



THE FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRATIC ADVANCEMENT

Sweden Electoral Fairness Research

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Contents:

Background on the Swedish Political Framework and History

1. Laws and regulation on equality of political content of media and broadcasters
2. Laws and regulations on equality of candidate and party influence
3. Laws and regulations on equality of electoral finance
4. Laws and regulations on equality of voter say

Sources:

Act on State Financial Support to Political Parties (1972)

“Disproportionality in Swedish Electoral System”, Svante Linusson

Elections Act (2005)

IDEA Country View: Sweden

Law No. 625 of 1972 on Public Funding of Political Parties

Radio and Television Act

Regulations on the financing of political parties and electoral campaigns in Europe—an inventory.

(Report prepared under the Octopus Programme by the Department of Crime Problems, Directorate General of Legal Affairs of Europe, and Council of Europe.)

Sustainable Governance Indicators 2009, Democracy, Electoral Process

Swedish Press Council, Code of Ethic for Press, Radio and Television in Sweden

Swedish Election Authority

The Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression

The Freedom of the Press Act

The Instrument of Government

The Swedish Parliament

Background on the Swedish Political Framework and History

The Instrument of Government

Chapter 1. Basic principles of the form of government

Art. 1. All public power in Sweden proceeds from the people.

Swedish democracy is founded on the free formation of opinion and on universal and equal suffrage. It is realised through a representative and parliamentary form of government and through local self-government.

Public power is exercised under the law.

Art. 2. Public power shall be exercised with respect for the equal worth of all and the liberty and dignity of the individual.

The personal, economic and cultural welfare of the individual shall be fundamental aims of public activity. In particular, the public institutions shall secure the right to employment, housing and education, and shall promote social care and social security, as well as favourable conditions for good health.

The public institutions shall promote sustainable development leading to a good environment for present and future generations.

The public institutions shall promote the ideals of democracy as guidelines in all sectors of society and protect the private and family lives of the individual.

The public institutions shall promote the opportunity for all to attain participation and equality in society and for the rights of the child to be safeguarded. The public institutions shall combat discrimination of persons on grounds of gender, colour, national or ethnic origin, linguistic or religious affiliation, functional disability, sexual orientation, age or other circumstance affecting the individual.

The opportunities of the Sami people and ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities to preserve and develop a cultural and social life of their own shall be promoted.

Art. 3. The Instrument of Government, the Act of Succession, the Freedom of the Press Act and the Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression are the fundamental laws of the Realm.

Art. 4. The Riksdag is the foremost representative of the people.

The Riksdag enacts the laws, determines State taxes and decides how State funds shall be employed. The Riksdag shall examine the government and administration of the Realm.

Art. 5. The King or Queen who occupies the throne of Sweden in accordance with the Act of Succession shall be the Head of State.

Art. 6. The Government governs the Realm. It is accountable to the Riksdag.

Art. 7. Sweden has local authorities at local and regional level.

Art. 8. Courts of law exist for the administration of justice, and central and local government administrative authorities exist for public administration.

Art. 9. Courts of law, administrative authorities and others performing public administration functions shall pay regard in their work to the equality of all before the law and shall observe objectivity and impartiality.

Art. 10. Sweden is a member of the European Union. Sweden also participates in international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations and the Council of Europe, and in other contexts.

Broadcast Act:

Broadcasters guided by “the democratic political system's basic ideas and the principle of equal dignity and individual freedom and dignity.”

(Source: Swedish Constitution)

The emergence of Swedish democracy

It is often said that the temperance movement together with the free church and trade union movements in the late 1800s had a positive bearing on the development of democracy in Sweden. They helped people to learn the procedures for meetings, to write minutes, to argue in favour of their cause and to handle contacts with public authorities.

The political parties as we know them today also began to emerge just over 100 years ago, and together with the various popular movements they helped to bring about universal franchise. The definitive breakthrough of democracy in Sweden first came in 1921 when all women and men were given the right to vote in parliamentary elections.

Nevertheless, it was still possible, even after 1921, to exclude certain groups from the right to vote. An example was individuals who had been declared incapable of managing their own affairs by a court of law. This limitation of the franchise disappeared in 1989 when the Riksdag abolished incapacitation.

The history of the Riksdag

As early as 1435, representatives of different social groups were called to a meeting in the town of Arboga to discuss and determine affairs affecting the country as a whole. The Arboga meeting is therefore sometimes referred to as Sweden's first parliament.

However, it was not until 1527 and later 1544 at King Gustav Vasa's two assemblies in Västerås that representatives of all four estates - the Nobility, the Clergy, the Burghers and the Peasantry - were called on to participate. The term "Riksdag" was first used in the 1540s.

The committee organisation begins to emerge

The 17th century saw the establishment of clearer parliamentary procedures. The committee organisation began to emerge and written regulations on the work of the Riksdag were drawn up. In the

late 17th century King Karl XI gained increasing power which meant that the Riksdag's position was weakened.

A two-party system

During the Age of Freedom in the 18th century the pendulum swung once again, and the power shifted to the four estates. A party system evolved with two parties known as the Hats and the Caps.

A parliamentary system with certain similarities to that of today emerged. The working traditions of today's Riksdag, particularly those of the committees, have their roots in the Age of Freedom.

The dominance of the estates was successively weakened by economic crises, antagonisms between the estates and corruption, and it was finally brought to an end through a bloodless coup d'état by King Gustav III in 1772. Once again, the power shifted into the hands of the King.

A new constitution with a separation of powers

In 1809 a new Instrument of Government was adopted in Sweden. It set out how the power was to be divided between the Riksdag and the King.

The courts and public authorities were granted an independent status. Sweden was also the first country in the world to establish an Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen. The Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen is a body to which citizens can turn with complaints about the authorities.

One of the new fundamental laws in 1809 was the Instrument of Government, which was largely influenced by the principle of a separation of powers. An important factor was that a distinction was made between legislative, judicial and executive power.

The new Instrument of Government remained in force until 1974, despite numerous changes over the years. The first Riksdag Act - which is a law setting out the procedures for the work of the Riksdag - was introduced in 1810.

The bicameral Riksdag

Between 1809 and 1974 substantial changes were made to the constitution in order to ensure the representation of the new social classes.

In 1865 the parliament of the four estates was abolished and replaced by a bicameral (two-chamber) system. The First Chamber was elected indirectly by the county councils and municipal assemblies in the larger towns and cities. It was considered to represent "education and wealth". Only men were eligible on the basis of certain criteria relating to age, income and wealth.

Elections to the Second Chamber were only open to men, and in order to vote it was necessary to meet certain economic criteria such as ownership of real estate or payment of tax on an annual taxable income. Eligibility for election only applied to those aged 25 or above. These limitations meant that just 21 per cent of Sweden's men over the age of 21 were entitled to vote in elections to the Second Chamber.

The right to vote

Why didn't everyone in Sweden enjoy the right to vote? From the 1860s a lively debate emerged on the question of voting rights, and demands for universal franchise became increasingly vociferous.

