local branches.

§ 2 Organisation

Clause 1

The party district area shall consist of one or several constituencies for parliamentary elections. A change to the district area can be decided by the national board of the party after proposals by party districts or several local branches in a constituency.

Clause 2

Each local branch within the district shall belong to the party through the party district.

§ 3 Fees

Clause 1

The party district's membership fees for the following financial year are determined by the district congress. The national board of the party arranges the collection of the fees. Fees paid in on behalf of the party district are paid out by the national board of the party on 30 June and 31 December of the year in which the fees were paid by the member.

Clause 2

The executive of the local branch shall send a report on its activities during the previous year to the party district no later than 15 April every year.

§ 4 District congress

Clause 1

The district congress is the supreme decision-making body of the party district.



Clause 2

The ordinary congress is held annually at a time and place determined by the district board.

An intermediate congress is held when the district board so decides, or when at least 1/3 of the local branches within the party district call for a congress. An intermediate congress can deal only with the issues specified in the notice convening the congress.

Clause 3

A notice convening the ordinary congress shall be issued by the district board no later than five months before the congress.

An intermediate congress can be summoned without observing this time limit. In doing so, the district board stipulates the time for the clauses referred to in § 4 of the district rules.

Clause 4

Every local branch has the right to appoint delegates to the congress in proportion to the number of party members in the branch in accordance with the rules stipulated by the district congress.

Clause 5

The election of delegates to the intermediate congress is carried out under the same rules as for the ordinary congress.

Clause 6

A member of the party district has the right to nominate candidates as congress delegates. The names of proposed candidates are to be submitted to the executive of the local branch within the specified time limit. A Social Democratic association/club shall send information on all the nominated candidates to the executive of the local branch. The meeting of the local branch elects delegates and deputy delegates. If the local branch has introduced a representative assembly, the election will be carried out at the meeting of the assembly.

Clause 7

A representative appointed by the national board of the party and the Social Democratic members of parliament within the district area has the right to attend the congress and the right to address congress and to propose motions.



Clause 8

Social Democratic members of the county council within the party district appoint one representative for each county council district. Such representatives have the right to address congress and to propose motions.

Clause 9

Authorisation of delegates and their deputies is issued by the executive of the local branch and sent to the district board within the time stated by the latter.

Clause 10

The audit of authorisation is carried out by the auditors of the district and must be completed before the opening of the congress.

Clause 11

Proposals for standing orders and agendas for the congress are drawn up by the district board.

Clause 12

The members of the district board and an auditor submitting the report have the right to address congress and to propose motions.

Clause 13

Only delegates have the right to vote at the congress. Each delegate has one vote. The right to vote must not be transferred.

Clause 14

Votes are taken by a show of hands. A secret ballot for individuals is taken when a delegate calls for such a ballot.

In a secret ballot, candidates are listed in alphabetical order on the ballot paper. A valid ballot must list the number of persons who are to be elected. A ballot paper listing more or fewer names is void. The person(s) receiving the highest number of votes will be elected, unless the congress decides that a simple majority will be required for election.

If there are an equal number of votes in a secret ballot, another ballot can be held. If there are an equal number of votes in a ballot where only two candidates take part,



the outcome will be decided by lot. If there is an equal number of votes in a show of hands, the outcome will be decided by lot.

Clause 15

A motion can be proposed by every individual party member or Social Democratic local organisation belonging to the party district, and is to be sent to the executive of the local branch within the time stated by the latter. A motion shall be dealt with at the meeting of the local branch. The local branch can either adopt the motion as its own or decide to send it in as an individual motion.

Clause 16

After the decision of the local branch, a motion shall be sent to the district board no later than three months before the congress.

Clause 17

The list of motions together with the replies to motions from the district board shall be sent to the local branches, the Social Democratic associations and clubs and congress delegates no later than one month before the congress.

Clause 18

A report of the work of the previous year together with the guidelines for the work of the coming year shall be submitted to the ordinary congress by the district board. Social Democratic members of the county council within the party district shall present a written report on their activities during the previous year to congress.

Clause 19

The congress elects a nominating committee for the next congress.

§ 5 The regional party council

Clause 1

A regional party council will be set up after a decision by the district congress. The regional party council assembles at least once a year – when summoned by the district board.

