

Constitution

**The constitution of the Swedish Social
Democratic Party**

Adopted by the party congress 2017



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Chapter 1 Purpose

Social Democracy wishes to build a society based on the ideals of democracy and equal rights. The goal of democratic socialism is free and equal people in a society characterised by solidarity. Human beings will be free to develop as individuals, have control over their own lives, shape their lives according to their own desires and exert influence in their own community. This freedom applies to everyone. Consequently, equality is the precondition of freedom.

Social Democracy wishes to remove the economic, social and cultural barriers to human liberation. Our goal is a society without superior and inferior orders, without class differences, patriarchy, racism or homo/transgender phobia, a society free of prejudice and discrimination.

Solidarity grows out of the realisation that we all need each other. The good society is built on collaboration using mutual consideration and respect. Everyone must have the same rights and opportunities to exert influence, everyone must have the same obligation to take responsibility.

Social Democracy wishes to allow the ideals of democracy to characterise the entire society and relationships between people. The common will of the citizens, developed in a free and open debate and expressed in democratic elections, is always superior to other claims to power.

Democracy comes, consequently, before the market. Through democracy the citizens determine the principles that should govern society and how tasks and responsibilities are to be allocated between the group and the individual, between the public sector and the market.

Social Democracy wishes to ensure that each human being, as a citizen, a worker and a consumer, will have the right and the opportunity to influence the direction and distribution of production, the organisation of working life and working conditions. The union movement plays a central role in these efforts. However other free associations, popular movements, NGOs, educational organisations, environmental groups, consumer organisations and cooperatives are also vital for the broadening and deepening of democracy.

The climate crisis and environmental degradation have made it clear that humans cannot live without paying due regard to nature. Our survival requires long-term economically, socially and ecologically sustainable development that meets the needs



of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to fulfil their own dreams.

The Social Democracy view of democracy knows no national boundaries. The goal is a global community based on the ideals of democracy. Democracy presupposes freedom from poverty and fear, but also the freedom and opportunity to develop in community with other people. Consequently, political freedoms must be fused together with fundamental economic, social and cultural rights.

International solidarity means standing up for human rights, widening the circle of democracies and providing clearly-stated support to movements struggling to achieve this. But it also concerns expanding democracy's radius of action across borders. This requires increased global cooperation between nations and between popular movements worldwide. The international institutions must have the power to check and balance global capital and be developed into tools for democracy, justice and sustainability.

Chapter 2 The Party Constitution

§ 1 The Party's tasks

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 voters. 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 everyone who shares the fundamental values of Social Democracy into the Party.
- 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 policies.
- 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 to the European Union.
- Support for organisational development and activities in party districts.
- Strategic planning for the development of party membership.



- The development of party-wide systems for members' registers and the collection of membership fees.

§ 2 Organisation

Clause 1

Social Democratic local associations and clubs are the foundations on which the Party is built. The associations unite to form local branches, the primary local organisations of the Party. The local branches unite to form districts, which are the main regional organisations of the Party and which form the component elements of 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
Göteborgsområdet party district
Fyrbodal 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



Norrbottnen party district

Clause 3

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

§ 3 Membership register and fees

Clause 1

The central party 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 branch and party district is given access to the appropriate part of the membership register.

Clause 2

Each member pays a membership fee which is the sum of the association/club fees, charges to the local branch, the party district and the Party. The Party Congress determines the level of charges for each part of the organisation.

Members of the Social Democratic Women in Sweden, groups within the Religious Social Democrats of Sweden, associations within the HBT Social Democrats Sweden, Swedish Social Democratic Students' Association or Social Democratic Youth branches/Social Democratic Youth Clubs pay dues according to Section 3, Clause 3 of the Constitution of Social Democratic Associations and clubs.

Membership fees are to be remitted to the central party board. Fees paid for each party district, local branch and the social democratic associations are paid out by the central party board on 30 June and 31 December of the year in which the fees were paid by the members.

Clause 3

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

§ 4 The Party Congress

Clause 1

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



Party congresses are held the year prior to and the year after each ordinary general election. The central party board determines the issues to be discussed at the congress the year after the general election in addition to what is stated in this Constitution Section 4, Clause 14 and Section 9, Clause 3. The invitation to the party congress the year following the general election must state the issues to be debated at the congress. An extraordinary congress is held if it is called by the central party board. An extraordinary congress may deal only with the matters listed in the invitation for the congress.

Clause 2

The notice convening the party congress is to be issued by the central party board no later than eight months before the congress is to be held. An extraordinary congress may be summoned without observing this notice period. The central party board states the times corresponding to the stipulations in Chapter 2, Section 4 of the Constitution.

Clause 3

A congress will consist of 350 delegates from party districts. Congress delegates are elected for the period until delegate elections for the next congress, which is not an extraordinary congress, have been completed.

Clause 4

In each party district, one delegate is elected for each whole number equivalent to one three hundred and fiftieth of the total number of party members. The number of party members refers to the membership on which the number of delegates is based. The distribution of delegates is determined on the basis of the number of members at the end of the month that is eight months prior to the congress.