In 1909 a reform was passed in the Riksdag giving Swedish men the right to vote in elections to the Second Chamber. In 1921 a universal and equal franchise was introduced for men and women alike, and the Riksdag finally achieved a system of democratic representation for all citizens.

Nevertheless, it was still possible, even after 1921, to exclude certain groups from the right to vote. An example was individuals who had been declared incapable of managing their own affairs by a court of law. This limitation of the franchise disappeared in 1989 when the Riksdag abolished incapacitation.

Alongside the universal franchise reform, a parliamentary system of government developed and gained acceptance. This means that the government requires the Riksdag's confidence and support for all major decisions.

The unicameral Riksdag

In 1971 the bicameral system was abolished and a single chamber with 350 members was introduced. Changes were also made to the organisation of the parliamentary committees. The system of different committees for legislative and budgetary matters was abandoned and 16 committees for different specialised areas were established instead.

Three years later, in 1974, Sweden adopted a new Instrument of Government and a new Riksdag Act. The principles of parliamentarianism were incorporated into the constitution and the Speaker acquired a central role in the formation of a new government after an election.

A balanced Riksdag

The disadvantages of having an even number of members soon became evident. In the 1973 Riksdag election the socialist and non-socialist blocs received 175 seats each. This meant that several decisions in the Riksdag had to be determined by lottery.

On 10 January 1975, the ceremonial opening of the Riksdag, which from that year was called the opening of the Riksdag session, was held in temporary premises at Sergels torg. The 1975 Riksdag session ended after the spring following a decision to move the beginning of the Riksdag's working year from the spring to the autumn. Consequently, the 1975/76 Riksdag session was opened in October 1975. As of the 1976/77 session, the Chamber has had 349 members.

Four-year electoral period

Two important decisions were taken in 1994. The first was to extend the electoral period from three to four years and the second to make the budget procedure more efficient. The latter means that the budget year now coincides with the calendar year and that the Budget Bill is presented and dealt with during the autumn.

(Source: The Swedish Parliament)

1. Laws and regulations that pertain to the political content of the media and broadcasters before, during, and after an election

Main Research Findings:

Private media and broadcasters have no legal requirement to be impartial. (From the Sustainable Governance Indicators 2009, “ Swedish campaigns are very dependent on their financial assets, and they are normally between the two left and right blocs. The media biases for these blocs are balanced, although the right bloc enjoys somewhat of an advantage, particularly with the largest newspapers in Sweden, such as Dagens Nyheter, Expressen, Svenska Dagbladet and Göteborgs-Posten. The only exception with a readership of comparable size is Aftonbladet. For this reason, there have been claims of media bias in Sweden’s public political discourse. Moreover, issues and parties unaffiliated with these blocs may have a more difficult time making themselves heard.)

State media and broadcasters do not allow political advertisement. Also, state media and broadcasters are guaranteed independence from lobby and political groups. However, there is no legal provision that says state media and broadcasters have to impartial and provide complete and balanced coverage. (From the Sustainable Governance Indicators 2009, “while there is no political advertising on the state-owned radio and television stations, the major private stations give substantial media coverage to the positions of the various parties represented in parliament. Coverage is generally fair, and party leaders are usually given an equal opportunity to speak on programs. In fact, politicians in debates are traditionally allotted set amounts of time to speak so as to ensure that they are all given a chance to get equal exposure. However, parties without representation in parliament usually get little or no media exposure.” (In 2010, only 7 party leaders were included in the debates.))

Swedish public and private press, radio, and television are self-regulated based on a code of ethics. However, in the code of ethics, there is no mention of impartiality and equal coverage of registered political parties.

There are extensive regulations on the protection of citizens from the abuse of freedom of expression with emphasis on content. Media in violation of code of ethics are expected by the Press Council to publish the Council's findings. Moreover, the media through self-regulation allow corrections to media information and right to reply. Though there are no laws which require media to publish a right of reply.

There is no limit on political expression, barring extreme expression (“what is acceptable in a democratic society”)

Research Excerpts:

Freedom of the Press Act

Art. 2. There shall be no scrutiny of any written matter prior to printing, nor shall it be permitted to prohibit the printing thereof. **Nor shall it be permitted for a public authority or other public body to take any action not authorised under this Act to prevent the printing or publication of written matter, or its dissemination among the general public, on grounds of its content.**

Art. 4. Any person entrusted with passing judgment on abuses of the freedom of the press or otherwise

overseeing compliance with this Act should bear constantly in mind in this connection that the freedom of the press is fundamental to a free society, direct his attention always more to illegality of subject matter and thought than to illegality of expression, to the aim rather than the manner of presentation, and, **in case of doubt, acquit rather than convict.**

11. agitation against a population group, whereby a person threatens or expresses contempt for a population group or other such group with allusion to race, colour, national or ethnic origin, religious faith or sexual orientation;

12. offences against civil liberty, whereby a person makes unlawful threats with intent to influence the formation of public opinion or encroach upon freedom of action within a political organisation or professional or industrial association, thereby imperilling the freedom of expression, freedom of assembly or freedom of association;

any attempt to commit such an offence against civil liberty;

13. unlawful portrayal of violence, whereby a person portrays sexual violence or coercion in pictorial form with intent to disseminate the image, unless the act is justifiable having regard to the circumstances;

14. defamation, whereby a person alleges that another is criminal or blameworthy in his way of life, or otherwise communicates information liable to expose another to the contempt of others, and, if the person defamed is deceased, the act causes offence to his survivors, or might otherwise be considered to violate the sanctity of the grave except, however, in cases in which it is justifiable to communicate information in the matter, having regard to the circumstances, and proof is presented that the information was correct or there were reasonable grounds for the assertion;

15. insulting language or behaviour, whereby a person insults another by means of offensive invective or allegations or other insulting behaviour towards him;

16. unlawful threats, whereby a person threatens another with a criminal act, in a manner liable to engender in the person threatened serious fears for the safety of his person or property or that of another;

Chapter 11. On private claims for damages

Art. 1. A private claim for damages based on an abuse of the freedom of the press may be pursued only on grounds that the printed matter to which the claim relates contains an offence against the freedom of the press. Unless otherwise provided below, such a claim may be pursued only against the person liable under penal law for the offence under Chapter 8. If, by reason of circumstances under Chapter 8, Article 10, liability has passed to such a person, the claim may also be pursued against the person liable immediately before him, provided that, and to the extent that, grounds exist in law for the pursuit of such a claim.

The provisions of Chapter 8, Article 12, concerning liability under penal law apply also with regard to private claims for damages.

Relevant provisions of law apply with regard to private claims for damages in respect of offences under Chapter 7, Article 2 or 3.

Art. 2. A private claim for damages which may be pursued against the responsible editor of a periodical

or his deputy may be pursued also against the owner. In the case of other printed matter, a claim which may be pursued against the author or editor may be pursued also against the publisher.

Art. 3. If a person is liable for damages on account of an offence against the freedom of the press as legal representative of a legal person, or as a guardian, trustee or administrator, the claim for damages may also be pursued against the legal person, or the person for whom the guardian, trustee or administrator was appointed, provided that, and to the extent that, grounds exist in law for the pursuit of such a claim.

