15. Distribution of seats among political parties

The Swedish electoral system includes barriers to exclude small political parties. To take part in the distribution of seats in parliamentary elections and elections to the European Parliament, a party must gain **at least 4 per cent of all votes** cast in the whole country. A party gaining **fewer votes may, however, take part in the** distribution of fixed constituency **seats in the constituency where it'has gained at** least 12 **per cent of** all votes cast In county council elections, a party must gain at least 3 per cent of all votes cast in the entire county in order to take part in the distribution of seats. No barriers exist in the electoral system for municipal council councils.

The fixed constituency seats are distributed on the basis of the total number **of votes** gained by the political parties in each constituency. Comparative numbers are cal-culated for the parties that will take part in the distribution of seats. The first compa rative number is obtained by dividing the parties' respective total number of votes by 1.4. The party with the highest comparative number is awarded the first seat in the constituency. That party is then allocated a new comparative number, obtained by dividing the party's votes by 3. The other parties taking part in the process keep their comparative number until they are awarded a seat. When a party obtains its second seat, its votes are divided by 5 to calculate the next comparative number. For the third seat, its votes are divided by 7 etc. This method of calculation is referred to as the adjusted odd-number method.

Parliamentary elections

The Table below sets out the distribution of fixed seats in the County of Kronoberg at Sweden's 1994 parliamentary election.

Party	Total vote	Seat 1	Seat 2	Seat 3	Seat 4	Seat 5	Seat6
Con.	24.906	17,790.00	**17,790.00**	8,302.00	8,302.00	8,302.00	**8,302.00**
Soc.	**49,337**	**35,240.71**	16,445.66	**16,445.66**	9,867.40	**9,867.40**	7.048.14
Lib.	6,246	4,461.42	4.461.42	4,461.42	4,461.42	4,461.42	4,461.42
Cen.	15,409	11,006.42	11,006.42	11,006.42	**11,006.42**	5,136.33	5.136.33
Corn	6,689	4,777.85	4,777.85	4,777.85	4,777.85	4.777.85	4,777.85
Env.	5,533	3,952.14	3,952.14	3,952.14	3,952.14	3,952.14	3.952.14
Chr.	5,522	3,944.28	3,944.28	3,944.28	3,944.28	3.944.28	3,944.28

When the **fixed** seats have been distributed between the parties in each constituency, the tixed seats for the parties in all constituencies (a total of 310) are aggregated. A new distribution of seats is then conducted, based on the grand total of votes in the country for each party. This time, 349 seats are distributed, taking the whole of Sweden as a single constituency.

A comparison is then made between the outcome of the two distributions. A party which has obtained more seats in the second distribution, taking the whole of Sweden as a constituency, is entitled to equalizing seats. The party is allotted equalizing seats in the constituency where it has the largest comparative number following the distribution of the fixed seats. If a party has not obtained any fixed constituency seats in any constituency, it takes part in the distribution of equalizing seats on the basis **of** its total number of votes, instead of its adjusted comparative number.

County council elections

In county council elections, 9/10 of the seats are fixed seats and 1/10 equalizing seats. The seats are distributed using the same method as for parliamentary elections, that is, first the fixed seats in each constituency, then all seats based on the respective total votes for the parties taking the whole of the county as a single constituency. This decides which parties are entitled to equalizing seats, which are allotted on the basis of the same rules as at parliamentary elections.

Municipal council and European Parliament elections

In municipal council elections, all seats are fixed, with the number of seats in each constituency being decided by the county administration at an earlier stage. For elections to the European Parliament, the whole of Sweden represents one constituency.

16. Distribution of seats within political parties

Once the distribution of seats among the political parties is complete, it is decided which candidate or candidates should be awarded each seat.

The first stage is to ascertain whether the seat may be awarded on the basis of personal votes.

The total of personal votes is the number of personal votes cast for a specific candidate in a constituency under one political party name. The number of list types has no bearing on the process. The requirement (threshold) for election on the basis of total personal votes is that the number of personal votes cast for the candidate must correspond to at least 8 per cent of the total votes cast for the party in the constituency in the parliamentary election and at least 5 per cent of the party's votes in county council and municipal council elections. In elections to the European Parliament, the total personal votes for a candidate is required to be 5 per cent of total votes for the party in the whole of Sweden.

In the event that more than one candidate clears the personal vote threshold, seats are awarded according to the number of personal votes for each. If a number of candidates gain the same number of votes, lots are drawn to decide which of them will be awarded the seat.

If it is not possible to allocate the seats on the basis of personal votes, the "whole number method" is used.

In the whole-number method, the names of candidates in each party are arranged in groups of ballot papers according to the names by which the different slips are headed. This allows candidates who have been awarded a seat on the basis **of** personal votes to be excluded. The number of ballot papers for the first name represent that candidate's comparative number; thus, the first comparative number is equal to the total number of votes. The candidate with the highest number of votes is allocated the party's first seat. That candidate's name is then excluded and the ballot papers are resorted into new groups according to what are now the first names on the ballot papers. Comparative numbers are now calculated for the candidate or candidates at the top of the list, partly on the basis of the extent to which the group or groups were involved when the first candidate was awarded his or her seat.

The simplest manifestation of the whole-number method is when only one new group is created, i.e. one candidate is placed as number two choice on all the ballot papers involved in the selection of the first candidate. In that case, the comparative number is arrived at by dividing the total votes for the group of ballot papers by 2. If the second candidate is allocated the second seat, and all ballot papers state the same third candidate, the total votes are divided by 3 to obtain the next comparative number. On the same basis, the comparative numbers for further selection are 4, 5, 6 etc.

If a candidate obtains seat in more than one constituency, he or she will take up his or her seat in the constituency where he or she gained the highest proportion of personal votes (if the seat is awarded on the basis of personal votes), or where he or she recorded the highest comparative number (if the seat is awarded using the whole-number method). To allocate a seat not taken up by the candidate, the same procedure as for appointing a deputy is followed.

17. Appointing deputies

Parliamentary, county council elections and elections to the European Parliament

For every member or representative, a number of deputies equal to the number seats won by the party are appointed, although no less than three.

Deputies may also be elected on the basis of personal votes. provided that all members or deputies representing the party have been appointed on the basis of personal votes, and that additional candidates have cleared the threshold.

If it is not possible to appoint deputies on the basis of personal votes, they must be appointed according to standard rules. Generally speaking, this means appointing deputies from the list which shows the highest total votes and which were used at selection of the member/representative.