Clause 5

If the number of delegates to be elected according to Clause 4 does not amount to 350, the remaining delegates will be distributed as follows: one delegate each to the party districts that show the largest surplus numbers. If the surplus numbers are equal, distribution will be determined by lot.

Clause 6

No later than seven months before the congress, the central party board determines and informs the party districts of the number of delegates each party district is to elect.



Clause 7

The Parliamentary Group of the Social Democratic Party elects *three delegates* and the Swedish Social Democratic Group within the European Parliament elects *one delegate* from among themselves. These delegates must attend the congress and have the right of expression and proposal there.

Clause 8

Auditors appointed by the party congress, members of the party programme commission, the chairs of the party districts and two representatives of the party group on the board of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions have the right to attend the congress. They enjoy the right of expression and proposal at the congress.

Clause 9

The Social Democratic Women in Sweden, the Swedish Social Democratic Youth, the Religious Social Democrats of Sweden, the Swedish Social Democratic Students' Association and the HBT Social Democrats Sweden each have the right to appoint one delegate to the congress. They have the right of expression and proposal at the 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 party auditors and must be completed before the opening of the congress.

Clause 12

The order papers and the agenda of the congress will be drawn up by the central party board.

Clause 13

The congress may elect its own committees and determine the subjects they will deal with.



Clause 14

The party congress the year after a general election elects a nominations committee for four years consisting of eleven members and six deputies (who will take the place of full members in the order in which they are elected). The nominations committee will prepare congress elections according to Chapter 2, Section 4, clause 13, and Sections 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Party Constitution. Nominations to be submitted to the nominations committee within the stipulated time period.

Clause 15

The members of the central party board enjoy the right of expression and proposal at the congress.

Clause 16

Only delegates are entitled to vote at the congress. Each delegate has one vote. The right to vote may not be transferred. Delegates who, during the congress period, have been members or deputy members of the central party board will have no vote in the matter of discharge of liability of the central party board.

Clause 17

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

In a secret ballot, the candidates are listed in alphabetical order on the ballot paper. A valid ballot paper 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 is cast for more than one candidates in a secret ballot, a second ballot may 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 18

A motion may be submitted by an individual party member or by a local social democratic organisation, and must be submitted to the local branch board within the period of time stipulated by the latter. The motion is to be debated at a meeting of



the local branch. The local branch may adopt the motion as its own, submit it as an individual motion or reject the motion. Motions may also be proposed by the party district boards. Proposals may be put forward by the central party board and its executive committee and also by the programme commission. The central party board determines and notifies in the invitation to the congress the extent of motion submission rights for the congress the year following an ordinary general election and for extraordinary congresses.

Clause 19

A motion must be submitted to the central party board no later than five months before the congress.

Clause 20

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

Clause 21

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

Clause 22

The annual reports for the previous congress period are to be submitted by the central party board to the congress every four years in the year before an ordinary general election.

Clause 23

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

Clause 24

Congress protocol is to be distributed to districts, local branches and congress delegates no later than twelve months after the congress.



§ 5 Election of party congress delegates

Clause 1

For the election of congress delegates, 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 division into constituencies and the time limit for nominating candidates must be communicated to local branches and social democratic associations and clubs no later than six months before the congress.

Clause 3

The election of delegates is to start no earlier than five months, and be concluded no later than three months, before the congress.

Clause 4

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

The board of the local branch may also take a decision to elect delegates by postal or electronic voting. If more than one local branch is included in a constituency, this decision is remitted to the district board. The rules for postal and electronic voting are stipulated by the district board.

Clause 5

The local branch of the Social Democratic Party will, 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 no later than two weeks before the opening of the congress are entitled to vote in the election of congress delegates at 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 will be carried out by secret ballot.

Clause 9

A member or deputy member of the central party board may not be elected as a delegate. If the delegate is elected as a member or deputy member of the board, his/her delegate mandate expires. The new delegate will be the deputy in the constituency concerned.

Clause 10

All members are entitled to nominate candidates. Nominations to be made to the board of the local branch within the time stated by them. The local branch sends a list of all candidates nominated to the district board. The district board produces ballot papers and sends them to local branches. All the candidates within the constituency are to be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order. The number of delegates to elect must be stated on the ballot. Only ballot paper drawn up by the district board may be used in the election.

Clause 11

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

Clause 12

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

Clause 13

The ballot papers are to be opened on the day of the count irrespective of whether voting has taken place via postal or electronic voting. The count is to be conducted by the district board or by tellers appointed by the district board before the end of the 10th week before the congress. The local branches and the social democratic associations and clubs must be informed in advance of the time and place of the count.

Clause 14

The member(s) with the highest number of votes in each constituency is (are) elected as delegate(s). Deputies are those coming next in numbers of votes cast. Delegates



are called according to the votes they have received. When the number of votes is equal, the decision will be made by lot.

Clause 15

The district board will announce the result of the voting to the local branches and social democratic associations and clubs immediately after the count.

Clause 16

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

Clause 17

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 must submit such an appeal, together with its comments on the appeal, to the central party board. If the central party board 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 will recommend a new election within the constituency or the local branch concerned.