Art. 4. If a person is liable together with another person for damages under this Chapter, such persons are liable jointly and severally. The apportionment of liability between the parties is determined in accordance with relevant provisions of law.

Art. 5. A private claim for damages may be pursued on account of an offence against the freedom of the press even if liability under penal law has lapsed or an action under penal law is otherwise excluded.

Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression

Chapter 1. Basic provisions

Art. 1. Every Swedish citizen is guaranteed the right under this Fundamental Law, vis-à-vis the public institutions, publicly to express his thoughts, opinions and sentiments, and in general to communicate information on any subject whatsoever on sound radio, television and certain like transmissions, films, video recordings, sound recordings and other technical recordings.

Art. 2. Every Swedish citizen is guaranteed the right to communicate information on any subject whatsoever to authors and other originators, as well as to editors, editorial offices, news agencies and enterprises for the production of technical recordings for publication in radio programmes or such recordings. He also has the right to procure information on any subject whatsoever for such communication or publication. No restriction of these rights shall be permitted other than such as follows from this Fundamental Law.

Art. 3. There shall be no compulsory prior scrutiny by a public authority or other public body of matter which is intended for publication in a radio programme or technical recording. Nor is it permitted for public authorities or other public bodies to prohibit or prevent the publication or dissemination to the general public of a radio programme or technical recording on grounds of its known or expected content, except by virtue of this Fundamental Law.

Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

The provisions of the Freedom of the Press Act and the Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression shall apply concerning the freedom of the press and the corresponding freedom of expression on sound radio, television and certain similar transmissions, as well as in films, video recordings, sound recordings and other technical recordings.

The Freedom of the Press Act also contains provisions concerning the right of access to official documents.

Art. 2. No one shall in his or her relations with the public institutions be coerced to divulge an opinion

in a political, religious, cultural or other such connection. Nor may anyone in his or her relations with the public institutions be coerced to participate in a meeting for the formation of opinion or a demonstration or other manifestation of opinion, or to belong to a political association, religious community or other association for opinion referred to in sentence one.

Conditions for limiting rights and freedoms

Art. 20. To the extent provided for in Articles 21 to 24, the following rights and freedoms may be limited in law:

1. freedom of expression, freedom of information, freedom of assembly, freedom to demonstrate and freedom of association (Article 1, points 1 to 5);
2. protection against any physical violation in cases other than cases under Articles 4 and 5, against body searches, house searches and other such invasions of privacy, against violations of confidential items of mail or communications and otherwise against violations involving surveillance and monitoring of the individual's personal circumstances (Article 6);
3. freedom of movement (Article 8); and
4. public court proceedings (Article 11, paragraph two, sentence two).

With authority in law, the rights and freedoms referred to in paragraph one may be limited by other statute in cases under Chapter 8, Article 5, and in respect of prohibition of the disclosure of matters which have come to a person's knowledge in the performance of public or official duties. Freedom of assembly and freedom to demonstrate may similarly be limited also in cases under Article 24, paragraph one, sentence two.

Art. 21. The limitations referred to in Article 20 may be imposed only to satisfy a purpose acceptable in a democratic society. The limitation must never go beyond what is necessary with regard to the purpose which occasioned it, nor may it be carried so far as to constitute a threat to the free formation of opinion as one of the fundamentals of democracy. No limitation may be imposed solely on grounds of a political, religious, cultural or other such opinion.

In judging what limitations may be introduced in accordance with paragraph one, particular attention must be paid to the importance of the widest possible freedom of expression and freedom of information in political, religious, professional, scientific and cultural matters.

Swedish Press Council, Code of Ethics for Press, Radio and Television:

Pressens Samarbetsnämnd is a Joint Committee founded by the leading media organisations in Sweden: The Newspapers Publishers Association, The Magazine Publishers Association, The Union of Journalists and The National Press Club.

These four organisations are responsible for the Charter of the Press Council and the Standing Instructions for the Press Ombudsman. They all contribute to the financing of the Press Council and the Office of the Press Ombudsman.

The concept of self-regulation means that the parties define the ethical and professional guidelines and see to it that these guidelines are respected.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION

The press, radio and television shall have the greatest possible degree of freedom, within the framework of the Freedom of the Press Act and the constitutional right of freedom of speech, in order to be able to serve as disseminators of news and as scrutinizers of public affairs. In this connection, however, it is important that the individual is protected from unwarranted suffering as a result of publicity.

Ethics does not consist primarily of the application of a formal set of rules but in the maintenance of a responsible attitude in the exercise of journalistic duties. The code of ethics for press, radio and television is intended to provide support for this attitude.

I. RULES ON PUBLICITY

Provide accurate news

1. The role played by the mass media in society and the confidence of the general public in these media call for accurate and objective news reports.
2. Be critical of news sources. Check facts as carefully as possible in the light of the circumstances even if they have been published earlier. Allow the reader/listener/viewer the possibility of distinguishing between statements of fact and a comments.
3. Newsbills, headlines and introductory sections must be supported by the text.
4. Check the authenticity of pictures. See to it that pictures and graphical illustrations are correct and are not used in a misleading way.

Treat rebuttals generously

5. Factual errors should be corrected when called for. Anyone wishing to rebut a statement shall, if this is legitimate, be given the opportunity to do so. Corrections and rebuttals shall be published promptly in appropriate form, in such a way that they will come to the attention of those who received the original information. It should be noted that a rebuttal does not always call for an editorial comment.
6. Publish without delay critical rulings issued by the Swedish Press Council in cases concerning your own newspaper.

Respect individual privacy

7. Consider carefully any publicity which could violate the privacy of individuals. Refrain from such publicity unless the public interest obviously demands public scrutiny.
8. Exercise great caution in publishing information about suicide and attempted suicide, particularly with regard to the feelings of relatives and in view of what has been said above concerning the privacy of individuals.
9. Always show the greatest possible consideration for victims of crime and accidents. Consider carefully the question whether to publish names and pictures with regard to the victims and their relatives.
10. Do not emphasize ethnic origin, sex, nationality, occupation, political affiliation, religious persuasion or sexual disposition in the case of the persons concerned if such particulars are not important in the specific context and demeaning.

Exercise care in the use of pictures

11. Whenever appropriate, these rules also apply to pictures.
12. Montage, electronic retouch and captions should be handled in such a way as not to mislead or deceive the reader. Whenever a picture has been altered through montage or retouch this should be stated. This also applies to such material when it is filed in picture libraries.

Listen to each side

13. Offer persons, who are criticized in a factual report, the opportunity to reply instantly to the criticism. Aim at presenting the views of all parties involved. Bear in mind that the sole objective of filing complaints of various kinds with various bodies may be to cause harm to an individual.
14. Remember that, in the eyes of the law, a person suspected of an offence is always presumed

innocent until proven guilty. The final outcome of a legal case should be published if it has been previously reported on.

Be cautious in publishing names

15. Give careful consideration to the harmful consequences that might ensue for persons if their names are published. Refrain from publishing names if it might cause harm unless it is obviously in the public interest.