Clause 2

The notice convening the council meeting is to be issued by the district board no later than two weeks before the meeting.



Clause 3

The regional party council consists of the number of delegates stipulated by the district congress and distributed among the local branches according to the same distribution principle as for the district congress.

Delegates and deputies for the regional party council are elected by the local branches for the period up to the next district congress.

Clause 4

Before every meeting, the district board decides on the agenda and standing orders for the meeting.

Clause 5

The members of the district board have the right to address and to propose motions at the meeting of the regional party council.

Clause 6

The rules in respect of the right to vote and voting at the regional party council are the same as at the district congress, § 4 clauses 13 and 14.

Clause 7

Minutes of the meeting of the regional party council are issued to the local branches and representatives no later than six months after a meeting.

§ 6 The district board

Clause 1

The district board is responsible for the management of the activities of the district in accordance with these rules and with the decisions made by the congress.

The district board is the supreme decision-making body of the district when congress is not in session.

The district board has the employer's responsibility for the staff employed at the district office. The district board can delegate the employer's responsibility to the executive committee.



Clause 2

The district board shall consist of at least seven members. For these deputies can be appointed.

The chair is elected separately.

Clause 3

An executive committee can be appointed within the district board. If the district congress so decides, the executive committee can be elected separately.

Clause 4

When ordinary members are prevented from attending, the deputies take their places as ordinary members in the order in which they have been elected.

Clause 5

A study organiser and a trade union leader shall be appointed within the district. They are to be appointed to the district board.

§ 7 Audit

Clause 1

For the purpose of auditing the work of the district board and the executive committee and auditing the accounts of the district, the congress elects three auditors and three deputy auditors. When the ordinary auditors are unable to attend, the deputy auditors are summoned, in the order of the number of votes received.

Clause 2

The auditors present their report on the accounts and the work of the district board for the previous year and recommend whether or not to discharge the board from liability.

§ 8 General elections and the treatment of county council issues

For candidate nominations for general elections, co-operation between elected representatives and party organisations, as well as the treatment of county council issues, the party's "Rules for drawing up ballot papers for general elections and elections within the Church of Sweden", "Rules for candidate nominations for other



bodies”, “Rules for the co-operation between elected representatives and the party organisations” and “Rules for dealing with county council issues” will apply.

§ 9 General rules

Clause 1

The party district and its executive shall observe the constitution of the party and decisions of the party congress.

Clause 2

Additional clauses to the rules for party districts can be adopted by the district congress. These must not conflict with or in any way set aside the fundamentals of the constitution.

Clause 3

Only the ordinary party congress can amend or set aside these rules. A party district may apply to the national board of the party for a dispensation from these rules.

Clause 4

The rules for the party districts of Stockholm, Goteborg and Gotland are laid down by the national board of the party.

Chapter 4 The rules for the local branches

§ 1 The purpose of the local branches

Local branches are responsible for:

- opinion forming in favour of the party's ideas and policies within the municipality,
- communications with electors within the municipality,
- the election campaign organisation in their area of operation,
- development of policy within the municipality,
- election of political representatives,
- development of political representatives,
- trade union political activities and other organisational activities,
- supporting the organisational and operational development of the Social Democratic associations.



§ 2 Organisation

Clause 1

The local branch is the main local organisation of the party and covers a primary municipality.

Clause 2

The local branch adopts an organisation plan for its area of operation. This shows which Social Democratic associations and clubs are included in the local branch.

A local branch with members who do not wish to have their party membership in any of the existing associations/clubs shall establish a free quota for the full local branch.

Clause 3

The executive of the local branch is responsible for ensuring that there are associations/clubs and an election organisation in residential areas and workplaces within the operational area of the local branch.

§ 3 Membership in the local branch

Clause 1

All Social Democratic associations and clubs, Social Democratic women's clubs, Christian Social Democratic groups, Social Democratic student clubs and members of the free quota within a primary municipality must affiliate to the local branch.

Social Democratic youth associations and Social Democratic youth clubs which recognise the party's constitution and which request affiliation to the local branch shall be granted affiliation.

When joining a local branch, all members of such Social Democratic youth associations and Social Democratic youth clubs who are fifteen years of age or older shall belong to the local branch.