§ 6 The Central Party Board

Clause 1

The central party board is in charge of managing party operations in accordance with the party programme, its Constitution and congress decisions.

The central party board is the Party's highest decision-making body when congress is not in session.

The central party board establishes financial and operating plans for the following operational year.

The central party board must establish certification and authorisation procedures for the executive committee, central party board and party office.

The central party board establishes the list of Swedish Social Democratic candidates



in elections to the European Parliament. The central party board may, if desired, transfer the establishment of this list to the congress.

Clause 2

The party congress held the year before the general election year elects a central party board consisting of seven ordinary members of the executive committee, in addition to 26 other members, for a period of four years.

Congress elects the social democratic deputies for central party board members, eight of whom will be the deputies for the members of the executive committee, and in addition 15 other deputies.

The deputies will be called to the central party board meetings. They enjoy rights of expression and proposal and voting rights when they replace a regular member. If a member of the executive committee is absent, he/she will be replaced first by a deputy member of the executive committee. If the number of deputy members of the executive committee is not sufficient to replace absent members, other party deputies will be used as replacements. If other members are absent they are replaced first by other deputies. If the number of other deputies is not sufficient to replace absent members, the deputies of the executive committee will attend in their place.

Clause 3

The chairs of the Social Democratic Women in Sweden, Swedish Social Democratic Youth, the Religious Social Democrats of Sweden, the Swedish Social Democratic Students' Association and the HBT Social Democrats Sweden have the right to attend the meetings of the central party board. They have the right of expression and proposal at these meetings.

Clause 4

The central party board will appoint the party treasurer.

The party treasurer, who will attend the meetings of the central party board, enjoys the right of expression and proposal there.

Clause 5

Matters concerning the remuneration of elected officials within the party leadership are determined by a special remunerations committee, appointed by the central party board at its first meeting after the party congress. This committee consists of a chair and three other members.



Clause 6

The Party will hold an annual general meeting in April. In addition, meetings will be held when the executive committee deems it necessary, or when at least five central party board members so request.

Clause 7

The executive committee will submit an annual report concerning the central party board's accounts and operations over the previous year at the annual general meeting.

§ 7 The Executive Committee

Clause 1

The executive committee deals with the day-to-day management of the work of the Party and is responsible to the central party board. Issues that touch on parliament operations will be organised in dialogue with the party group in the parliament.

The committee is responsible for ensuring that the decisions made by the congress and the central 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 act as the employer of 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 among the ordinary members of the committee.

Deputy members of the executive committee will be called in the order in which they were elected.

Clause 3

The chairs of Social Democratic Women in Sweden, the Swedish Social Democratic Youth, the Religious Social Democrats of Sweden, the Swedish Social Democratic Students' Association and the HBT Social Democrats Sweden have the right to attend meetings of the executive committee, to speak and to propose motions, with the exception of meetings held in accordance with Clause 4.



Clause 4

If requested by the chair or a majority of the executive committee, the committee is to meet with attendance limited to the ordinary members and deputy members elected by the congress.

§ 8 The Programme Commission

Clause 1

The programme commission consists of five members and five deputy members who are elected by the ordinary party congress *held the year before the ordinary general elections*. Deputies will be called 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 replace ordinary members in the order in which they were elected.

Clause 2

The programme commission will respond to proposals governed by Section 4, Clause 20 of the Constitution, before the central party board replies to such proposals.

Clause 3

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

§ 9 Audit

Clause 1

The ordinary congress elects three auditors and three deputy auditors to carry out a continuous audit of the work of central party board and the executive committee. When an ordinary auditor is prevented from attending, deputies are summoned in the order in which they were elected.

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



Clause 2

At the annual general meeting of the central party board, the auditors present their opinion of the accounts and the work of the executive committee for the previous year.

Clause 3

The party congress held the year after the general election elects a review committee to review the work of the central party board and the executive committee during the congress period. Its remit is to prepare congress procedure in respect of the central party board's administration report and the auditors' reports for the party congress held the year before the next general elections.

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

The committee presents a report to congress held the year before the general election year on the accounts and the work of the central party board during the period since the previous congress, and recommends whether or not a discharge from liability should be granted.

Clause 4

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

Clause 5

The auditors' fees are established by the congress.

§ 10 General voting

Clause 1

The central party board may allow a vote be held within the Party on an issue raised. Such a vote is consultative. At the same time as the matter to be decided by vote is notified, the central party board will state the period of time within which the vote is to be carried out and the voting report sent to district boards and the central party board. The issue may be dealt with at a meeting called by local branches, by means of a postal vote or in some other way according to the regulations established by the central party board.



Clause 2

If a vote takes place at a meeting called by a local branch, the board of each local branch will submit a report on the voting to the relevant district board. The report will state the total number of votes cast as well as the number of votes for and against the proposals. The district board sends the report and a summary to the central party board.

Clause 3

If at least 5% of party members, according to the latest membership report at the beginning of the relevant year, support the motion for a vote, the central party board is obliged to hold a vote.