16. In case a person's name is not published, also refrain from publishing a picture of that person or particulars of occupation, title, age, nationality, sex, etc, which would enable identification.

17. Bear in mind that the entire responsibility for publishing names and pictures rests with the publisher.

COMMENTS ON PART I

The Swedish Press Council is primarily responsible for interpreting the concept "good journalistic practice" as far as the press is concerned; in matters not referred to the Press Council, the Press Ombudsman has this responsibility. It should be noted that the Press Council and the Press Ombudsman do not deal with possible deviations from the rules in radio or television programmes. The Swedish Broadcasting Commission, appointed by the government, is responsible for monitoring such programmes.

The criticized newspaper will publish the Press Council's ruling. In addition brief reports will also be published in Pressens Tidning (The Press Journal) and in Journalisten (The Journalist). Subscriptions to the Press Council's decisions are handled by the Swedish Newspaper Publishers Association (Tidningsutgivarna).

Rulings by the Broadcasting Commission may be ordered from the Commission Secretariat.

2. Laws and regulations that pertain to the influence of political candidates and parties before, during, and after an election

Main Research Findings:

Swedish private media and broadcasters have no legally requirement to be impartial or pluralistic.

Swedish state media and broadcasters are guaranteed independence from lobby and political groups, but there is no requirement state media and broadcasters have to be impartial and provide complete and balanced coverage of all registered political parties.

Swedish public and private press, radio, and television are self-regulated based on a code of ethics. However, in the code of ethics, there is no mention of impartiality and equal coverage of registered political parties.

Media in violation of code of ethics are expected by the Press Council to publish the Council's findings. Moreover, the media through self-regulation allow corrections to media information and right to reply. Though there are no laws which require media to publish a right of reply.

Eligible parties receive direct public funding during election periods and between elections.

Party subsidies:

General subsidy:

At least 1 seat in parliament or 2.6% of votes throughout whole country in either of the last two elections.

Amount of subsidy based on average number of seats won by party over the last two elections.

Secretariat subsidies (for parties in parliament):

Won a seat in parliament last election or received 4% of votes throughout whole country.

Parties receive 330,000 SEK per seat. (52,128 USD)

Allocation of money based on:

In first year

1/6 most recent election results

5/6 preceding election results

Second year:

1/2 most recent election results

1/2 preceding election results

Third and fourth years:

5/6 most recent election results
1/6 preceding election results

If a party wins zero seats, then in one of the two most recent elections, receive state funds based on number of full tenths of percentage points over 2.5% national votes for party.

If party does not have at least 4% of the national vote, but on won seats, then the number of seats plus percentage over 2.5% of national vote determine amount of state funds. (Cannot exceed 14)

Each year parties receive full basic state support, as long as they have at least 4% of the national vote. Full basic support equals 803, 200 SEK (126,879 USD)

However, if a party wins seats but has less than 4% support, then receive as much as one fourteenth of the full basic support.

Also, parties receive funds for each seat:

16,350 basic support for each seat won by party represented in government.
24,300 basic support for each seat won by party not represented in government.

If in the next election a party goes to less than 4% of national vote, then basic support is reduced as follows:

1 year by 75%
2 year by 50%
3 and 4 year by 25%

The reduction cannot go below the standard amounts for support of less 4%.

If a party gains at least 4 % of the national vote, and then in the next election, gains less than 2%, then the party is entitled to 50% of the state basic support.

No restrictions on corporate donations. Regulations of corporate donations based on a voluntary basis. (Liberals and Conservatives (1977) decided apparently to stop accepting corporate donations on a national level.) (Law 625 Rules and Moral Guidelines)

Voluntary agreement of parties to report party funds. (Law 625 Rules and Moral Guidelines) No regulation of political party finances.

No disclosure of party finances. Parties must have annual finances checked by authorized account, but the results of the check are not made public.

No disclosure of donors to the public.

No donation limits or spending limits.

There is no ban on sources of party income.

No special taxation status for political parties or donors.

Fixed date set for elections: Since 1994, election day has been held on the third Sunday in September

every fourth year.

349 total seats in parliament. 310 seats won by first past post. (Odd number method)

39 other seats from 29 constituencies divided up based on proportionality between seats and votes. For a party to gain representation, it must either receive at least 4 percent of the total vote or 12 percent of votes in one constituency. (Based on The first step is to work out how many votes the parties have gained in the whole country and how the 349 Riksdag seats would have been distributed in a single, nationwide constituency.)

The difference between this notional number and the number of fixed seats already distributed constitutes each party's "allocation" of the 39 adjustment seats. The constituencies to which these seats are allotted will depend on where the party scores its highest comparative index following allocation of the fixed constituency seats. For parties with no fixed seats in one constituency, the number of votes gained will be the comparative index.)

Following the allocation of seats above, for candidate to be voted into parliament, he or she needs at least 8% of party vote in the constituency. This method allows candidates from the same party to have to be elected, if they attain more votes in the constituency. (In order to be returned on the strength of personalised votes, the candidate must have gained such votes corresponding to at least 8 per cent of the party vote in the constituency. If two or more candidates have fulfilled this requirement, they will be returned in the order of their personalised vote scores. If it is not possible to appoint all members on the strength of personalised votes, the d'Hondt method will be used instead. D'Hondt is a numbered sequence of 1, 2, 3,4,5... whereby the amount of votes for a candidates is reduced by the corresponding number in each subsequent round.)

No restrictions on political advertising in print media and television media. All political parties have equal access.

Party registration based on the support of at least 1,500 voters.

Ads on TV and Radio are regulated to a maximum of 12 minutes of advertising per hour. Prominent media persons can be included in ads. An advertising signature identifying the advertiser must be used in ads.

Research Excerpts:

Section 3 A party denomination shall be registered if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The party denomination shall be or contain words.
2. If a party is not already represented in the decisionmaking assembly to which the notification relates, it shall have the documented support of at least
 - a) **for an election to the Riksdag: 1 500 people who are entitled to vote in the whole of Sweden, parties and candidates**
 - b) for an election to a county council or municipal assembly: 100 and 50 people, respectively, who are entitled to vote in the county council or the

municipality to which the notification relates,
c) for an election to the European Parliament: 1 500
people who are entitled to vote in the whole of
Sweden.

3. It should not be possible for the party denomination to
be confused with a denomination that is already

a) registered, or

b) has been notified for registration, if the
denominations could possibly be registered for the
same election.

4. It should not be possible for the party denomination to
be confused with a denomination that previously applied
for the same kind of election but which has been de-registered
at most five years ago owing to a change of name.

Section 4 Those who in accordance with Section 3, item 2 support a
notification for registration shall personally sign a declaration
of support. The declaration shall state their names and
personal identity numbers and also where they are registered
as resident.

The Swedish Parliament:

Threshold rules to prevent small parties

In order to participate in the allocation of seats and achieve representation in the Riksdag, a party must
obtain at least 4 per cent of the votes in the entire country or 12 per cent in a constituency.

Distribution of fixed constituency seats

The fixed seats in a constituency are allocated between the parties as follows. First a comparative index
is worked out for all the parties concerned. This is done by dividing the number of votes for a party by
1.4.