Clause 2

A local trade union can be affiliated as a member to a local branch.
The members of the organisation obtain membership by individual application.



Clause 3

A member of the Social Democratic party is initially affiliated through his/her party membership with the local organisation or the free quota in the local branch of the primary municipality where he/she is resident. A member can then transfer his/her party membership to a local organisation in another local branch.

§ 4 Fees

The local branch's membership fees for the following financial year are determined at the local branch meeting before the end of October. The national board of the party arranges the collection of the fees. Fees paid in on behalf of the local branch are paid out by the national board of the party on 30 June and 31 December of the year in which the fees were paid by the member.

§ 5 Meetings

Clause 1

The membership meeting of the local branch is the supreme decision-making body, unless a representative assembly has been introduced, in which case this assembly will lead the membership meeting.

Clause 2

The annual general meeting of the local branch can resolve to establish a representative assembly.

Clause 3

If a local branch has introduced a representative assembly, all associations and clubs affiliated to the local branch shall elect delegates directly to the representative assembly in proportion to the number of party members in the association or club, in accordance with the general rules adopted by the annual general meeting of the local branch.

Clause 4

The annual general meeting is to be held before the end of March.

Clause 5

At the annual general meeting, except for any other business, the following issues shall be considered:

1. The annual report of the board and the audit for the year ending



2. The report from the municipal council group
3. The discharge from liability for the executive
4. The election of the executive and the deputy members
 - a) Chair
 - b) Other members of the executive
 - c) Deputy members
5. The election of auditors and deputy members
6. The election of a nominating committee for the next annual general meeting
7. The guidelines for future activities

Clause 6

A motion to a membership meeting or to a representative assembly meeting can be proposed by every individual party member or by a Social Democratic local organisation which belongs to the local branch. A motion shall be sent to the local branch executive within the period of time stated by the latter.

Clause 7

Members of the executive do not have the right to vote on the discharge from liability for the executive.

Clause 8

Votes are by show of hands. The right to vote is not transferable. The election of individuals is carried out in a secret ballot when called for.

In a secret ballot, the candidates are listed in alphabetical order on the ballot paper. A valid ballot must list the number of persons who are to be elected. A ballot paper listing more or fewer names is invalid. The person(s) receiving the highest number of votes will be elected, unless the meeting decides that a simple majority is required for election.

If there are an equal number of votes in a secret ballot, another vote can be held. If there are an equal number of votes in a ballot where only two candidates take part, the result will be determined by lot. If there are an equal number of votes in a show of hands, the sitting chair will have the casting vote.

Clause 9

Proposals for candidates for election at the annual general meeting are sent to the nominating committee within the period of time stated by the local branch meeting.



After the nominating deadline has expired, the nominating committee alone has the right to propose candidates.

§ 6 The board of the local branch

Clause 1

The board of the local branch is responsible for the management of the branch's activities in accordance with these rules and the decisions made by the party congress, district congress and the local branch. The role of the board is to agitate for the party and its policy, to draw up municipal policy programmes, to be responsible for the finances of the local branch and the administration of the membership, and to support the activities of the Social Democratic associations and clubs. When the local branch meeting is not in session, the board is the highest decision-making body of the local branch.

The board has the employer's responsibility for the staff employed at the local branch office, unless this has been delegated to the executive of the party district.

Clause 2

The board of the local branch shall consist of at least seven members. For these deputy members can be appointed. The board is elected for a period of two years. Among the members of the board the chair and treasurer are elected separately. A study organiser and trade union leader are to be appointed in the local branch, and sit as members of the board.

The board shall have an uneven number of members. The members of the numerically smaller group stand for re-election in one year, and the others in the following year.

Clause 3

An executive committee can be appointed from within the board, or if the annual general meeting so decides, the executive committee can be elected separately.

Clause 4

When ordinary members are prevented from attending, the deputy members take their places in the order in which they have been elected.



§ 7 General voting

Clause 1

The board for the local branch can on a certain matter arrange for a ballot among the party members of the local branch. Such a vote shall be consultative.

Clause 2

A final decision on a matter that has been the subject of a general vote is made by the membership meeting or the representative assembly meeting.

Clause 3

The rules for carrying out a ballot are stipulated by the board of the local branch.

