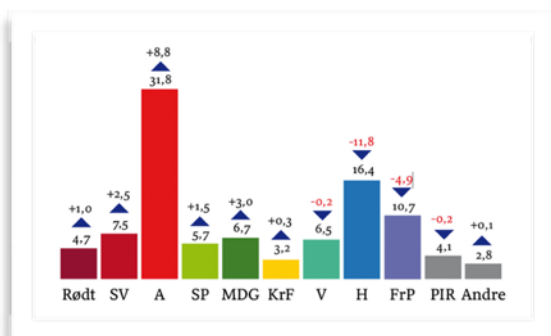


*Results and statistics from school elections*



Local elections take place today (14 September) across the whole of Norway.

Elections are held every other year in Norway, alternating between Parliamentary and local elections, both of which take place every four years. Hence, the last local elections were in 2011.

This year is also an anniversary for NSD, the Norwegian research data archive, which has been organising national school elections since 1989. This year was the fifteenth edition of the school elections, taking place from 1 to 8 September. Norway is the only country in the world where school elections are routinely being organised at a national level. Furthermore, a record 90 percent of all high school students participated in this year's school elections.

The national school elections in Norway take place right before the official elections and they attract great attention from the media and among election researchers. The reason for that is that they have shown to be a relatively reliable indicator of the results to be expected from the official elections that follow. This year's school election was won by the Labour Party (*Arbeiderpartiet*), grabbing 31.7 per cent of the votes.

Debates and campaigns being organised at schools ahead of the elections have become an increasingly important arena for the parties' youth organisations and the political parties themselves see the school elections as an important part of their strategy.

In addition to this, the school elections function as an important introduction for young people to democracy and the democratic process. School elections are meant to be a pedagogical tool to make the teaching of politics more appealing to young people. As a result, it is

expected that the exercise will lead to increased political awareness among students as well as a higher turnout among first time voters in the official elections.

Parallel to the school elections, NSD runs a survey among high school students, for example with questions about political interest, political awareness and attitudes towards issues on the agenda. The survey has shown a surge in political interest among Norwegian youth in recent years.

All the results (in Norwegian):

<http://samfunnsveven.no/data/skolevalg/>

Press release (in Norwegian):

<http://www.nsd.uib.no/article.html?a=/articles/article0007.html>