The party with the highest comparative index gains the first seat in the constituency, whereupon its
votes are divided by 3. The next time the party is allotted a seat, its votes are divided by 5, then by 7, 9
and so on.

This is known as the adjusted odd numbers method. Each time a new comparative index is worked out,
a seat goes to the party with the highest score, until all the fixed constituency seats have been allocated.

Distribution of adjustment seats

After the fixed seats have been allocated in the various constituencies, it is the turn of the adjustment
seats. The aim is to make the total distribution of seats as fair as possible for the country as a whole,
and a different method is now applied.

The first step is to work out how many votes the parties have gained in the whole country and how the
349 Riksdag seats would have been distributed in a single, nationwide constituency.

The difference between this notional number and the number of fixed seats already distributed
constitutes each party's "allocation" of the 39 adjustment seats. The constituencies to which these seats
are allotted will depend on where the party scores its highest comparative index following allocation of

the fixed constituency seats. For parties with no fixed seats in one constituency, the number of votes gained will be the comparative index.

Personalised votes and the distribution of seats within a party

Once the allocation of seats between the parties has been settled, it remains to work out which candidate or candidates will occupy them. Members of the Riksdag are selected primarily on the strength of votes cast for them personally. The personalised vote score is the number of personalised votes cast for a particular candidate in a particular constituency.

In order to be returned on the strength of personalised votes, the candidate must have gained such votes corresponding to at least 8 per cent of the party vote in the constituency. If two or more candidates have fulfilled this requirement, they will be returned in the order of their personalised vote scores. If it is not possible to appoint all members on the strength of personalised votes, the d'Hondt method will be used instead.

3. Laws and regulations on electoral finance

Main Research Findings:

Eligible parties receive direct public funding during election periods and between elections.

Party subsidies:

General subsidy:

At least 1 seat in parliament or 2.6% of votes throughout whole country in either of the last two elections.

Amount of subsidy based on average # of seats won by party over the last two elections.

Secretariat subsidies (for parties in parliament):

Won a seat in parliament last election or received 4% of votes throughout whole country.

No restrictions on corporate donations. Regulations of corporate donations based on a voluntary basis. (Liberals and Conservatives (1977) decided apparently to stop accepting corporate donations on a national level.) (Law 625 Rules and Moral Guidelines)

Voluntary agreement of parties to report party funds. (Law 625 Rules and Moral Guidelines) No regulation of political party finances.

No disclosure of party finances. Parties must have annual finances checked by authorized account, but the results of the check are not made public.

No disclosure of donors to the public.

No donation limits or spending limits.

There is no ban on sources of party income.

No special taxation status for political parties or donors.

Parties receive 330,000 SEK per seat. (52,128 USD)

Allocation of money based on:

In first year

1/6 most recent election results

5/6 preceding election results

Second year:

1/2 most recent election results

1/2 preceding election results

Third and fourth years:

5/6 most recent election results

1/6 preceding election results

If a party wins zero seats, then in one of the two most recent elections, receive state funds based on number of full tenths of percentage points over 2.5% national votes for party.

If party does not have at least 4% of the national vote, but on won seats, then the number of seats plus percentage over 2.5% of national vote determine amount of state funds. (Cannot exceed 14)

Each year parties receive full basic state support, as long as they have at least 4% of the national vote. Full basic support equals 803, 200 SEK (126,879 USD)

However, if a party wins seats but has less than 4% support, then receive as much as one fourteenth of the full basic support.

Also, parties receive funds for each seat:

16,350 basic support for each seat won by party represented in government.

24,300 basic support for each seat won by party not represented in government.

If in the next election a party goes to less than 4% of national vote, then basic support is reduced as follows:

1 year by 75%

2 year by 50%

3 and 4 year by 25%

The reduction cannot go below the standard amounts for support of less 4%.

If a party gains at least 4 % of the national vote, and then in the next election, gains less than 2%, then the party is entitled to 50% of the state basic support.

Research Excerpts:

Act on State Financial Support to Political Parties

Section 1

Under this Act, State financial support is paid to political parties that have taken part in elections to the Riksdag. The forms of financial support are 'party support' and 'secretariat support'.

Party support

Section 2

Party support is paid per seat in the Riksdag. Each seat in the Riksdag receives a contribution of SEK 333 300. Swedish Code of Statutes SFS 2004:702.

Section 3

The number of per seat contributions that each party receives is determined annually, taking account of the outcome of the two most recent general elections, unless Section 4 states otherwise.

In the first year of the four-year period that follows elections to the Riksdag, each party receives per seat contributions that correspond to one sixth of the number of seats won in the most recent election, plus five sixths of the number of seats won in the immediately preceding election. In the second year, the party receives per seat contributions that correspond to half the number of seats in the most recent election plus half the number of seats in the immediately preceding election. In the third and fourth years, the party receives per seat contributions that correspond to five sixths of the number of seats in the most recent election plus one sixth of the number of seats in the immediately preceding election. If a party has not won representation in the Riksdag in one of the two most recent elections, for that election the number of full tenths of a percentage point of votes over 2.5 per cent that the party received nationwide are counted instead of seats. If a party has won representation in the Riksdag in one of the two most recent elections but has not received 4 per cent of the votes nationwide, for that election both the number of seats and the number of full tenths of a percentage point of votes over 2.5 per cent are counted. However, if the total number of seats and tenths of percentage points of votes over 2.5 per cent exceed fourteen, the surplus sum is not counted. Swedish Code of Statutes SFS 1995:345.

Section 4

If an extraordinary election has taken place after one of the general elections referred to in Section 3, first paragraph, the number of seats counted when applying Section 3, second paragraph are the average of seats won in the general election and in the subsequent extraordinary election. When applying Section 3, third paragraph, the provisions concerning the number of seats apply to the number of full tenths of percentage points of votes. Swedish Code of Statutes SFS 1974:563

Secretariat support

Section 5

Secretariat support is paid in the form of basic support and supplementary support.

Section 6

Parties that have received at least 4 per cent of the votes nationwide in an election to the Riksdag receive one full basic support amount for each year covered by the election. A full basic support amount is SEK 5 803 200. Swedish Code of Statutes SFS 2004:702.

Section 7

Parties that have won representation in the Riksdag but have not gained 4 per cent of the votes nationwide receive, for each year covered by the election, as many fourteenths of one full basic support amount as correspond to the number of seats won. Swedish Code of Statutes SFS 1974:563.

Section 8

Parties referred to in Sections 6 or 7 receive supplementary support in addition to basic support for each year covered by the election in the amount of SEK 16 350 for each seat won if the party is represented in the Government, and otherwise SEK 24 300 for each seat won. Swedish Code of Statutes SFS 2004:702.

Section 9

If a party has gained at least 4 per cent of the votes nationwide in an election to the Riksdag, and if in the next election the party receives a percentage share that is less than four, the amount of basic support

paid for the next four years is gradually reduced as follows: 75 per cent of one full basic support amount is paid in the first year, 50 per cent of one full basic support amount in the second year, and 25 per cent of one full basic support amount in the third and fourth years. However, if Section 6 or 7 is applicable, the provisions stated there apply instead, if this would entail a higher basic support amount. T Swedish Code of Statutes SFS 1995:345.