§ 8 Audit

Clause 1

Three auditors and three deputy members are elected at the annual general meeting. When the ordinary auditors are prevented from attending the deputy members take their places in the order in which they have been elected.

Clause 2

The auditors presents their report to the annual general meeting of the local branch on the accounts and the work of the board during the previous year, and move or oppose the motion to discharge the board from their liabilities for the previous year.

§ 9 General elections and local issues

For candidate nominations for general elections, co-operation between elected representatives and party organisations and the treatment of county council and primary municipality issues, the party's "Rules for drawing up ballot papers for general elections and elections within the Church of Sweden", "Rules for candidate nominations for other bodies", "Rules for the co-operation between elected representatives and the party organisations" and "Rules for dealing with county council and primary municipality issues" will apply.



§ 10 General rules

Clause 1

A local branch cannot discontinue without the approval of the district board. If a local branch discontinues, all its assets shall be transferred to the party district.

Clause 2

Additional clauses to the rules for a local branch can be adopted at the annual general meeting of the local branch. Such clauses must not conflict with or rescind the content of the constitution.

Clause 3

Only the ordinary party congress can amend or set aside these rules. A local branch may apply to the national board of the party for a dispensation from these rules.

Chapter 5 The rules for Social Democratic associations and clubs

§ 1 The association/club's purpose

The Social Democratic association is responsible for:

- opinion forming in favour of the party, its ideas and policies,
- shaping local Social Democratic policies in dialogue with the electors,
- member development and contacts with members,
- development of the value of membership.

§ 2 Organisation

The social democratic association/club is the local organisation of the party. Its area of operation is set out in the organisation plan of the local branch.

§ 3 Membership and fees

Clause 1

Membership in the association/club is granted to every person who recognises the party's constitution.



Clause 2

A person is a member of the local organisation that person chooses to belong to or of the free quota in the local branch and the party district in which the member lives. A member may also transfer his/her party membership to a local organisation in another local branch.

Clause 3

When joining the association/club, a fee is paid for the year during which the membership is registered.

Clause 4

By paying a fee, a person becomes a member of the party. Every party member pays a fee covering every level in the organisation once only.

The fee consists of the total of the association/club fee, the fee to the local branch, to the party district and to the party.

Members who hold their membership in women's clubs, Christian groups, student clubs or the Swedish Social Democratic youth associations/clubs will pay a membership fee to the club/group/branch, district and national organization in accordance with each organisation's constitution and rules, and shall also pay a fee to the local branch in which the membership is registered.

The national board of the party arranges the collection of the fees. Fees paid in on behalf of the party district are paid out by the national board of the party on 30 June and 31 December of the year in which the fees were paid by the member.

The association/club can charge a member an administration fee if he/she wants to take part in the activity of the association/club but is not a party member of the association or club in question. Such an administration fee gives membership rights limited to the activities of the association/club.

Clause 5

The membership fee to the association/club for the following year is fixed by the association/club meeting before the end of November.

Clause 6

A member who, despite a written reminder, is in arrears with fees for a period exceeding twelve months, can be expelled from the association/club. Before such an



expulsion takes effect, the local branch to which the member belongs must be informed of this in writing.

On re-admission, the fees that were outstanding when the member was expelled shall be paid in full.

§ 4 A member's rights and obligations

Clause 1

Membership of the Social Democratic party gives members the right to:

- participate in the meetings and study activities of the associations and local branches,
- vote at members meetings, congress elections and general votes,
- be elected to positions of trust within the party and in political assemblies,
- obtain information on the party's position on political and organisational issues,
- put forward motions at meetings of Social Democratic associations and local branches,
- put forward motions to annual general meetings and congresses,
- participate in conferences organised by the party, the party district or the local branch.

Clause 2

A member of the Social Democratic party:

- must accept the party's fundamental ideas as they are expressed in the party programme and constitution,
- is obliged to pay the membership fee set by the party,
- must not behave disloyally towards the party,
- must not make propaganda in violation of the party's fundamental ideas,
- must not cause injury to the party or its activities.

§ 5 Meetings

Clause 1

The membership meeting of the association/club is the supreme decision-making body.



Clause 2

The annual meeting of the association/club is held before the end of February.