Clause 4

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

§ 11 The Parliamentary Group of the Social Democratic Party

Clause 1

Members of the group are those who have been elected to Parliament on the Social Democratic Party mandate. In addition, the deputies for this group of members, as well as all Social Democrat ministers. Members of Parliament who were elected on another party's mandate, after assessment by the central party board, may be granted membership of the group. Such assessments are made after consultations with the group.

Members of the group must be members of the Swedish Social Democratic Workers' Party. Members of the group who leave the Party on their own initiative, or who are expelled from the Party under the provisions of the Constitution, are not entitled to attend group meetings or use its office resources and are not entitled to the group's assets.

Clause 2

Each member of the parliamentary group pays an annual administrative fee which will be used to support the members in their Riksdag duties. The fee is determined in connection with the establishment of the budget pursuant to Chapter 2, Section 7, clause 1 of the Party Constitution.



Clause 3

The parliamentary group, which is responsible to the party congress, will submit a report on its work during the previous year to the annual general meeting of the central party board. This report is added to the annual reports of the central party board for the party congress held the year before the general election year.

Clause 4

The work and delegation of decision procedures for the parliamentary group are established by the central party board based on proposals from the parliamentary group.

Clause 5

The parliamentary group must strive to present a united front, in line with the party programme and decisions made by the congress in the matters that are the subject of parliamentary processing. More detailed provisions are found in the work and decision-making procedures of the parliamentary group.

Clause 6

The central party board will consult with the parliamentary group concerning resources for parliamentary activities and establish a budget and operating plan for the relevant financial year.

Clause 7

A joint meeting of the central party board and the parliamentary group will be held when either party regards it as necessary. Minutes of such a meeting are to be included in the minutes of the central party board.

§ 12 The European Parliament Group

Clause 1

The Swedish Social Democratic Group within the European Parliament, which is responsible to the party congress, will submit a report to the annual general meeting of the central party board on its work during the previous year. This report is added to the annual reports of the central party board to the party congress that is held the year before the general election year.



Clause 2

Joint meetings of the central party board and the Swedish Social Democratic Group within the European Parliament are held when it is regarded necessary by either body. Minutes of such meetings are included in the minutes of the central party board.

Clause 3

The Constitution of the Swedish Group in the European Parliament is established by the central party board based on proposals from the Group.

§ 13 Other groups

The constitutions of the Social Democratic council group, Church Assembly of the Church of Sweden and the Social Democratic Group on the Board of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions are established by the central party board based on proposals from the groups concerned.

§ 14 General regulations

Clause 1

Only party members may be elected to positions of trust within the Party. A member who leaves the Party thereby resigns from the positions of trust to which he/she has been 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 disseminates propaganda in obvious violation of the general principles of the Party or who in any other way deliberately damages the Party and its work may be expelled by the central party board. 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 central party board 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 may 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 may be suspended from his/her membership of the Party by the executive committee until the central party board has made a decision on the case.

Clause 4

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

Clause 5

It is incumbent upon the board 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 examined by the central party board. In cases of renewal of membership, the decision must be supported by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the votes cast.

Clause 7

Exemptions from the constitutions of party districts and local branches and from regulations for establishment of ballot papers in general elections and elections within the Church of Sweden may be granted by the central party board.

Clause 8

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

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



Clause 9

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

Chapter 3 The constitutions of the party districts

§ 1 The tasks of party districts

Party districts are responsible for:

- External opinion building to support party ideas and policies within their areas of operation.
- Election campaign organisation in their areas of operation.
- Developing and coordinating policies within the county council.
- Nominating representatives at county level.
- Communication support for members of parliament at county level.
- Contacts with the local party organisations within the district and with the central party board.
- Cooperating with party child and youth organisations.
- Developing and coordinating study activities.
- Union activities and other organisational activities.
- Supporting the organisational and operational development of local branches.

§ 2 Organisation

Clause 1

The party district area will consist of one or several constituencies for parliamentary elections. Changes to district areas may be implemented by the central party board after proposals by party districts or several local branches in a constituency.

Clause 2

Each local branch within the district will belong to the Party through the party district.



§ 3 Fees

Clause 1

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

Clause 2

The board of the local branch will submit 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.

Extra congresses are held when the district board so decides, or when at least 1/3 of the local branches within the party district call for it. An extra congress may only deal with the issues specified in the notice convening the congress.

Clause 3

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

Extra congresses may be summoned without observing this time limit. In doing so, the district board stipulates the time referring to the clauses in Section 4 of the District Constitution.

Clause 4

All local branches have the right to appoint delegates to the congress in proportion to the number of party members in the branch. Also in accordance with any regulations stipulated by the district congress.



Clause 5

The election of delegates to an extra congress is carried out applying the same rules as for the ordinary congress.

Clause 6

All members of the party district are entitled to nominate candidates for congress delegate. The names of proposed candidates are to be submitted to the board of the local branch within the specified time limit. Social democratic associations/clubs will submit information on all candidates nominated to the board of the local branch.

The local branch meeting 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 central party board and the social democratic members of parliament within the district area has the right to attend the congress, to address the congress and to propose motions.