Section 10

If a party has gained at least 4 per cent of the votes nationwide in an extraordinary election or in a new election, and if the party received a percentage share that is less than four in the most recent election or in the annulled election, a twelfth share of one full basic support amount is paid for each calendar month remaining in the year from the day that the extraordinary election or new election was concluded. Swedish Code of Statutes SFS 1974:563.

Section 11

Parties cannot receive a higher amount in basic support during a year than that which corresponds to one full basic support amount. Swedish Code of Statutes SFS 1974:563.

Section 11a

A party that has gained at least 4 per cent of the votes nationwide in an election to the Riksdag and, in the next election to the Riksdag, gains less than 2 per cent of the votes nationwide is only entitled to half the financial support stated in Sections 3 and 9. T Swedish Code of Statutes SFS 2002:70.

4. Laws and regulations on voter say

Main Research Findings:

There are no unreasonable limits on the freedom of expression for voters.

There are no electoral spending limits for voters or corporations, candidates, and parties.

Citizens have free access to official government documents.

There are extensive laws protecting the Swedish citizen from abuse of freedom of expressive. Media in violation of code of ethics are expected by the Press Council to publish the Council's findings.

Moreover, the media through self-regulation allow corrections to media information and right to reply. Though there are no laws which require media to publish a right of reply.

There are no spending limits on voters, legal entities, candidates, and parties.

Swedish private media and broadcasters have no legally requirement to be impartial or pluralistic.

Swedish state media and broadcasters are guaranteed independence from lobby and political groups, but there is no requirement state media and broadcasters have to be impartial and provide complete and balanced coverage of all registered political parties.

Voters who are unable to cast a ballot at a voter centre can use a messenger to deliver the ballot.

Ads on TV and Radio are regulated to a maximum of 12 minutes of advertising per hour. Prominent media persons can be included in ads. An advertising signature identifying the advertiser must be used in ads.

Research Excerpts:

Freedom of Press Act

Chapter 2. On the public nature of official documents

Art. 1. Every Swedish citizen shall be entitled to have free access to official documents, in order to encourage the free exchange of opinion and the availability of comprehensive information.

Art. 2. The right of access to official documents may be restricted only if restriction is necessary having regard to

1. the security of the Realm or its relations with another state or an international organisation;
2. the central fiscal, monetary or currency policy of the Realm;
3. the inspection, control or other supervisory activities of a public authority;
4. the interest of preventing or prosecuting crime;

5. the economic interest of the public institutions;
6. the protection of the personal or economic circumstances of private subjects;
7. the preservation of animal or plant species.

Any restriction of the right of access to official documents shall be scrupulously specified in a provision of a special act of law, or, if this is deemed more appropriate in a particular case, in another act of law to which the special act refers. With authority in such a provision, the Government may however issue more detailed provisions for its application in a statutory instrument.

The provisions of paragraph two notwithstanding, the Riksdag or the Government may be empowered, in a regulation under paragraph two, to permit the release of a particular document, having regard to the circumstances.

Art. 3. Document is understood to mean any written or pictorial matter or recording which may be read, listened to, or otherwise comprehended only using technical aids. A document is official if it is held by a public authority, and if it can be deemed under Article 6 or 7 to have been received or drawn up by such an authority.

A recording under paragraph one is deemed to be held by a public authority, if it is available to the authority using technical aids, which the authority itself employs, for communication in such form that it may be read, listened to, or otherwise comprehended. A compilation of information taken from material recorded for automatic data processing is however regarded as being held by the authority only if the authority can make it available using routine means.

A compilation of information taken from material recorded for automatic data processing is not however regarded as being held by the authority if the compilation contains personal information and the authority is not authorised in law, or under a statutory instrument, to make the compilation available. Personal information is understood to mean any information which can be referred back directly or indirectly to a private person.

Art. 4. A letter or other communication which is directed in person to an official at a public authority is deemed to be an official document if it refers to a case or other matter falling within the authority's purview, and if it is not intended for the addressee solely in his capacity as incumbent of another position.

Art. 5. The Riksdag and any local government assembly vested with decisionmaking powers is equated with a public authority for the purposes of this Chapter.

Art. 6. A document is deemed to have been received by a public authority when it has arrived at the authority or is in the hands of a competent official. A recording under Article 3, paragraph one, is instead deemed to have been received by the authority when it has been made available to the authority by another in the manner indicated in Article 3, paragraph two.

Competition documents, tenders and other such documents which it has been advertised shall be delivered under sealed cover are deemed not to have been received before the time appointed for their opening.

Measures taken solely as part of the technical processing or technical storage of a document which a public authority has made available shall not be construed to mean that the document has been received by that authority.

Art. 7. A document is deemed to have been drawn up by a public authority when it has been dispatched. A document which has not been dispatched is deemed to have been drawn up when the matter to which it relates has been finally settled by the authority, or, if the document does not relate to a specific matter, when it has been finally checked and approved by the authority, or has otherwise received final form.

The provisions of paragraph one notwithstanding, a document of the nature referred to below is deemed to have been drawn up

1. in the case of a day book, ledger, and such register or other list as is kept on an ongoing basis, when the document has been made ready for notation or entry;
2. in the case of a court ruling and other decision which shall be pronounced or dispatched under relevant provisions of law, and records and other documents insofar as they relate to such a decision, when the decision has been pronounced or dispatched;
3. in the case of other records and comparable memoranda held by a public authority, when the document has been finally checked and approved by the authority or has otherwise received final form, but not the records of Riksdag committees, auditors of local authorities, official commissions of inquiry or local authorities where they relate to a matter dealt with solely in order to prepare the matter for decision.

Art. 8. If a body which forms part of, or is associated with, a public authority or other similar organisation for the public administration has transferred a document to another body within the same organisation, or has produced a document for the purpose of transferring it in this manner, the document is not deemed thereby to have been received or drawn up, other than if the bodies concerned act as independent entities in relation one to the other.

Art. 9. Neither shall a memorandum which has been prepared at a public authority, but which has not been dispatched, be deemed to be an official document at that authority after the time at which it would be deemed to have been drawn up under Article 7, unless it has been accepted for filing and registration. Memorandum is understood to mean any aide memoire or other note or record produced solely for the preparation or oral presentation of a matter, but not such part of it as contributes factual information to the matter.

Preliminary outlines or drafts of decisions or written communications of a public authority and other like documents which have not been dispatched are not deemed to be official documents unless they have been accepted for filing and registration.

Art. 10. A document held by a public authority solely for the purpose of technical processing or technical storage on behalf of another is not deemed to be an official document held by that authority.