Clause 3

At the annual meeting, apart from any other business, the following items must be addressed:

1. The annual reports of the executive and the auditors for the previous year
2. The motion on a discharge for the executive
3. The election of members of the board and deputies
4. The election of auditors and deputy auditors
5. The election of one or several persons responsible for members
6. The election of the nominating committee for the next annual meeting
7. The guidelines for future activities

Clause 4

When deciding on a discharge for the executive, the members of the executive have no right to vote.

Clause 5

Votes are by show of hands. The election of individuals is carried out in a secret ballot if a member so requests.

In a secret ballot, the candidates are listed in alphabetical order on the ballot paper. A valid ballot must list the number of persons who are to be elected. A ballot paper listing more or fewer names is invalid. The person(s) receiving the highest number of votes will be elected, unless the meeting decides that a simple majority is required for election.

If there are an equal number of votes in a secret ballot, another vote can be held. If there are an equal number of votes in a ballot where only two candidates take part, the result will be determined by lot. If there are an equal number of votes in a show of hands, the sitting chair will have the casting vote.

Clause 6

Proposals for candidates to election at the annual general meeting are sent to the nominating committee within the period of time stated by the local branch meeting. After the nominating deadline has expired, only the nominating committee has the right to propose candidates.



§ 6 The board of the association/club

Clause 1

The board of the association/club is responsible for the activities of the association/club in accordance with these rules and the decisions made by the association/club. The purpose of the board is to form public opinion in favour of the party and its policy, to develop the value of the membership, to promote active and open party work within the association/club and to ensure that members are given the opportunity to influence the views of the party in current political issues and to take an active part in shaping the activities of the association. The board is the supreme decision-making body of the association/club when the membership meeting is not in session.

Clause 2

The board of the association/club shall consist of at least five members. For these, deputies can be appointed. A chair and treasurer are elected separately by the members of the executive. The association/club shall appoint a study organiser who shall be part of the board.

The board shall have an uneven number of members. The members of the numerically smaller group stand for re-election in one year, and the others in the following year.

Clause 3

When ordinary members are prevented from attending, the deputies take their places as ordinary members in the order in which they have been elected.

§ 7 Audit

Clause 1

At least two auditors and two deputies are elected annually by the annual general meeting. When the ordinary auditor is prevented from attending, the deputies take his/her place in the order they have been elected.

Clause 2

The auditors presents their report to the annual general meeting of the association/club on the accounts and the work of the board during the previous year



and recommend whether or not to discharge the executive from liability for the previous year.

§ 8 General elections and the treatment of local issues

For candidate nominations for general elections, co-operation between elected representatives and party organisations and the treatment of county council and primary municipality issues, the party's "Rules for drawing up ballot papers for general elections and elections within the Church of Sweden", "Rules for candidate nominations for other bodies", "Rules for the co-operation between elected representatives and the party organisations" and "Rules for dealing with county council and primary municipality issues" will apply.

§ 9 General rules

Clause 1

Additional clauses for a Social Democratic association/club can be adopted at the annual meeting of the association/club and shall be submitted to the local branch for approval. Such regulations must not conflict with or rescind the fundamental principles of these rules.

Clause 2

The association/club cannot discontinue without the approval of the local branch. If an association/club discontinues, all its assets shall be transferred to the local branch.

Clause 3

Only the ordinary party congress can amend or set aside these rules.

Rules for the nomination of candidates in general elections and elections within the Church of Sweden

General rules

1. A party member who holds a seat in the European parliament or in the Swedish parliament or who is an elected member of a municipal council or is elected to a position within the Church of Sweden contributes to the implementation of the



Social Democratic program, established by the party congress, the district congress or a local branch meeting.

2. Every member of the party and organisation affiliated to the party has the right to propose candidates for election to the bodies specified in section 1.
3. The ballot papers of the party shall be drawn up in such a way that there is an even distribution according to gender. The need for a continuous new recruitment of younger people shall be met.
4. The ballot papers of the party are drawn up at a meeting, a conference or by a general vote.
5. In order to promote unanimity in general elections, organisations and party members are advised to counteract the emergence of splinter lists.
6. Parliamentary and local government appointments should be distributed to as many members as possible.