Clause 8

Social democratic members of the county council within party districts 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 board of the local branch and sent to the district board within the time period 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 work procedures and agenda for the congress are drawn up by the district board.



Clause 12

The members of the district board and the auditor who submitted the audit report are entitled 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 may not be transferred.

Clause 14

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

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 may 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 may be proposed by any party member or social democratic local organisation belonging to the party district, and must be submitted to the board of the local branch within the time period stated by the latter. A motion will be dealt with at the meeting of the local branch. The local branch can either adopt the motion as its own or decide to submit it in as an individual motion.

Clause 16

After the decision of the local branch, the motion is 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 will be sent to local branches, social democratic associations and clubs and congress delegates no later than one month before the congress.



Clause 18

A report on the previous year's activities, together with guidelines for the work of the following year, will be submitted to the ordinary congress by the district board.

Social democratic members of the county council within the party district will present a written report to congress on their activities during the previous year.

Clause 19

The congress elects the nominations committee and deputies for a period of at least one, and at most four, years.

§ 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 called by the relevant 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 determines the agenda and order of work 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, Section 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 this Constitution and with the decisions made by district congress.

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

The district board bears employer responsibility for the staff employed at the district office. The district board may delegate employer responsibility to its executive committee.

Clause 2

The district board will consist of at least seven members. Deputies may be appointed for all of these members.

The chair is elected separately.

Clause 3

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

Clause 4

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



Clause 5

A study organiser and a union leader will be appointed within the district. They will be members of the district board.

§ 7 Audit

Clause 1

For the purpose of auditing the work of the district board and its 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 called 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 to the congress and recommend whether or not to discharge the board from liability.

§ 8 General elections and dealing with 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 cooperation between elected representatives and party organisations" and "Rules for dealing with county council issues" will apply as concerns candidate nominations for general elections, cooperation between elected representatives and party organisations and the processing of county council issues.

§ 9 General regulations

Clause 1

The party district and its executive committee must observe the Constitution of the Party and decisions made by the party congress.

Clause 2

Additional clauses for the constitution for party districts may be adopted by the district congress. These must not conflict with, or in any way set aside, the fundamentals of the Party Constitution.



Clause 3

Only the ordinary party congress may amend or set aside this Constitution. A party district may apply to the central party board for a dispensation from the stipulations of the Constitution.

Clause 4

The constitutions for the party districts of Stockholm, Gothenburg and Gotland are established by the central party board.

Chapter 4 Constitutions of local branches

§ 1 The tasks of local branches

Local branches are responsible for:

- Opinion building in support of party ideas and policies within the municipality.
- Communications with voters within the municipality.
- General election organisation in their areas of operations.
- Policy development within the municipality.
- Election of political representatives.
- Personal and professional development of political representatives.
- Development of study activities.
- Introduction of members.
- Union activities and other organisational activities.
- Supporting the organisational and operational development of social democratic associations and clubs.

§ 2 Organisation

Clause 1

The local branch is the primary local organisation of the Party and will cover one primary municipality. In cases where there are no suitable preconditions in a local branch for an association/club organisation in accordance with Clause 3, the local branch is also the basic party organisation.

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 will gather these members into a free quota group for the entire local branch.

Clause 3

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

§ 3 Membership of the local branch

Clause 1

All social democratic associations and clubs, social democratic women's clubs, religious social democratic groups, social democratic student clubs, associations within HBT Social Democrats and members of free quota groups within a primary municipality must be affiliated to their local branch.

Social democratic youth associations and social democratic youth clubs which recognise the Party Constitution and which request affiliation to the local branch are to 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 are to belong to the local branch.

Clause 2

Local unions may be affiliated as members of local branches.

The members of the organisation obtain membership by individual application.

Clause 3

Members of the Social Democratic Party receive, upon joining, their party membership in the association they choose to belong to, or in the free quota group in the local branch and the party district where they live. A member may transfer his/her party membership to a local organisation at another local branch.

§ 4 Fees

The central party board arranges the collection of the fees. Fees paid in on behalf of the local branch are paid out by the central party board 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 take over the powers of the membership meeting.

Clause 2

The annual general meeting of the local branch may take a decision 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 will 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 regulations 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 matters must be considered:

1. The annual report of the board and the audit for the previous year.
2. The report from the municipal council group.
3. Discharge from liability for the board.
4. The election of the board members and deputy members:
 - a) The chair.
 - b) Other members of the board.
 - c) Deputy members.
5. The election of auditors and deputy auditors.
6. The election of a nominations committee.
7. Guidelines for future activities.

Clause 6

A motion to a membership meeting or to a representative assembly meeting may be proposed by any party member or by any social democratic local organisation which



belong to the local branch. The motion must be submitted to the local branch board within the period of time stated by the latter.

Clause 7

Members of the board are not entitled to vote on the board's discharge from liability.

Clause 8

Votes are by show of hands. The right to vote is not transferable. The election of individuals may be carried out in a secret ballot when so requested.

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 chairperson will have the casting vote.

Clause 9

The annual general meeting elects a nominations committee and deputies for a period of at least one and at most four years.