Art. 11. The following documents are not deemed to be official documents:

1. letters, telegrams, and other such documents delivered to or drawn up by a public authority solely for

the purpose of forwarding a communication;

2. notices or other documents delivered to or drawn up by a public authority solely for the purpose of publication in a periodical published under the auspices of the authority;

3. printed matter, recordings of sound or pictures, or other documents forming part of a library or deposited by a private person in a public archive solely for the purpose of care and safe keeping, or for research and study purposes, and private letters, written matter or recordings otherwise transferred to a public authority solely for the purposes referred to above;

4. recordings of the contents of documents under point 3, if such recordings are held by a public authority, where the original document would not be deemed to be an official document.

The provisions of paragraph one, point 3, concerning documents forming part of a library do not apply to recordings held in databases to which a public authority has access under an agreement with another public authority, if the recording is an official document held by that authority.

Art. 12. An official document to which the public has access shall be made available on request forthwith, or as soon as possible, at the place where it is held, and free of charge, to any person wishing to examine it, in such form that it can be read, listened to, or otherwise comprehended. A document may also be copied, reproduced, or used for sound transmission. If a document cannot be made available without disclosure of such part of it as constitutes classified material, the rest of the document shall be made available to the applicant in the form of a transcript or copy.

A public authority is under no obligation to make a document available at the place where it is held, if this presents serious difficulty. Nor is there any such obligation in respect of a recording under Article 3, paragraph one, if the applicant can have access to the recording at a public authority in the vicinity, without serious inconvenience.

Art. 13. A person who wishes to examine an official document is also entitled to obtain a transcript or copy of the document, or such part thereof as may be released, in return for a fixed fee. A public authority is however under no obligation to release material recorded for automatic data processing in any form other than a printout except insofar as follows from an act of law. Nor is a public authority under any obligation to provide copies of maps, drawings, pictures, or recordings under Article 3, paragraph one, other than in the manner indicated above, if this would present difficulty and the document can be made available at the place where it is held.

Requests for transcripts or copies of official documents shall be dealt with promptly.

Art. 14. A request to examine an official document is made to the public authority which holds the document.

The request is examined and approval granted by the authority indicated in paragraph one. Where special grounds so warrant, it may however be laid down in a provision under Article 2, paragraph two, that in applying this rule, examination and approval shall rest with another public authority. In the case of a document of central significance for the security of the Realm, it may also be laid down in a statutory instrument that only a particular authority shall be entitled to examine and approve questions relating to release. In the aforementioned cases, the request shall be referred to the competent authority forthwith.

No public authority is permitted to inquire into a person's identity on account of a request to examine an official document, or inquire into the purpose of his request, except insofar as such inquiry is necessary to enable the authority to judge whether there is any obstacle to release of the document.

Art. 15. Should anyone other than the Riksdag or the Government reject a request to examine an official document, or release such a document with a proviso restricting the applicant's right to disclose its contents or otherwise dispose over it, the applicant may appeal against the decision. An appeal against a decision by a minister shall be lodged with the Government, and an appeal against a decision by another authority shall be lodged with a court of law.

The act referred to in Article 2 shall set out in greater detail how an appeal against a decision under paragraph one shall be lodged. Such an appeal shall always be examined promptly.

Special provisions apply to the right to appeal against decisions by authorities under the Riksdag.

Art. 16. A note concerning obstacles to the release of an official document may be made only on a document covered by a provision under Article 2, paragraph two. Such a note shall refer to the relevant provision.

Art. 17. It may be laid down in law that the Government, or a local government assembly vested with decision-making powers, may determine that official documents relating to the activities of a public authority which are to be taken over by a private body may be transferred into the safe keeping of that body, if it requires the documents for its work, without the documents ceasing thereby to be official. Such a body shall be equated with a public authority in respect of documents so transferred when applying Articles 12 to 16.

It may also be laid down in law that the Government may determine that official documents may be transferred to the Church of Sweden, or any part of its organisation, for safe keeping, without the documents ceasing thereby to be official. This applies to documents received or drawn up no later than 31 December 1999 by

1. public authorities which no longer exist and which performed tasks relating to the activities of the Church of Sweden; or
2. decision-making assemblies of the Church of Sweden.

In applying Articles 12 to 16, the Church of Sweden and any part of its organisation shall be equated with a public authority in respect of documents so transferred.

Art. 18. Basic rules concerning the storage of official documents, weeding and other disposal of such documents are laid down in law.

11. agitation against a population group, whereby a person threatens or expresses contempt for a population group or other such group with allusion to race, colour, national or ethnic origin, religious faith or sexual orientation;

12. offences against civil liberty, whereby a person makes unlawful threats with intent to influence the formation of public opinion or encroach upon freedom of action within a political organisation or

professional or industrial association, thereby imperilling the freedom of expression, freedom of assembly or freedom of association; any attempt to commit such an offence against civil liberty.

13. unlawful portrayal of violence, whereby a person portrays sexual violence or coercion in pictorial form with intent to disseminate the image, unless the act is justifiable having regard to the circumstances;

14. defamation, whereby a person alleges that another is criminal or blameworthy in his way of life, or otherwise communicates information liable to expose another to the contempt of others, and, if the person defamed is deceased, the act causes offence to his survivors, or might otherwise be considered to violate the sanctity of the grave except, however, in cases in which it is justifiable to communicate information in the matter, having regard to the circumstances, and proof is presented that the information was correct or there were reasonable grounds for the assertion;

15. insulting language or behaviour, whereby a person insults another by means of offensive invective or allegations or other insulting behaviour towards him;

16. unlawful threats, whereby a person threatens another with a criminal act, in a manner liable to engender in the person threatened serious fears for the safety of his person or property or that of another;

Chapter 11. On private claims for damages

Art. 1. A private claim for damages based on an abuse of the freedom of the press may be pursued only on grounds that the printed matter to which the claim relates contains an offence against the freedom of the press. Unless otherwise provided below, such a claim may be pursued only against the person liable under penal law for the offence under Chapter 8. If, by reason of circumstances under Chapter 8, Article 10, liability has passed to such a person, the claim may also be pursued against the person liable immediately before him, provided that, and to the extent that, grounds exist in law for the pursuit of such a claim.

The provisions of Chapter 8, Article 12, concerning liability under penal law apply also with regard to private claims for damages.

Relevant provisions of law apply with regard to private claims for damages in respect of offences under Chapter 7, Article 2 or 3.

Art. 2. A private claim for damages which may be pursued against the responsible editor of a periodical or his deputy may be pursued also against the owner. In the case of other printed matter, a claim which may be pursued against the author or editor may be pursued also against the publisher.

Art. 3. If a person is liable for damages on account of an offence against the freedom of the press as legal representative of a legal person, or as a guardian, trustee or administrator, the claim for damages may also be pursued against the legal person, or the person for whom the guardian, trustee or administrator was appointed, provided that, and to the extent that, grounds exist in law for the pursuit of such a claim.

Art. 4. If a person is liable together with another person for damages under this Chapter, such persons are liable jointly and severally. The apportionment of liability between the parties is determined in accordance with relevant provisions of law.

Art. 5. A private claim for damages may be pursued on account of an offence against the freedom of the press even if liability under penal law has lapsed or an action under penal law is otherwise excluded.

Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression

Chapter 1. Basic provisions

Art. 1. Every Swedish citizen is guaranteed the right under this Fundamental Law, vis-à-vis the public institutions, publicly to express his thoughts, opinions and sentiments, and in general to communicate information on any subject whatsoever on sound radio, television and certain like transmissions, films, video recordings, sound recordings and other technical recordings.

Art. 2. Every Swedish citizen is guaranteed the right to communicate information on any subject whatsoever to authors and other originators, as well as to editors, editorial offices, news agencies and enterprises for the production of technical recordings for publication in radio programmes or such recordings. He also has the right to procure information on any subject whatsoever for such communication or publication. No restriction of these rights shall be permitted other than such as follows from this Fundamental Law.

Art. 3. There shall be no compulsory prior scrutiny by a public authority or other public body of matter which is intended for publication in a radio programme or technical recording. Nor is it permitted for public authorities or other public bodies to prohibit or prevent the publication or dissemination to the general public of a radio programme or technical recording on grounds of its known or expected content, except by virtue of this Fundamental Law.

Radio programmes

Art. 1. Every Swedish citizen and every Swedish legal person has the right to transmit radio programmes by landline.

Section 4 Voters who owing to illness, disability or old age cannot

personally make their way to a vote reception point may deliver their ballot papers there by messenger.

Furthermore, the following voters may vote by messenger:

1. voters who are served by Posten AB's rural postmen, to the extent provided by Chapter 3, Section 6,
2. voters who are inmates of a remand centre,
3. voters who are inmates of a penal institution and for security reasons cannot vote at the same voting place as the other inmates of the institution.

Votes by messenger shall be delivered in outer envelopes for votes by messenger.

Who may be a messenger?

Section 5 The following persons may be a messenger:

1. a voter's spouse or cohabitee and the voter's, spouse's or cohabitee's children, grandchildren, parents or siblings,
2. those who professionally or in a similar way provide the

voter with care or who otherwise assist the voter in personal affairs,
3. those who have been specially appointed by the municipality to be a messenger,
general provisions on voting 33
4. rural postmen employed by Posten AB,
5. employees at a remand centre or a penal institution.
A messenger shall have attained the age of 18.

Chapter 2. Fundamental rights and freedoms

Freedom of opinion

Art. 1.

Everyone shall be guaranteed the following rights and freedoms in his or her relations with the public institutions:

1. freedom of expression: that is, the freedom to communicate information and express thoughts, opinions and sentiments, whether orally, pictorially, in writing, or in any other way;
2. freedom of information: that is, the freedom to procure and receive information and otherwise acquaint oneself with the utterances of others;
3. freedom of assembly: that is, the freedom to organise or attend meetings for the purposes of information or the expression of opinion or for any other similar purpose, or for the purpose of presenting artistic work;
4. freedom to demonstrate: that is, the freedom to organise or take part in demonstrations in a public place;
5. freedom of association: that is, the freedom to associate with others for public or private purposes; and
6. freedom of worship: that is, the freedom to practise one's religion alone or in the company of others.

Protection against discrimination

Art. 12. No act of law or other provision may imply the unfavourable treatment of anyone because they belong to a minority group by reason of ethnic origin, colour, or other similar circumstances or on account of their sexual orientation.

Art. 13. No act of law or other provision may imply the unfavourable treatment of anyone on grounds of gender, unless the provision forms part of efforts to promote equality between men and women or relates to compulsory military service or other equivalent official duties.

Art. 14. A trade union or an employer or employers' association shall be entitled to take industrial action unless otherwise provided in an act of law or under an agreement.

Conditions for limiting rights and freedoms

Art. 20. To the extent provided for in Articles 21 to 24, the following rights and freedoms may be limited in law:

5. freedom of expression, freedom of information, freedom of assembly, freedom to demonstrate and freedom of association (Article 1, points 1 to 5);

6. protection against any physical violation in cases other than cases under Articles 4 and 5, against body searches, house searches and other such invasions of privacy, against violations of confidential items of mail or communications and otherwise against violations involving surveillance and monitoring of the individual's personal circumstances (Article 6);
7. freedom of movement (Article 8); and
8. public court proceedings (Article 11, paragraph two, sentence two).

With authority in law, the rights and freedoms referred to in paragraph one may be limited by other statute in cases under Chapter 8, Article 5, and in respect of prohibition of the disclosure of matters which have come to a person's knowledge in the performance of public or official duties. Freedom of assembly and freedom to demonstrate may similarly be limited also in cases under Article 24, paragraph one, sentence two.

Art. 21. The limitations referred to in Article 20 may be imposed only to satisfy a purpose acceptable in a democratic society. The limitation must never go beyond what is necessary with regard to the purpose which occasioned it, nor may it be carried so far as to constitute a threat to the free formation of opinion as one of the fundamentals of democracy. No limitation may be imposed solely on grounds of a political, religious, cultural or other such opinion.

In judging what limitations may be introduced in accordance with paragraph one, particular attention must be paid to the importance of the widest possible freedom of expression and freedom of information in political, religious, professional, scientific and cultural matters.

Broadcast Act

Chapter 8. Advertising and other ads, etc.
Advertising time for television broadcasting

§ 1 ads can be televised in more than twelve minutes per hour between the time of day.

Notwithstanding the first paragraph, program services which are intended solely for marketing programs broadcast on television, provided that the duration is at least fifteen minutes.

2 § The total ad time in a television broadcast may be in a given time not less than one minute ago broadcasting time for advertising signature under § 5 has been deducted.

Programs that can not be interrupted by advertising

§ 3 In television broadcasting, programs that include religious services or programs which are mainly aimed at children under twelve are not interrupted by advertising.

In-demand television, programs that primarily targeted at children under twelve are not interrupted by advertising.

While the program may be interrupted by advertising

4 § Other programs in television broadcasts other than those mentioned in § 3 first paragraph may be interrupted by advertising only if the suspension, taking into account natural breaks in the program and its duration and nature, does not affect the integrity and value, or violates rights of rights.

Transmission of news programs, cinematographic works and films made for television, but television shows and documentaries, have provided the requirements of the first paragraph are met, be interrupted by advertising once for each scheduled period of at least thirty minutes.

Advertisement Signature

5 § Before and after each advertising in television broadcasts and video on demand will there be a

specific signature that clearly distinguishes advertisements from other content. 5 § Before and After
Each advertising in television broadcasts and video on demand Will there be a specific signature That
Clearly distinguishes Advertisements from Other content. The signature will consist of both audio and
video. The Signature Will consist of Both audio and video. The searchable text-tv, sales programs and
advertising in split-screen to the signature is always visible. It does, however, only in the picture.
People who may not be included in advertisements

9 § The ads on television broadcasts, searchable text, TV and video on demand, there must be people
who play a prominent role in the program mainly deals with news and news commentary.

Advertising with split screen

§ 10 Advertising with split screen appears on the television broadcast which consists of direct broadcast
events going on without interruption. Advertising in the form of self-promotion with the split screen
may appear in other television broadcasts.

Advertising with split screen appears on the pay-TV.

Advertising with split screen is not allowed if it violates the integrity and value or rights holders' rights.

The first paragraph also applies to the retransmission of a television program in the same state.