The nominating committee

1. In order to prepare ballot papers for the parliamentary election, the ordinary congress of the district appoints a nominating committee the year prior to the year of the parliamentary election
2. In order to prepare ballot papers for the county council election, the ordinary congress of the party district decides the year prior to the year of the county council elections the way in which the nominating committee is to be appointed.
3. In order to prepare the ballot papers for the municipal elections, the meeting of the local branch appoints a nominating committee the year prior to the year of the municipal elections.
4. In order to prepare the ballot papers for vestry elections of the Church of Sweden, the meeting of the local branch appoints a nominating committee the year prior to the year of the vestry elections. The local branch may delegate the task of appointing a nominating committee for vestry elections to a Social Democratic association.
5. In order to prepare the ballot papers for diocesan synods and national synods of the Church of Sweden, a nominating committee for each diocese is appointed, in consultation with the national board of the party, consisting of representatives of the party districts which are wholly or partly within the diocese.
6. Within the nominating committee a working committee can be appointed.
7. The nominating committee of the party district should include at least one representative of the trade union committee of the party district.
8. The nominating committee of the local branch should include at least one representative of the trade union committee of the local branch.



Candidate nominations

1. Proposals for candidates to parliamentary and county council elections are to be sent to the district board within the time stipulated by the latter. This shall be communicated in writing to local branches and Social Democratic associations and clubs.
2. Party members, affiliated associations and the union committee of the local branch send proposals for candidates for parliamentary, county council and municipal elections to the executive of the local branch within the time stipulated by the latter. This shall be done through public notices and written messages to affiliated associations and the union committee of the local branch.
3. The local branch sends information on all the candidates proposed for parliamentary and county council elections to the district board. The local branch may rank the candidates in order of precedence.
4. After the nominating deadline has expired, only the nominating committee has the right to propose candidates. Such a nomination must not, however, be made after a decision has been taken on a general vote.

Test ballot

1. During the nominating process, a consultative test ballot may be held.
2. Rules for consultative test ballots are set by the district board where ballot papers for parliamentary elections and county council elections are concerned, and by local branch executives where ballot papers for municipal elections are concerned.

Drawing up ballot papers at a meeting or at an election conference

1. The nominating committee draws up a ballot paper for a parliamentary election. The proposal is submitted to the district board for review. The proposal of the nominating committee and the views of the district board shall be discussed at the district election conference before April 15 of the election year. This may be the ordinary congress of the district, if it has been stated in the notice convening that this congress is to be an election conference. If a special election conference is arranged, what is prescribed in the rules for the ordinary congress of the district will apply where appropriate.
2. The nominating committee draws up a nomination list for an election to a county council. The proposal is submitted to the district board for review. Subsequently the proposal of the nominating committee and the views of the district board will be discussed at a meeting or election conference in every county council constituency. The district board arranges these meetings or election conferences before April 15 of



the year of the election. The right of representation at such an election conference is determined by the ordinary congress of the party district.

If the ordinary congress so decides – no later than the year before the year of the county council election – the district election conference will discuss the views of the of the district board and the nominating committee’s proposals for ballot papers in all the county council election districts.

3. The nominating committee draws up a nomination list for the election of a municipal council. The proposal is submitted to the local branch executive for review.

Subsequently, the proposal of the nominating committee and the views of the local branch executive will be discussed at the meeting of the local branch before the end of March in the year of the election.

4. When drawing up ballot papers at a meeting or at an election conference, voting shall be by constituency or by electoral district.

To be listed on the ballot, a candidate must have at least one vote more than half of all the valid votes. If such a majority is not achieved, a new election is held between the two candidates who have obtained the highest number of votes. When the number of votes is equal, the successful candidate will be chosen by lot.

A secret ballot will be held if a member calls for this, unless the party district or the local branches have introduced other rules for a secret ballot in the form of supplementary clauses.

Drawing up ballot papers by general vote

1. If at least 1/3 of those present who are entitled to vote at a meeting or at an election conference call for a general vote among the party members, such a vote must be held.

The call for a general voting is discussed after a ballot paper has been drawn up in accordance with item 4 of “Drawing up a ballot paper at a meeting or at an election conference”. The rules for a general vote, besides the ones mentioned here, are determined at the same time.