Proposals for candidates for election at the annual general meeting are submitted to the nominations committee within the period of time stated by the local branch meeting. After the nominations deadline has expired, the nominations 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 this Constitution and the decisions made by the party congress, district congress and local branch. The role of the board is to promote the Party and its policies, to draw up municipal policy programmes, to be responsible for the finances of the local branch and membership administration and to support the



activities of 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 bears employer responsibility for the staff employed at the local branch office, unless this has been delegated to the party district board.

Clause 2

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

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

Clause 3

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

Clause 4

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

§ 7 General vote

Clause 1

The board of the local branch may, as concerns a certain matter, arrange for a ballot among the party members of the local branch. Such a ballot is consultative.

Clause 2

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

Clause 3

The regulations for carrying out a ballot are established by the board of the local branch.



§ 8 Audit

Clause 1

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

Clause 2

The auditors present their report to the local branch annual general meeting. The report concerns 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

Party “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 cooperation between elected representatives and party organisations” and “Rules for dealing with county council and primary municipality issues” will apply to candidate nominations for general elections, cooperation between elected representatives and party organisations and the processing of county council and primary municipality issues.

§ 10 General regulations

Clause 1

A local branch may not be closed without the approval of the district board. If a local branch is closed, all its assets will be transferred to the party district.

Clause 2

Additional clauses to the constitutions of local branches may be adopted at the annual general meeting of the local branch. Such clauses must not conflict with, or rescind, the content of the Party Constitution.

Clause 3

Only the ordinary party congress may amend or set aside this Constitution. A local branch may apply to the central party board for dispensation from the stipulations of their constitutions.



Chapter 5 The constitutions of social democratic associations and clubs

§ 1 The tasks of social democratic associations

Social democratic associations are responsible for:

- Opinion building in support of the Party, its ideas and policies.
- Shaping local social democratic policies in dialogue with the voters.
- Membership reception, development and contacts.
- Development of membership value.

§ 2 Organisation

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

§ 3 Membership and fees

Clause 1

Membership in the association/club is granted to every person who recognises the Party Constitution.

Clause 2

Individuals who become members of the local organisation choose to belong to an association, or to the free quota group in the local branch and the party district in which they live. Members may also transfer their party membership to a local organisation in another local branch.

Clause 3

Members who hold their membership in women's clubs, religious groups, student clubs, HBT social democratic associations or social democratic youth associations/clubs are to pay a membership fee to the club/group/association/branch, district and national organisation in accordance with each organisation's constitution and rules, and are also to pay a fee to the local branch in which the membership is registered.



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

Clause 4

A member who, despite a written reminder, is in arrears with fees for a period exceeding twelve months, is to 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.

§ 4 Membership rights and obligations

Clause 1

Anyone who has submitted a membership application is a member of the party.

Membership of the Social Democratic Party provides members with the right to

- participate in the meetings and study activities of associations and local branches
- receive information on the Party's position on political and organisational issues
- put forward proposals at meetings of social democratic associations and local branches
- put forward motions to the branch annual general meeting and to the party district and party congresses
- participate in policy review discussions organised by the Party, the party district or the local branch.

Clause 2

Members who have paid their membership fees

- have the right to vote at members' meetings, congress elections and general ballots
- are eligible for election to positions of trust within the Party and in political assemblies
- form the membership figures on which allocation of delegates is based.

Clause 3

Members of the Social Democratic party:

- must accept the Party's fundamental ideas as they are expressed in the party programme and Constitution
- are obliged to pay the membership fee set by the Party
- may not behave disloyally towards the Party



- may not undertake propaganda in violation of the Party's fundamental ideas
- may not cause injury to the Party or to its activities.

§ 5 Meetings

Clause 1

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

Clause 2

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

Clause 3

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

1. The annual reports of the board and the auditors for the previous year.
2. A motion on discharge of responsibility for the board.
3. The election of members and deputies of the board.
4. The election of auditors and deputy auditors.
5. The election of one or several people to be responsible for membership.
6. The election of the nominations committee for the next annual general meeting.
7. Guidelines for future activities.

Clause 4

When determining discharge of responsibility for the board, the members of the board are not entitled 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 may 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 chairperson will have the casting vote.

Clause 6

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

§ 6 The boards of associations/clubs

Clause 1

The board of the association/club is responsible for the activities of the association/club in accordance with this Constitution and the decisions made by the association/club. The tasks of the board are to influence public opinion in support of the Party and its policies, to develop membership value, 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 on 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. The chair and treasurer are elected separately by the members of the board. The association/club will appoint a study organiser who will also be part of the board.

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

Clause 3

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

Clause 2

The auditors present their report to the annual general meeting of the association/club. They report on the accounts and the work of the board during the previous year and recommend whether or not to discharge the board from liability for the previous year.

§ 8 General elections and dealing with local issues

Party “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 cooperation between elected representatives and party organisations” and “Rules for dealing with county council and primary municipality issues” will apply to candidate nominations for general elections, cooperation between elected representatives and party organisations and the processing of county council and primary municipality issues.