2. In a general vote, the ballot paper drawn up in accordance with item 4, “Drawing up a ballot paper at a meeting or at an election conference” is used. The rules for the vote are stated on the ballot paper. A list of all the candidates nominated within the prescribed time must be posted at the polling station.

3. Voters who want to change the order of the candidates on a ballot paper can do so by numbering the candidates. All the members who have been nominated within the prescribed time are eligible as candidates.

4. Only the ballot paper which includes the number of names as determined in drawing up the paper is to be considered valid. A ballot paper listing more or fewer names after cancellation is void.



5. A ballot which does not make clear the voter's intentions is to be disqualified.
6. After a general vote, the candidates are placed on the party ballot paper according to the following rules. The first place is occupied by the candidate who has received the highest number of valid votes for this place. The second place is occupied by the candidate who has, in total, received the highest number of valid votes for the first and second places. The third place is occupied by the candidate who has, in total, received the highest number of valid votes for the first, second and third places. Subsequent places are filled using the same method of counting as above. When the number of votes is equal, the result will be determined by lot.

Rules for candidate nominations to other bodies

County council posts

1. Proposals for candidates for elections held by the county council in a general election year are prepared by a nominating committee appointed by the annual congress of the party district. The nominating committee should also include representatives from the board of the party district and the executive of the county council group, as well as the union committee of the party district.
2. Proposals for candidates for elections held by the county council in a general election year are to be sent to the district board within the period specified by the board. This will be communicated in writing to local branches, affiliated organisations and to the union committees of the local branches. Party members, affiliated organisations and union committees of the local branches send proposals for candidates to the executive of the local branch within the period specified by the local branch. The executive of the local branch shall send in information on all proposed candidates to the district board. The local branch may rank candidates in order of precedence in the submission.
3. The nominating committee draws up proposals for candidates. The board of the party district considers the proposal. The county council group subsequently considers and determines all election matters and passes these to the county council's nominating body. If the annual congress of the party district so decides, the nominating committee's proposal shall be considered by an election conference before it is submitted to the county council group.
4. Proposals for candidates for a by-election for committees and agencies within the county council are prepared by the county council group's executive and the board of the party district, unless the ordinary congress of the party district has decided otherwise.



Primary municipality posts

1. Proposals for candidates for elections held by the municipal council in a general election year are prepared by a nominating committee appointed by the annual general meeting of the local branch. The nominating committee should also include representatives from the executive of the local branch and the municipal council group, as well as the union committee of the local branch.
2. Party members, affiliated organisations and union committees of the local branches send proposals for candidates to the executive of the local branch within the period specified by the local branch. This shall be communicated in writing and through advertisements to affiliated organisations and to the union committee of the local branch.
3. After the nominating deadline has expired, only the nominating committee has the right to propose candidates for elections to be held by the municipal council in a general election year.

The nominating committee prepares proposals for candidates. The proposal is submitted to the executive of the local branch for comments. The proposal is then discussed at a meeting of the local branch.

The municipal council group determines all election matters and passes these to the municipality's nominating body. The nominating committee's proposal, along with the comments of the executive of the local branch, are to be sent to affiliated organisations no later than 14 days before the meeting of the local branch.

4. Proposals for candidates for a by-election to be held by the municipal council are prepared by the executive committee of the local branch and the executive of the municipal group, unless the annual general meeting of the local branch has decided otherwise.

Posts in the Church of Sweden

1. Proposals for candidates for elections held by the vestry of the Church of Sweden in a general election year are prepared by a nominating committee appointed by the annual general meeting of the local branch/the annual general meeting of the association. The nominating committee should also include representatives of the local branch/association executive and the vestry group's executive, as well as the union committee of the local branch.
2. Proposals for candidates are to be sent to the local branch/association executives within the period specified by the local branch/association executives. This shall be communicated in writing and through advertisements to affiliated organisations and to the union committee of the local branch.
3. The nominating committee draws up proposals for candidates. The proposals are submitted to the local branch/association executives and the vestry group's executive for comments. The proposals and comments are subsequently considered by the



local branch/association meeting before the vestry group determines all election matters.