§ 9 General regulations

Clause 1

Additional constitutional clauses for a social democratic association/club may be adopted at the association/club annual general meeting and will be submitted to the local branch for approval. Such regulations must not conflict with, or rescind, the fundamental principles of this Constitution.

Clause 2

The association/club cannot close without the approval of the local branch. If an association/club closes, all its assets are transferred to the local branch.

Clause 3

Only the ordinary Party congress may amend or set aside the content of this Constitution.



Regulations for the establishment of ballot papers for general elections and elections within the Church of Sweden

General regulations

1. Party members who hold a seat in the European Parliament or in the Swedish Parliament or who are an elected member of a municipal council or are elected to a position within the Church of Sweden contribute to the implementation of the social democratic programme established at the party congress, the district congress or a local branch meeting.
2. All members of the Party and organisations affiliated to the Party have the right to propose candidates for election to the bodies specified in Point 1.
3. Party ballot papers will be drawn up in such a manner that there is a proper gender balance. Continuous new recruitment of younger people will be undertaken.
4. Party ballot papers are established at meetings, conferences or by a general vote.
5. In order to promote unanimity in general elections, organisations and party members are advised to work actively to counter the emergence of splinter lists.
6. Parliamentary and local government appointments should be distributed to as many members as possible.

Nominations

1. In order to prepare ballot papers for the parliamentary elections, the ordinary district congress appoints a nominations committee the year prior to general election year.
2. In order to prepare ballot papers for the county council elections, the ordinary party district congress determines the year prior to the county council election year how the nominations committee is to be appointed.
3. In order to prepare the ballot papers for municipal elections, the local branch meeting appoints a nominations committee the year prior to the municipal election year.
4. In order to prepare the ballot papers for vestry elections of the Church of Sweden, the local branch meeting appoints a nominations committee the year prior to the vestry election year. The local branch may delegate the task of appointing a nominations 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 nominations committee for each diocese is appointed,



in consultation with the central party board, consisting of representatives of the party districts which are wholly or partially within the diocese.

6. A working committee may be appointed from within the nominations committee.
7. The party district nominations committee should include at least one representative of the party district union committee.
8. The local branch nominations committee should include at least one representative of the local branch union committee.

Candidate nominations

1. Proposals for candidates to parliamentary and county council elections are to be submitted to the district board within the time period stipulated by them. This will be communicated in writing to local branches and social democratic associations and clubs.
2. Party members, affiliated associations and the local branch union committee submit proposals for candidates for parliamentary, county council and municipal elections to the local branch board within the time period stipulated by them. This is accomplished through public notices and written notification to affiliated associations and the local branch union committee.
3. The local branch submits information on all proposed candidates for parliamentary and county council elections to the district board. The local branch may rank the candidates in order of precedence.
4. After the nomination deadline has expired, only the nominations committee is entitled to propose candidates. Such nomination may not, however, be made after a decision has been made to hold a general vote.

Test ballots

1. During the nomination process, a consultative test ballot may be held.
2. Regulations for consultative test ballots are established by the district board where ballot papers for parliamentary elections and county council elections are concerned, and by local branch boards where ballot papers for municipal elections are concerned.

Establishing ballot papers at meetings or election conferences

1. The nominations committee draws up a ballot paper for a parliamentary election. The proposal is submitted to the district board for review. The proposal of the nominations committee and the views of the district board will be discussed at a district election conference before April 15 of election



year. This may be the ordinary district congress, if it has been stated in the convening notice, this congress may be an election conference. If a special election conference is arranged, what is prescribed in the rules for the ordinary district congress will apply where appropriate.

2. The nominations committee draws up a nominations list for county council elections. The proposal is submitted to the district board for review. Subsequently the proposal of the nominations 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 election year. 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 county council elections – the district election conference will discuss the views of the of the district board and the nominations committee’s proposals for ballot papers in all the county council election districts.

3. The nominations committee draws up a nomination list for election to municipal council. The proposal is submitted to the local branch executive for review. Subsequently, the proposal of the nominations committee and the views of the local branch board will be discussed at the meeting of the local branch before the end of March in election year.

4. When drawing up ballot papers at meetings or at election conferences, voting will be by constituency or by electoral district.

In order 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 so requests, unless the party district or the local branches have introduced other rules for a secret ballot in the form of supplementary clauses.

Establishing 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. Demands for general votes are dealt with after the ballot papers have been established according to Point 4, “Establishing ballot papers at meetings or election conferences”. Regulations for general votes, in addition to those stated here, are established at the same time.



2. In a general vote, the ballot paper drawn up in accordance with Point 4, “Establishing ballot papers at meetings or election conferences” 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 wish 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 a ballot paper which includes the number of names as determined when establishing the paper is considered valid. A ballot paper listing more or fewer names after cancellation is void.
5. A ballot paper which does not make the voter’s intentions clear 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.