4. Proposals for candidates for by-elections and other elections held by the vestry within the three-year period are prepared by the executive of the vestry group and the executive committee of the local branch and the association's executive, unless the annual meeting of the local branch/association has decided otherwise.

Rules for cooperation between elected representatives and party organisations

It is of great importance that the elected representatives of the party and other party members maintain firm and unbroken contact. In addition to this, conditions must be created for good contacts between the elected representatives and the electorate they represent. The elected representatives are appointed to make their own decisions on measures which are important to the citizens, and to do so in a free and unconditional manner, but they also are the representatives of the voters and the party, and for this reason must take part in meetings and other party assemblies to be informed of the opinions and proposals of the members and voters, and to provide information of the policies of the party.

Party members must always be aware of the fact that all the details of policy cannot be decided at meetings. The main lines of party policy are drawn up in the party programme, in the county council political programmes of the districts and in the municipal policy programmes of the local branches.

These programmes and the decisions of the party organisation on overall and fundamentally important issues are the guidelines for the elected representatives of the party. When judging the way the elected representatives manage their duties, members and organisations should take into consideration the different grounds for the standpoints which the representatives have adopted.

The rights and obligations of elected representatives

Rights

A member who holds public office on the party's mandate has, in addition to the rights which he/she has as a member of the party,

- the right to participate in study activities arranged for elected representatives in public office,



- the unreserved right, in accordance with the party's principles and political programme, to form his/her own views and to take decisions within areas covered by the post of elected representative.

Obligations

A member who holds public office on the party's mandate has, in addition to the obligations which he/she has as a member of the party,

- the obligation to permit his/her decisions to be guided by the party's ideas and decisions on principle,
- the obligation to maintain firm and unbroken contact with the party organisation, for example through regular participation in meetings,
- the obligation to keep the party organisations continuously informed of developments within the areas covered by the post of elected representative,
- the obligation to pay administration fees which have been adopted by the party,
- the obligation to act in a manner consistent with the fundamental values of social democracy.

Rules for working with county council and primary municipality issues

Rules for working with county council issues

1. Members of the county council, who belong to the Swedish Social Democratic party, shall form a county council group.
2. Members and deputies of committees or agencies within the county council shall form a party group.
3. The rules for the county council group are drawn up by the ordinary congress of the party district. Before drawing up the rules, the executives of the county council group and the party district shall comment on the proposed rules.
4. The congress of the party district draws up the party programme for county council policy before the general elections. The programme provides guidelines for the elected representatives of the party. At the congress of the party district, county council issues that are of fundamental or economic importance shall also be discussed. The executive of the party district should continuously discuss county council policy. In addition to this, county council issues should be dealt with at the meetings of the party organisation. The county council group shall present a report on its work during the previous year to the ordinary congress of the party district. The report is included in the annual report of the party district.



5. When the count is completed after a general election of county council members, the board of the party district shall summon the elected county council members and the district board to a group meeting.
6. The party district board determines the standard rules for Social Democratic county council groups.

Rules for working with primary municipality issues

1. Members and deputies of the municipal council, who belong to the Swedish Social Democratic party, shall form a municipal council group.
2. Members and deputies of the municipal board or executive shall form a party group.
3. The rules of the municipal council group are drawn up by the annual meeting of the local branch. Before the rules are adopted, the executives of the municipal council group and the local branch shall express their opinions on the proposed regulations.
4. The local branch establishes the action programme for municipal policy and the local action programmes of the party before the general election. The programmes provide guidelines for the elected representatives of the party. Local issues that are of fundamental or economic importance shall be discussed at the meeting of the local branch.
Local issues of great importance for the area shall be discussed by the Social Democratic associations and clubs. The municipal council group shall present a report on its work during the previous year to the annual meeting of the local branch. This report is included in the annual report of the local branch.
5. When the count is completed after a general election of members to the municipal council, the executive of the local branch shall summon the elected municipal council members and deputies and the executive of the local branch to a group meeting.
6. The executive of the local branch, the executive of the municipal council group and the group of chairs of the committees and boards of the municipality shall discuss local activities at least once a year. The executive of the local branch will call the meeting.
7. The party group in local bodies shall provide an annual report on its activities to the Social Democratic associations and clubs within its local area.
8. The national board of the party sets out the standard rules for Social Democratic municipal council groups.