Regulations for candidate nominations to other bodies

County Council

1. Proposals for candidates for elections to the county council in a general election year are prepared by a nominations committee appointed by the party district annual congress. The nominations committee should also include representatives of the party district board and the county council group board, as well as the party district union committee.
2. Proposals for candidates to county council elections in a general election year are to be submitted to the district board within the period specified by them. This will be communicated in writing to local branches, affiliated organisations and to local branch union committees.
Party members, affiliated organisations and local branch union committees submit proposals for candidates to the local branch board within the period specified by the local branch. The local branch board submits information on all



proposed candidates to the district board. The local branch may rank candidates in order of precedence in their submission.

3. The nominations committee draws up proposals for candidates. The party district board considers the proposal. The county council group subsequently considers and determines all election matters and forwards these to the county council's nominating body. If the annual party district congress so decides, the nominations committee's proposal will 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 board and the party district board, unless the ordinary congress of the party district has decided otherwise.

Primary Municipality

1. Proposals for candidates for elections to municipal council in a general election year are prepared by a nominations committee appointed by the local branch annual general meeting. The nominations committee should also include representatives of the local branch and municipal council group boards, as well as the local branch union committee.
2. Party members, affiliated organisations and local branch union committees submit proposals for candidates to the local branch board within the time period specified by them. This must be notified in writing and through advertisement to affiliated organisations and to the local branch union committee.
3. After the nomination deadline has expired, only the nominations committee is entitled to propose candidates for municipal council elections held in a general election year. The nominations committee prepares proposals for candidates. The proposals are submitted to the local branch board for comments. The proposal is then discussed at a meeting of the local branch. The municipal council group determines all election matters and forwards them to the municipality's nominating body. The nominations committee proposals, along with the comments of the local branch board, are to be sent to affiliated organisations no later than 14 days before the local branch meeting.
4. Proposals for candidates for a by-election for the municipal council are prepared by the local branch executive committee and the municipal group board, unless the local branch annual general meeting has decided otherwise.

Positions 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 nominations committee



- appointed by the annual general meetings of the local branch/association. The nominations committee should also include representatives of the local branch/association and the vestry group's board, as well as the local branch union committee.
2. Proposals for candidates are to be sent to the local branch/association boards within the period specified by them. This must be notified in writing and through advertisement to affiliated organisations and to the local branch union committee.
 3. The nominations committee draws up proposals for candidates. The proposals are submitted to the local branch/association and the vestry group's boards for comments. These proposals and comments are subsequently considered by the local branch/association meeting before the vestry group establishes all election measures.
 4. Proposals for candidates for by-elections and other elections held by the vestry within the three-year period are prepared by the board 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.

Regulations 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 continuous, uninterrupted 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 are also the representatives of the electorate and the Party and for this reason must take part in meetings and other party assemblies in order to be informed of the opinions and proposals made by members and voters, and to provide information on the policies of the Party.

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

These programmes, and the decisions of the party organisation on overall and fundamentally important issues, form guidelines for the elected representatives of the Party. When assessing how the elected representatives manage their duties, members and organisations should take into consideration the different grounds for the standpoints adopted by the representatives.



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 in principle.
- The obligation to maintain continuous, uninterrupted 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 the administration fees which have been adopted by the Party.
- The obligation to act in a manner consistent with the fundamental values of social democracy.

Regulations for dealing with county council and primary municipal issues

Regulations for dealing with county council issues

1. Members of the county council, who belong to the Swedish Social Democratic Party, will form a county council group.
2. Members and deputies of committees or bodies within the county council will form a party group.
3. The constitutions of county council groups are established at the ordinary party district congress. Before this occurs, the boards of the county council group and the party district will submit comments on the proposed constitution.
4. The party district congress 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 party district congress, county



council issues that are of fundamental or economic importance will also be discussed. The party district board should discuss county council policy on a continuous basis. In addition, county council issues should be dealt with at the meetings of the party organisations. The county council group will submit a report on its work during the previous year to the ordinary party district congress. This report is then included in the party district annual report.

5. When the count is completed after a general election of county council members, the party district board will call the county council members elected and the district board to a group meeting.
6. The party district board determines the constitution of social democratic county council groups.

Regulations for dealing with primary municipal issues

1. Members and deputies of the municipal council, who belong to the Swedish Social Democratic Party, will form a municipal council group.
2. Members and deputies of a municipal board or council will form a party group.
3. The constitution of the municipal council group is established by the local branch annual general meeting. Before the constitution is adopted, the municipal council group and local branch boards will express their opinion on the proposed constitution.
4. The local branch establishes an action programme for municipal policy and a local action programme for the Party before the general election. These programmes provide guidelines for the elected representatives of the Party. Local issues that are of fundamental or economic importance will be discussed at the local branch meeting.
Local issues of great importance for the area will be also discussed by the social democratic associations and clubs. The municipal council group will present a report on its work during the previous year to the local branch annual meeting. This report is included in the local branch annual report.
5. When the vote count is complete after a general election of members of the municipal council, the local branch board will summon the elected municipal council members and deputies and the local branch board to a group meeting.
6. The local branch board, the municipal council group board and the group chairs of committees and boards in the municipality will discuss local activities at least once annually. The local branch board will call the meeting.
7. The party group in local bodies will submit an annual report on its activities to the social democratic associations and clubs within its local area.
8. The central party board establishes the constitution for social democratic municipal council groups.





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